

By the Council for Lifelong Learning and Representative
Melvin

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to education and matters
3 connected therewith; creating the "Florida K-20
4 Education Code"; creating ch. 1000, F.S.,
5 entitled "K-20 General Provisions," consisting
6 of part I relating to general provisions, part
7 II relating to systemwide definitions, and part
8 III relating to educational compacts; creating
9 ch. 1001, F.S., entitled "K-20 Governance,"
10 consisting of part I relating to state-level
11 governance, part II relating to school district
12 governance, part III relating to community
13 colleges, and part IV relating to state
14 universities; creating ch. 1002, F.S., entitled
15 "Student and Parental Rights and Educational
16 Choices," consisting of part I relating to
17 general provisions, part II relating to student
18 and parental rights, part III relating to
19 educational choice, and part IV relating to
20 home education, private schools, and other
21 education options; creating ch. 1003, F.S.,
22 entitled "Public K-12 Education," consisting of
23 part I relating to general provisions, part II
24 relating to school attendance, part III
25 relating to control of students, part IV
26 relating to public K-12 educational
27 instruction, part V relating to specialized
28 instruction for certain public K-12 students,
29 and part VI relating to pilot public K-12
30 education programs; creating ch. 1004, F.S.,
31 entitled "Public Postsecondary Education,"

1 consisting of part I relating to general
2 provisions, part II relating to state
3 universities, part III relating to community
4 colleges, and part IV relating to workforce
5 development education; creating ch. 1005, F.S.,
6 entitled "Nonpublic Postsecondary Education,"
7 consisting of part I relating to general
8 provisions, part II relating to the Commission
9 for Independent Education, and part III
10 relating to licensure of nonpublic
11 postsecondary educational institutions;
12 creating ch. 1006, F.S., entitled "Support for
13 Learning and Student Services," consisting of
14 part I relating to public K-12 education
15 support for learning and student services and
16 part II relating to postsecondary educational
17 institutions; creating ch. 1007, F.S., entitled
18 "Access and Articulation," consisting of part I
19 relating to general provisions, part II
20 relating to articulation, and part III relating
21 to access to postsecondary education; creating
22 ch. 1008, F.S., entitled "Assessment and
23 Accountability," consisting of part I relating
24 to assessment, part II relating to
25 accountability, and part III relating to the
26 Council for Education Policy Research and
27 Improvement; creating ch. 1009, F.S., entitled
28 "Educational Scholarships, Fees, and Financial
29 Assistance," consisting of part I relating to
30 general provisions, part II relating to
31 postsecondary student fees, part III relating

1 to financial assistance, part IV relating to
2 prepaid college board programs, and part V
3 relating to the Florida higher education loan
4 authority; creating ch. 1010, F.S., entitled
5 "Financial Matters," consisting of part I
6 relating to general accounting requirements,
7 part II relating to financial reporting, part
8 III relating to audit requirements and
9 procedures, part IV relating to bonding, and
10 part V relating to trust funds; creating ch.
11 1011, F.S., entitled "Planning and Budgeting,"
12 consisting of part I relating to preparation,
13 adoption, and implementation of budgets, part
14 II relating to funding for school districts,
15 part III relating to funding for workforce
16 education, part IV relating to funding for
17 community colleges, and part V relating to
18 funding for state universities; creating ch.
19 1012, F.S., entitled "Personnel," consisting of
20 part I relating to general provisions, part II
21 relating to K-20 personnel issues, part III
22 relating to public schools personnel, part IV
23 relating to public postsecondary educational
24 institutions personnel, part V relating to
25 professional development, and part VI relating
26 to the interstate compact on qualifications of
27 educational personnel; creating ch. 1013, F.S.,
28 entitled "Educational Facilities," consisting
29 of part I relating to functions of the
30 Department of Education, part II relating to
31 use and management of educational facilities,

1 part III relating to planning and construction
2 of educational facilities, and part IV relating
3 to funding for educational facilities;
4 reenacting and amending s. 20.15, F.S.,
5 relating to the Department of Education, to
6 conform; amending ss. 11.061, 11.40, 11.45,
7 23.1225, 24.121, 39.0015, 39.407, 61.13015,
8 105.061, 110.1228, 110.123, 110.151, 110.181,
9 110.205, 112.1915, 112.313, 120.52, 120.55,
10 120.81, 121.051, 121.091, 145.131, 145.19,
11 153.77, 159.27, 163.3177, 163.3191, 195.096,
12 196.012, 196.031, 196.1983, 200.001, 200.065,
13 200.069, 201.24, 210.20, 212.04, 212.0602,
14 212.08, 213.053, 215.20, 215.82, 216.181,
15 216.301, 218.39, 220.183, 222.22, 250.115,
16 255.0515, 255.0516, 265.2861, 265.603, 267.173,
17 267.1732, 282.005, 282.103, 282.105, 282.106,
18 282.3031, 282.3063, 282.310, 284.34, 285.18,
19 287.042, 287.055, 287.064, 288.039, 288.8175,
20 295.01, 295.015, 295.016, 295.017, 295.018,
21 295.019, 295.0195, 316.003, 316.027, 316.515,
22 316.6145, 316.615, 316.70, 316.72, 318.12,
23 318.14, 320.08058, 320.20, 320.38, 322.031,
24 322.091, 322.095, 322.21, 333.03, 364.508,
25 380.0651, 381.003, 381.005, 381.0056, 381.0302,
26 391.055, 393.0657, 394.4572, 394.495, 394.498,
27 395.602, 395.605, 397.405, 397.451, 397.951,
28 402.22, 402.302, 402.3057, 409.145, 409.1757,
29 409.2598, 409.9071, 409.908, 409.9122, 411.01,
30 411.203, 411.223, 414.1251, 440.16, 445.04,
31 445.0121, 445.024, 447.203, 447.301, 447.403,

1 450.081, 450.121, 458.3145, 458.324, 459.0125,
2 468.1115, 468.607, 468.723, 471.0035, 476.114,
3 476.144, 476.178, 477.0132, 477.019, 477.0201,
4 477.023, 480.033, 481.229, 488.01, 553.415,
5 559.902, 589.09, 627.733, 627.742, 627.912,
6 633.445, 633.50, 732.402, 784.081, 817.566,
7 817.567, 877.18, 921.187, 943.10, 943.22,
8 944.801, 948.03, 984.03, 984.05, 984.151,
9 984.19, 985.03, 985.04, 985.316, and 985.412,
10 F.S.; conforming provisions and cross
11 references; providing purpose of this act;
12 authorizing activities relating to the
13 reorganization of the Department of Education
14 and implementation of changes to the state
15 system of education; repealing s. 187.201(1),
16 F.S., relating to the education goals and
17 policies of the State Comprehensive Plan;
18 repealing s. 2 of ch. 2000-181, Laws of
19 Florida, relating to the repeal of s. 236.081,
20 F.S., effective June 30, 2004; repealing part I
21 of ch. 243, F.S., relating to the educational
22 institutions law, and ch. 228, 229, 230, 231,
23 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 239, 240, 241,
24 242, 244, and 246, F.S., relating to public
25 education general provisions, functions of
26 state educational agencies, the district school
27 system, personnel of the school system,
28 compulsory school attendance and child welfare,
29 courses of study and instructional aids,
30 transportation of school children, educational
31 facilities, finance and taxation of schools,

1 financial accounts and expenditures for public
2 schools, vocational, adult, and community
3 education, postsecondary education, distance
4 learning, specialized state educational
5 institutions, educational compacts, and
6 nonpublic postsecondary institutions; providing
7 duties of the Division of Statutory Revision;
8 providing for review of ch. 1000-1013, F.S.,
9 during the 2003 Regular Session; providing for
10 severability; providing effective dates.

11
12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

13
14 Section 1. Chapter 1000, Florida Statutes, shall be
15 entitled "K-20 General Provisions" and shall consist of ss.
16 1000.01-1000.21.

17 Section 2. Part I of chapter 1000, Florida Statutes,
18 shall be entitled "General Provisions" and shall consist of
19 ss. 1000.01-1000.06.

20 Section 3. Section 1000.01, Florida Statutes, is
21 created to read:

22 1000.01 The Florida K-20 Education System; technical
23 provisions.--

24 (1) NAME.--Chapters 1000 through 1013 shall be known
25 and cited as the "Florida K-20 Education Code."

26 (2) LIBERAL CONSTRUCTION.--The provisions of the
27 Florida K-20 Education Code shall be liberally construed to
28 the end that its objectives may be effected. It is the
29 legislative intent that if any section, subsection, sentence,
30 clause or provision of the Florida K-20 Education Code is held
31 invalid, the remainder of the code shall not be affected.

1 (3) PURPOSE.--The purpose of the Florida K-20
2 Education Code is to provide by law for a state system of
3 schools, courses, classes, and educational institutions and
4 services adequate to allow, for all Florida's students, the
5 opportunity to obtain a high quality education. The Florida
6 K-20 education system is established to accomplish this
7 purpose; however, nothing in this code shall be construed to
8 require the provision of free public education beyond grade
9 12.

10 (4) UNIFORM SYSTEM OF PUBLIC K-12 SCHOOLS
11 INCLUDED.--As required by s. 1, Art. IX of the State
12 Constitution, the Florida K-20 education system shall include
13 the uniform system of free public K-12 schools. These public
14 K-12 schools shall provide 13 consecutive years of
15 instruction, beginning with kindergarten, and shall also
16 provide such instruction for students with disabilities,
17 gifted students, limited English proficient students, and
18 students in Department of Juvenile Justice programs as may be
19 required by law. The funds for support and maintenance of the
20 uniform system of free public K-12 schools shall be derived
21 from state, district, federal, and other lawful sources or
22 combinations of sources, including any fees charged
23 nonresidents as provided by law.

24 (5) EDUCATION GOVERNANCE TRANSFERS.--

25 (a) Effective July 1, 2001:

26 1. The Board of Regents is abolished.

27 2. All of the powers, duties, functions, records,
28 personnel, and property; unexpended balances of
29 appropriations, allocations, and other funds; administrative
30 authority; administrative rules; pending issues; and existing
31 contracts of the Board of Regents are transferred by a type

1 two transfer, pursuant to s. 20.06(2), to the Florida Board of
2 Education.

3 3. The State Board of Community Colleges is abolished.

4 4. All of the powers, duties, functions, records,
5 personnel, and property; unexpended balances of
6 appropriations, allocations, and other funds; administrative
7 authority; administrative rules; pending issues; and existing
8 contracts of the State Board of Community Colleges are
9 transferred by a type two transfer, pursuant to s. 20.06(2),
10 from the Department of Education to the Florida Board of
11 Education.

12 5. The Postsecondary Education Planning Commission is
13 abolished.

14 6. The Council for Education Policy Research and
15 Improvement is created as an independent office under the
16 Office of Legislative Services.

17 7. All personnel, unexpended balances of
18 appropriations, and allocations of the Postsecondary Education
19 Planning Commission are transferred to the Council for
20 Education Policy Research and Improvement.

21 8. The Articulation Coordinating Committee and the
22 Education Standards Commission are transferred by a type two
23 transfer, pursuant to s. 20.06(2), from the Department of
24 Education to the Florida Board of Education.

25 (b) Effective January 7, 2003:

26 1. The Florida Board of Education is renamed the State
27 Board of Education.

28 2. The Secretary of the Florida Board of Education is
29 renamed the Commissioner of Education.

30 (c) All rules of the State Board of Education, the
31 Commissioner of Education, and the Department of Education,

1 and all rules of the district school boards, the community
2 college boards of trustees, and the state university boards of
3 trustees, in effect on January 2, 2003, remain in effect until
4 specifically amended or repealed in the manner provided by
5 law.

6 (d) Effective January 7, 2003:

7 1. The administrative rules of the Department of
8 Education and the Commissioner of Education shall become the
9 rules of the State Board of Education.

10 2. The administrative rules of the State Board of
11 Education shall become the rules of the appointed State Board
12 of Education.

13 (e) All administrative rules of the State Board of
14 Education, the Commissioner of Education, and the Department
15 of Education are transferred by a type two transfer, as
16 defined in s. 20.06(2), Florida Statutes, to the appointed
17 State Board of Education.

18 (f) This act creating the Florida K-20 Education Code
19 shall not affect the validity of any judicial or
20 administrative action involving the Department of Education,
21 pending on January 7, 2003. This act shall not affect the
22 validity of any judicial or administrative action involving
23 the Commissioner of Education or the State Board of Education,
24 pending on January 7, 2003, and the appointed State Board of
25 Education shall be substituted as a party of interest in any
26 such action.

27 Section 4. Section 1000.02, Florida Statutes, is
28 created to read:

29 1000.02 Policy and guiding principles for the Florida
30 K-20 education system.--

31 (1) It is the policy of the Legislature:

1 (a) To achieve within existing resources a seamless
2 academic educational system that fosters an integrated
3 continuum of kindergarten through graduate school education
4 for Florida's students.

5 (b) To promote enhanced academic success and funding
6 efficiency of educational delivery systems by aligning
7 responsibility with accountability.

8 (c) To provide consistent education policy across all
9 educational delivery systems, focusing on students.

10 (d) To provide substantially improved articulation
11 across all educational delivery systems.

12 (e) To provide for the decentralization of authority
13 to the schools, community colleges, universities, and other
14 education institutions that deliver educational services to
15 the public.

16 (f) To ensure that independent education institutions
17 and home education programs maintain their independence,
18 autonomy, and nongovernmental status.

19 (2) The guiding principles for Florida's K-20
20 education system are:

21 (a) A coordinated, seamless system for kindergarten
22 through graduate school education.

23 (b) A system that is student-centered in every facet.

24 (c) A system that maximizes education access and
25 allows the opportunity for a high-quality education for all
26 Floridians.

27 (d) A system that safeguards equity and supports
28 academic excellence.

29 (e) A system that provides for local operational
30 flexibility while promoting accountability for student
31 achievement and improvement.

1 Section 5. Section 1000.03, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1000.03 Function, mission, and goals of the Florida
4 K-20 education system.--

5 (1) Florida's K-20 education system shall be a
6 decentralized system without excess layers of bureaucracy. The
7 State Board of Education may appoint on an ad hoc basis a
8 committee or committees to assist it on any and all issues
9 within the K-20 education system. Florida's K-20 education
10 system shall maintain a systemwide technology plan based on a
11 common set of data definitions.

12 (2)(a) The Legislature shall establish education
13 policy, enact education laws, and appropriate and allocate
14 education resources.

15 (b) The State Board of Education shall oversee the
16 enforcement of all laws and rules, and the timely provision of
17 direction, resources, assistance, intervention when needed,
18 and strong incentives and disincentives to force
19 accountability for results.

20 (c) The Commissioner of Education shall serve as chief
21 executive officer of the K-20 education system. The
22 commissioner shall be responsible for enforcing compliance
23 with the mission and goals of the K-20 education system. The
24 commissioner's office shall operate all statewide functions
25 necessary to support the State Board of Education and the K-20
26 education system.

27 (3) Public education is a cooperative function of the
28 state and local educational authorities. The state retains
29 responsibility for establishing a system of public education
30 through laws, standards, and rules to assure efficient
31 operation of a K-20 system of public education and adequate

1 educational opportunities for all individuals. Local
2 educational authorities have a duty to fully and faithfully
3 comply with state laws, standards, and rules and to
4 efficiently use the resources available to them to assist the
5 state in allowing adequate educational opportunities.

6 (4) The mission of Florida's K-20 education system is
7 to allow its students to increase their proficiency by
8 allowing them the opportunity to expand their knowledge and
9 skills through adequate learning opportunities, in accordance
10 with the mission statement and accountability requirements of
11 s. 1008.31.

12 (5) The priorities of Florida's K-20 education system
13 include:

14 (a) Learning and completion at all levels, including
15 increased high school graduation rate and readiness for
16 postsecondary education without remediation.--All students
17 demonstrate increased learning and completion at all levels,
18 graduate from high school and are prepared to enter
19 postsecondary education without remediation.

20 (b) Student performance.--Students demonstrate that
21 they meet the expected academic standards consistently at all
22 levels of their education.

23 (c) Alignment of standards and resources.--Academic
24 standards for every level of the K-20 education system are
25 aligned, and education financial resources are aligned with
26 student performance expectations at each level of the K-20
27 education system.

28 (d) Educational leadership.--The quality of
29 educational leadership at all levels of K-20 education is
30 improved.

31

1 (e) Workforce education.--Workforce education is
2 appropriately aligned with the skills required by the new
3 global economy.

4 (f) Parental, student, family, educational
5 institution, and community involvement.--Parents, students,
6 families, educational institutions, and communities are
7 collaborative partners in education, and each plays an
8 important role in the success of individual students.

9 Therefore, the State of Florida cannot be the guarantor of
10 each individual student's success. The goals of Florida's K-20
11 education system are not guarantees that each individual
12 student will succeed or that each individual school will
13 perform at the level indicated in the goals.

14 Section 6. Section 1000.04, Florida Statutes, is
15 created to read:

16 1000.04 Components for the delivery of public
17 education within the Florida K-20 education system.--Florida's
18 K-20 education system provides for the delivery of public
19 education through publicly supported and controlled K-12
20 schools, community colleges, state universities and other
21 postsecondary educational institutions, other educational
22 institutions, and other educational services as provided or
23 authorized by the Constitution and laws of the state.

24 (1) PUBLIC K-12 SCHOOLS.--The public K-12 schools
25 include charter schools and consist of kindergarten classes;
26 elementary, middle, and high school grades and special
27 classes; workforce development education; area technical
28 centers; adult, part-time, career and technical, and evening
29 schools, courses, or classes, as authorized by law to be
30 operated under the control of district school boards; and lab
31 schools operated under the control of state universities.

1 (2) PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL
2 INSTITUTIONS.--Public postsecondary educational institutions
3 include workforce development education; community colleges;
4 colleges; state universities; and all other state-supported
5 postsecondary educational institutions that are authorized and
6 established by law.

7 (3) FLORIDA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND.--The
8 Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind is a component of
9 the delivery of public education within Florida's K-20
10 education system.

11 (4) THE FLORIDA VIRTUAL SCHOOL.--The Florida Virtual
12 School is a component of the delivery of public education
13 within Florida's K-20 education system.

14 Section 7. Section 1000.05, Florida Statutes, is
15 created to read:

16 1000.05 Discrimination against students and employees
17 in the Florida K-20 public education system prohibited;
18 equality of access required.--

19 (1) This section may be cited as the "Florida
20 Educational Equity Act."

21 (2)(a) Discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity,
22 national origin, gender, disability, or marital status against
23 a student or an employee in the state system of public K-20
24 education is prohibited. No person in this state shall, on the
25 basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, disability,
26 or marital status, be excluded from participation in, be
27 denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination
28 under any public K-20 education program or activity, or in any
29 employment conditions or practices, conducted by a public
30 educational institution that receives or benefits from federal
31 or state financial assistance.

1 (b) The criteria for admission to a program or course
2 shall not have the effect of restricting access by persons of
3 a particular race, ethnicity, national origin, gender,
4 disability, or marital status.

5 (c) All public K-20 education classes shall be
6 available to all students without regard to race, ethnicity,
7 national origin, gender, disability, or marital status;
8 however, this is not intended to eliminate the provision of
9 programs designed to meet the needs of students with limited
10 proficiency in English, gifted students, or students with
11 disabilities or programs tailored to students with specialized
12 talents or skills.

13 (d) Students may be separated by gender for any
14 portion of a class that deals with human reproduction or
15 during participation in bodily contact sports. For the
16 purpose of this section, bodily contact sports include
17 wrestling, boxing, rugby, ice hockey, football, basketball,
18 and other sports in which the purpose or major activity
19 involves bodily contact.

20 (e) Guidance services, counseling services, and
21 financial assistance services in the state public K-20
22 education system shall be available to students equally.
23 Guidance and counseling services, materials, and promotional
24 events shall stress access to academic, career and technical
25 opportunities for students without regard to race, ethnicity,
26 national origin, gender, disability, or marital status.

27 (3)(a) No person shall, on the basis of gender, be
28 excluded from participating in, be denied the benefits of, or
29 be treated differently from another person or otherwise be
30 discriminated against in any interscholastic, intercollegiate,
31 club, or intramural athletics offered by a public K-20

1 educational institution; and no public K-20 educational
2 institution shall provide athletics separately on such basis.

3 (b) Notwithstanding the requirements of paragraph (a),
4 a public K-20 educational institution may operate or sponsor
5 separate teams for members of each gender if the selection for
6 such teams is based upon competitive skill or the activity
7 involved is a bodily contact sport. However, when a public
8 K-20 educational institution operates or sponsors a team in a
9 particular sport for members of one gender but does not
10 operate or sponsor such a team for members of the other
11 gender, and athletic opportunities for that gender have
12 previously been limited, members of the excluded gender must
13 be allowed to try out for the team offered.

14 (c) This subsection does not prohibit the grouping of
15 students in physical education classes and activities by
16 ability as assessed by objective standards of individual
17 performance developed and applied without regard to gender.
18 However, when use of a single standard of measuring skill or
19 progress in a physical education class has an adverse effect
20 on members of one gender, the educational institution shall
21 use appropriate standards which do not have such effect.

22 (d) A public K-20 educational institution which
23 operates or sponsors interscholastic, intercollegiate, club,
24 or intramural athletics shall provide equal athletic
25 opportunity for members of both genders. In determining
26 whether equal opportunities are available, the Commissioner of
27 Education shall consider, among other factors:

28 1. Whether the selection of sports and levels of
29 competition effectively accommodate the interests and
30 abilities of members of both genders.

31 2. The provision of equipment and supplies.

- 1 3. Scheduling of games and practice times.
2 4. Travel and per diem allowances.
3 5. Opportunities to receive coaching and academic
4 tutoring.
5 6. Assignment and compensation of coaches and tutors.
6 7. Provision of locker room, practice, and competitive
7 facilities.
8 8. Provision of medical and training facilities and
9 services.
10 9. Provision of housing and dining facilities and
11 services.
12 10. Publicity.
13
14 Unequal aggregate expenditures for members of each gender or
15 unequal expenditures for male and female teams if a public
16 K-20 educational institution operates or sponsors separate
17 teams do not constitute nonimplementation of this subsection,
18 but the Commissioner of Education shall consider the failure
19 to provide necessary funds for teams for one gender in
20 assessing equality of opportunity for members of each gender.
21 (e) A public K-20 educational institution may provide
22 separate toilet, locker room, and shower facilities on the
23 basis of gender, but such facilities shall be comparable to
24 such facilities provided for students of the other gender.
25 (4) Educational institutions within the state public
26 K-20 education system shall develop and implement methods and
27 strategies to increase the participation of students of a
28 particular race, ethnicity, national origin, gender,
29 disability, or marital status in programs and courses in which
30 students of that particular race, ethnicity, national origin,
31 gender, disability, or marital status have been traditionally

1 underrepresented, including, but not limited to, mathematics,
2 science, computer technology, electronics, communications
3 technology, engineering, and career and technical education.

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

6 (6) The functions of the Office of Equal Educational
7 Opportunity of the Department of Education shall include, but
8 are not limited to:

9 (a) Requiring all district school boards, community
10 college boards of trustees, and state university boards of
11 trustees to develop and submit plans for the implementation of
12 this section to the Department of Education.

13 (b) Conducting periodic reviews of public K-20
14 educational agencies to determine compliance with this section
15 and, after a finding that an educational agency is not in
16 compliance with this section, notifying the agency of the
17 steps that it must take to attain compliance and performing
18 followup monitoring.

19 (c) Providing technical assistance, including
20 assisting public K-20 educational agencies in identifying
21 unlawful discrimination and instructing them in remedies for
22 correction and prevention of such discrimination and
23 performing followup monitoring.

24 (d) Conducting studies of the effectiveness of methods
25 and strategies designed to increase the participation of
26 students in programs and courses in which students of a
27 particular race, ethnicity, national origin, gender,
28 disability, or marital status have been traditionally
29 underrepresented and monitoring the success of students in
30 such programs of courses, including performing followup
31 monitoring.

1 (e) Requiring all district school boards, community
2 college boards of trustees, and state university boards of
3 trustees to submit data and information necessary to determine
4 compliance with this section. The Commissioner of Education
5 shall prescribe the format and the date for submission of such
6 data and any other educational equity data. If any board does
7 not submit the required compliance data or other required
8 educational equity data by the prescribed date, the
9 commissioner shall notify the board of this fact and, if the
10 board does not take appropriate action to immediately submit
11 the required report, the State Board of Education shall impose
12 monetary sanctions.

13 (f) Based upon rules of the State Board of Education,
14 developing and implementing enforcement mechanisms with
15 appropriate penalties to ensure that public K-12 schools,
16 community colleges, and state universities comply with Title
17 IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and subsection (3) of
18 this section. However, the State Board of Education may not
19 force an educational agency to conduct, nor penalize an
20 educational agency for not conducting, a program of athletic
21 activity or athletic scholarship for female athletes unless it
22 is an athletic activity approved for women by a recognized
23 association whose purpose is to promote athletics and a
24 conference or league exists to promote interscholastic or
25 intercollegiate competition for women in that athletic
26 activity.

27 (g) Reporting to the Commissioner of Education any
28 district school board, community college board of trustees, or
29 state university board of trustees found to be out of
30 compliance with rules of the State Board of Education adopted
31

1 as required by paragraph (f) or paragraph (3)(d). To penalize
2 the board, the State Board of Education shall:

3 1. Declare the educational agency ineligible for
4 competitive state grants.

5 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 216.192,
6 direct the Comptroller to withhold general revenue funds
7 sufficient to obtain compliance from the educational agency.

8
9 The educational agency shall remain ineligible and the funds
10 shall not be paid until the agency comes into compliance or
11 the State Board of Education approves a plan for compliance.

12 (7) A person aggrieved by a violation of this section
13 or a violation of a rule adopted under this section has a
14 right of action for such equitable relief as the court may
15 determine. The court may also award reasonable attorney's
16 fees and court costs to a prevailing party.

17 Section 8. Section 1000.06, Florida Statutes, is
18 created to read:

19 1000.06 Display of flags.--Every public K-20
20 educational institution that is provided or authorized by the
21 Constitution and laws of Florida shall display daily the flag
22 of the United States and the official flag of Florida when the
23 weather permits upon one building or on a suitable flagstaff
24 upon the grounds of each public postsecondary educational
25 institution and upon every district school board building or
26 grounds except when the institution or school is closed for
27 vacation, provided that, if two or more buildings are located
28 on the same or on adjacent sites, one flag may be displayed
29 for the entire group of buildings.

30
31

1 Section 9. Part II of chapter 1000, Florida Statutes,
2 shall be entitled "Systemwide Definitions" and shall consist
3 of s. 1000.21.

4 Section 10. Section 1000.21, Florida Statutes, is
5 created to read:

6 1000.21 Systemwide definitions.--As used in the
7 Florida K-20 Education Code:

8 (1) "Articulation" is the systematic coordination that
9 provides the means by which students proceed toward their
10 educational objectives in as rapid and student-friendly manner
11 as their circumstances permit, from grade level to grade
12 level, from elementary to middle to high school, to and
13 through postsecondary education, and when transferring from
14 one educational institution or program to another.

15 (2) "Commissioner" is the Commissioner of Education.

16 (3) "Community college," except as otherwise
17 specifically provided, includes the following institutions and
18 any branch campuses, centers, or other affiliates of the
19 institution:

20 (a) Brevard Community College.

21 (b) Broward Community College.

22 (c) Central Florida Community College.

23 (d) Chipola Junior College.

24 (e) Daytona Beach Community College.

25 (f) Edison Community College.

26 (g) Florida Community College at Jacksonville.

27 (h) Florida Keys Community College.

28 (i) Gulf Coast Community College.

29 (j) Hillsborough Community College.

30 (k) Indian River Community College.

31 (l) Lake City Community College.

- 1 (m) Lake-Sumter Community College.
2 (n) Manatee Community College.
3 (o) Miami-Dade Community College.
4 (p) North Florida Community College.
5 (q) Okaloosa-Walton Community College.
6 (r) Palm Beach Community College.
7 (s) Pasco-Hernando Community College.
8 (t) Pensacola Junior College.
9 (u) Polk Community College.
10 (v) St. Johns River Community College.
11 (w) St. Petersburg College.
12 (x) Santa Fe Community College.
13 (y) Seminole Community College.
14 (z) South Florida Community College.
15 (aa) Tallahassee Community College.
16 (bb) Valencia Community College.
17 (4) "Department" is the Department of Education.
18 (5) "Parent" is either or both parents of a student,
19 any guardian of a student, any person in a parental
20 relationship to a student, or any person exercising
21 supervisory authority over a student in place of the parent.
22 (6) "State university," except as otherwise
23 specifically provided, includes the following institutions and
24 any branch campuses, centers, or other affiliates of the
25 institution:
26 (a) The University of Florida.
27 (b) The Florida State University.
28 (c) The Florida Agricultural and Mechanical
29 University.
30 (d) The University of South Florida.
31 (e) The Florida Atlantic University.

1 (f) The University of West Florida.
2 (g) The University of Central Florida.
3 (h) The University of North Florida.
4 (i) The Florida International University.
5 (j) The Florida Gulf Coast University.
6 (k) New College of Florida.
7 (7) "Sunshine State Standards" are standards that
8 identify what public school students should know and be able
9 to do. These standards delineate the academic achievement of
10 students for which the state will hold its public schools
11 accountable in grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12, in the subjects
12 of language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, the
13 arts, health and physical education, foreign languages,
14 reading, writing, history, government, geography, economics,
15 and computer literacy.

16 Section 11. Part III of chapter 1000, Florida
17 Statutes, shall be entitled "Educational Compacts" and shall
18 consist of ss. 1000.31-1000.34.

19 Section 12. Section 1000.31, Florida Statutes, is
20 created to read:

21 1000.31 Regional education; state policy.--It is
22 hereby declared to be the policy of the state to promote the
23 development and maintenance of regional education services and
24 facilities in the Southern States in the professional,
25 technological, scientific, literary and other fields so as to
26 provide greater educational advantages for the citizens of the
27 state and the citizens in the several states in said region;
28 and it is found and determined by the Legislature of the state
29 that greater educational advantages and facilities for the
30 citizens of the state in certain phases of the professional,
31 technological, scientific, literary and other fields in

1 education can best be accomplished by the development and
2 maintenance of regional educational services and facilities,
3 under the plan embodied in "The Regional Pact" hereinafter
4 adopted; and this law shall be liberally construed to
5 accomplish such purposes.

6 Section 13. Section 1000.32, Florida Statutes, is
7 created to read:

8 1000.32 Regional compact.--The compact entered into by
9 the state and other Southern States by and through their
10 respective governors on February 8, 1948, as amended, relative
11 to the development and maintenance of regional education
12 services and schools in the Southern States in the
13 professional, technological, scientific, literary and other
14 fields so as to promote greater educational facilities for the
15 citizens of the several states who reside in said region, a
16 copy of said compact, as amended, being as follows:

17
18 THE REGIONAL COMPACT

19 (as amended)
20

21 WHEREAS, The States who are parties hereto have during
22 the past several years conducted careful investigation looking
23 toward the establishment and maintenance of jointly owned and
24 operated regional educational institutions in the Southern
25 States in the professional, technological, scientific,
26 literary, and other fields, so as to provide greater
27 educational advantages and facilities for the citizens of the
28 several states who reside within such region; and

29 WHEREAS, Meharry Medical College of Nashville,
30 Tennessee, has proposed that its lands, buildings, equipment,
31 and the net income from its endowment be turned over to the

1 Southern States, or to an agency acting in their behalf, to be
2 operated as a regional institution for medical, dental and
3 nursing education upon terms and conditions to be hereafter
4 agreed upon between the Southern States and Meharry Medical
5 College, which proposal, because of the present financial
6 condition of the institution, has been approved by the said
7 states who are parties hereto; and

8 WHEREAS, the said states desire to enter into a compact
9 with each other providing for the planning and establishment
10 of regional educational facilities;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual
12 agreements, covenants and obligations assumed by the
13 respective states who are parties hereto (hereinafter referred
14 to as "states"), the said several states do hereby form a
15 geographical district or region consisting of the areas lying
16 within the boundaries of the contracting states which, for the
17 purposes of this compact, shall constitute an area for
18 regional education supported by public funds derived from
19 taxation by the constituent states and derived from other
20 sources for the establishment, acquisition, operation and
21 maintenance of regional educational schools and institutions
22 for the benefit of citizens of the respective states residing
23 within the region so established as may be determined from
24 time to time in accordance with the terms and provisions of
25 this compact.

26 The states do further hereby establish and create a
27 joint agency which shall be known as the Board of Control for
28 Southern Regional Education (hereinafter referred to as the
29 "board"), the members of which board shall consist of the
30 governor of each state, ex officio, and four additional
31 citizens of each state to be appointed by the governor

1 thereof, at least one of whom shall be selected from the field
2 of education, and at least one of whom shall be a member of
3 the legislature of that state. The governor shall continue as
4 a member of the board during his or her tenure of office as
5 governor of the state, but the members of the board appointed
6 by the governor shall hold office for a period of four years
7 except that in the original appointments one board member so
8 appointed by the governor shall be designated at the time of
9 his or her appointment to serve an initial term of two years,
10 one board member to serve an initial term of three years, and
11 the remaining board member to serve the full term of four
12 years, but thereafter the successor of each appointed board
13 member shall serve the full term of four years. Vacancies on
14 the board caused by death, resignation, refusal or inability
15 to serve, shall be filled by appointment by the governor for
16 the unexpired portion of the term. The officers of the board
17 shall be a chair, a vice chair, a secretary, a treasurer, and
18 such additional officers as may be created by the board from
19 time to time. The board shall meet annually and officers
20 shall be elected to hold office until the next annual meeting.
21 The board shall have the right to formulate and establish
22 bylaws not inconsistent with the provisions of this compact to
23 govern its own actions in the performance of the duties
24 delegated to it including the right to create and appoint an
25 executive committee and a finance committee with such powers
26 and authority as the board may delegate to them from time to
27 time. The board may, within its discretion, elect as its
28 chair a person who is not a member of the board, provided such
29 person resides within a signatory state, and upon such
30 election such person shall become a member of the board with
31 all the rights and privileges of such membership. This

1 paragraph as amended in 1957 shall be effective when eight or
2 more of the states party to the compact have given legislative
3 approval to the amendment.

4 It shall be the duty of the board to submit plans and
5 recommendations to the states from time to time for their
6 approval and adoption by appropriate legislative action for
7 the development, establishment, acquisition, operation and
8 maintenance of educational schools and institutions within the
9 geographical limits of the regional area of the states, of
10 such character and type and for such educational purposes,
11 professional, technological, scientific, literary, or
12 otherwise, as they may deem and determine to be proper,
13 necessary or advisable. Title to all such educational
14 institutions when so established by appropriate legislative
15 actions of the states and to all properties and facilities
16 used in connection therewith shall be vested in said board as
17 the agency of and for the use and benefit of the said states
18 and the citizens thereof, and all such educational
19 institutions shall be operated, maintained and financed in the
20 manner herein set out, subject to any provisions or
21 limitations which may be contained in the legislative acts of
22 the states authorizing the creation, establishment and
23 operation of such educational institutions.

24 In addition to the power and authority heretofore
25 granted, the board shall have the power to enter into such
26 agreements or arrangements with any of the states and with
27 educational institutions or agencies, as may be required in
28 the judgment of the board, to provide adequate services and
29 facilities for the graduate, professional, and technical
30 education for the benefit of the citizens of the respective
31 states residing within the region, and such additional and

1 general power and authority as may be vested in the board from
2 time to time by legislative enactment of the said states.

3 Any two or more states who are parties of this compact
4 shall have the right to enter into supplemental agreements
5 providing for the establishment, financing and operation of
6 regional educational institutions for the benefit of citizens
7 residing within an area which constitutes a portion of the
8 general region herein created, such institutions to be
9 financed exclusively by such states and to be controlled
10 exclusively by the members of the board representing such
11 states provided such agreement is submitted to and approved by
12 the board prior to the establishment of such institutions.

13 Each state agrees that, when authorized by the
14 legislature, it will from time to time make available and pay
15 over to said board such funds as may be required for the
16 establishment, acquisition, operation and maintenance of such
17 regional educational institutions as may be authorized by the
18 states under the terms of this compact, the contribution of
19 each state at all times to be in the proportion that its
20 population bears to the total combined population of the
21 states who are parties hereto as shown from time to time by
22 the most recent official published report of the bureau of the
23 census of the United States of America; or upon such other
24 basis as may be agreed upon.

25 This compact shall not take effect or be binding upon
26 any state unless and until it shall be approved by proper
27 legislative action of as many as six or more of the states
28 whose governors have subscribed hereto within a period of
29 eighteen months from the date hereof. When and if six or more
30 states shall have given legislative approval to this compact
31 within said eighteen months period, it shall be and become

1 binding upon such six or more states sixty days after the date
2 of legislative approval by the sixth state and the governors
3 of such six or more states shall forthwith name the members of
4 the board from their states as hereinabove set out, and the
5 board shall then meet on call of the governor of any state
6 approving this compact, at which time the board shall elect
7 officers, adopt bylaws, appoint committees and otherwise fully
8 organize. Other states whose names are subscribed hereto
9 shall thereafter become parties hereto upon approval of this
10 compact by legislative action within two years from the date
11 hereof, upon such conditions as may be agreed upon at the
12 time. Provided, however, that with respect to any state whose
13 constitution may require amendment in order to permit
14 legislative approval of the compact, such state or states
15 shall become parties hereto upon approval of this compact by
16 legislative action within seven years from the date hereof,
17 upon such conditions as may be agreed upon at the time.

18 After becoming effective this compact shall thereafter
19 continue without limitation of time; provided, however, that
20 it may be terminated at any time by unanimous action of the
21 states and provided further that any state may withdraw from
22 this compact if such withdrawal is approved by its
23 legislature, such withdrawal to become effective two years
24 after written notice thereof to the board accompanied by a
25 certified copy of the requisite legislative action, but such
26 withdrawal shall not relieve the withdrawing state from its
27 obligations hereunder accruing up to the effective date of
28 such withdrawal. Any state so withdrawing shall ipso facto
29 cease to have any claim to or ownership of any of the property
30 held or vested in the board or to any of the funds of the
31 board held under the terms of this compact.

1 If any state shall at any time become in default in the
2 performance of any of its obligations assumed herein or with
3 respect to any obligation imposed upon said state as
4 authorized by and in compliance with the terms and provisions
5 of this compact, all rights, privileges and benefits of such
6 defaulting state, its members on the board and its citizens
7 shall ipso facto be and become suspended from and after the
8 date of such default. Unless such default shall be remedied
9 and made good within a period of one year immediately
10 following the date of such default this compact may be
11 terminated with respect to such defaulting state by an
12 affirmative vote of three-fourths of the members of the board
13 (exclusive of the members representing the state in default),
14 from and after which time such state shall cease to be a party
15 to this compact and shall have no further claim to or
16 ownership of any of the property held by or vested in the
17 board or to any of the funds of the board held under the terms
18 of this compact, but such termination shall in no manner
19 release such defaulting state from any accrued obligation or
20 otherwise affect this compact or the rights, duties,
21 privileges or obligations of the remaining states thereunder.

22 IN WITNESS WHEREOF this compact has been approved and
23 signed by governors of the several states, subject to the
24 approval of their respective legislatures in the manner
25 hereinabove set out, as of the 8th day of February, 1948.

26 STATE OF FLORIDA BY Millard F. Caldwell, Governor.
27 STATE OF MARYLAND BY Wm. Preston Lane, Jr., Governor. STATE
28 OF GEORGIA BY M. E. Thompson, Governor. STATE OF LOUISIANA
29 BY J. H. Davis, Governor. STATE OF ALABAMA BY James E.
30 Folsom, Governor. STATE OF MISSISSIPPI BY F. L. Wright,
31 Governor. STATE OF TENNESSEE BY Jim McCord, Governor. STATE

1 OF ARKANSAS BY Ben Laney, Governor. COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
2 BY Wm. M. Tuck, Governor. STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA BY R. Gregg
3 Cherry, Governor. STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA BY J. Strom
4 Thurmond, Governor. STATE OF TEXAS BY Beauford H. Jester,
5 Governor. STATE OF OKLAHOMA BY Roy J. Turner, Governor. STATE
6 OF WEST VIRGINIA BY Clarence W. Meadows, Governor.

7
8 be and the same is hereby approved and the State of Florida is
9 hereby declared to be a party to said compact and the
10 agreements, covenants and obligations contained therein are
11 hereby declared to be binding upon the State of Florida.

12 Section 14. Section 1000.33, Florida Statutes, is
13 created to read:

14 1000.33 Copies to other states approving.--After the
15 effective date of this law the Secretary of State of Florida
16 shall furnish to each of the states approving the said compact
17 an engrossed copy of this bill.

18 Section 15. Section 1000.34, Florida Statutes, is
19 created to read:

20 1000.34 Member jurisdictions.--The compact for
21 education is entered into with all jurisdictions legally
22 joining therein and enacted into law in the following form:

23
24 COMPACT FOR EDUCATION

25
26 ARTICLE I

27
28 PURPOSE AND POLICY.--

29 A. It is the purpose of this compact to:

30 1. Establish and maintain close cooperation and
31 understanding among executive, legislative, professional

1 educational and lay leadership on a nationwide basis at the
2 state and local levels.

3 2. Provide a forum for the discussion, development,
4 crystallization and recommendation of public policy
5 alternatives in the field of education.

6 3. Provide a clearinghouse of information on matters
7 relating to educational problems and how they are being met in
8 different places throughout the nation, so that the executive
9 and legislative branches of state government and of local
10 communities may have ready access to the experience and record
11 of the entire country, and so that both lay and professional
12 groups in the field of education may have additional avenues
13 for the sharing of experience and the interchange of ideas in
14 the formation of public policy in education.

15 4. Facilitate the improvement of state and local
16 educational systems so that all of them will be able to meet
17 adequate and desirable goals in a society which requires
18 continuous qualitative and quantitative advance in educational
19 opportunities, methods and facilities.

20 B. It is the policy of this compact to encourage and
21 promote local and state initiative in the development,
22 maintenance, improvement and administration of educational
23 systems and institutions in a manner which will accord with
24 the needs and advantages of diversity among localities and
25 states.

26 C. The party states recognize that each of them has an
27 interest in the quality and quantity of education furnished in
28 each of the other states, as well as in the excellence of its
29 own educational systems and institutions, because of the
30 highly mobile character of individuals within the nation, and
31 because the products and services contributing to the health,

1 welfare and economic advancement of each state are supplied in
2 significant part by persons educated in other states.

3
4 ARTICLE II

5
6 STATE DEFINED.--

7 As used in this compact, "state" means a state,
8 territory, or possession of the United States, the District of
9 Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

10
11 ARTICLE III

12
13 THE COMMISSION.--

14 A. The Education Commission of the States, hereinafter
15 called "the commission," is hereby established. The
16 commission shall consist of seven members representing each
17 party state. One of such members representing Florida shall
18 be the governor; two shall be members of the state senate
19 appointed by the president; two shall be members of the house
20 of representatives appointed by the speaker; and two shall be
21 appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the governor. The
22 guiding principle for the composition of the membership on the
23 commission shall be that the members, by virtue of their
24 training, experience, knowledge or affiliations be in a
25 position collectively to reflect broadly the interests of the
26 state government, higher education, the state education
27 system, local education, lay and professional, public and
28 nonpublic educational leadership. Of those appointees, one
29 shall be the head of a state agency or institution, designated
30 by the governor, having responsibility for one or more
31 programs of public education. In addition to the members of

1 the commission representing the party states, there may be not
2 to exceed ten nonvoting commissioners selected by the steering
3 committee for terms of one year. Such commissioners shall
4 represent leading national organizations of professional
5 educators or persons concerned with educational
6 administration.

7 B. The members of the commission shall be entitled to
8 one vote each on the commission. No action of the commission
9 shall be binding unless taken at a meeting at which a majority
10 of the total number of votes on the commission are cast in
11 favor thereof. Action of the commission shall be only at a
12 meeting at which a majority of the commissioners are present.
13 The commission shall meet at least once a year. In its
14 bylaws, and subject to such directions and limitations as may
15 be contained therein, the commission may delegate the exercise
16 of any of its powers to the steering committee or the
17 executive director, except for the power to approve budgets or
18 requests for appropriations, the power to make policy
19 recommendations pursuant to Article IV and adoption of the
20 annual report pursuant to Article III, J.

21 C. The commission shall have a seal.

22 D. The commission shall elect annually, from among its
23 members, a chair, who shall be a governor, a vice chair and a
24 treasurer. The commission shall provide for the appointment
25 of an executive director. Such executive director shall serve
26 at the pleasure of the commission, and, together with the
27 treasurer and such other personnel as the commission may deem
28 appropriate, shall be bonded in such amount as the commission
29 shall determine. The executive director shall be secretary.

30 E. Irrespective of the civil service, personnel or
31 other merit system laws of any of the party states, the

1 executive director, subject to the approval of the steering
2 committee, shall appoint, remove or discharge such personnel
3 as may be necessary for the performance of the functions of
4 the commission, and shall fix the duties and compensation of
5 such personnel. The commission in its bylaws shall provide
6 for the personnel policies and programs of the commission.

7 F. The commission may borrow, accept or contract for
8 the services of personnel from any party jurisdiction, the
9 United States, or any subdivision or agency of the
10 aforementioned governments, or from any agency of two or more
11 of the party jurisdictions or their subdivisions.

12 G. The commission may accept for any of its purposes
13 and functions under this compact any and all donations and
14 grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials and services,
15 conditional or otherwise, from any state, the United States,
16 or any other governmental agency, or from any person, firm,
17 association, foundation, or corporation, and may receive,
18 utilize and dispose of the same. Any donation or grant
19 accepted by the commission pursuant to this paragraph or
20 services borrowed pursuant to paragraph F of this Article
21 shall be reported in the annual report of the commission.
22 Such report shall include the nature, amount and conditions,
23 if any, of the donation, grant, or services borrowed, and the
24 identity of the donor or lender.

25 H. The commission may establish and maintain such
26 facilities as may be necessary for the transacting of its
27 business. The commission may acquire, hold, and convey real
28 and personal property and any interest therein.

29 I. The commission shall adopt bylaws for the conduct
30 of its business and shall have the power to amend and rescind
31 these bylaws. The commission shall publish its bylaws in

1 convenient form and shall file a copy thereof and a copy of
2 any amendment thereto, with the appropriate agency or officer
3 in each of the party states.

4 J. The commission annually shall make to the governor
5 and legislature of each party state a report covering the
6 activities of the commission for the preceding year. The
7 commission may make such additional reports as it may deem
8 desirable.

9
10 ARTICLE IV

11
12 POWERS.--

13 In addition to authority conferred on the commission by
14 other provisions of the compact, the commission shall have
15 authority to:

16 1. Collect, correlate, analyze and interpret
17 information and data concerning educational needs and
18 resources.

19 2. Encourage and foster research in all aspects of
20 education, but with special reference to the desirable scope
21 of instruction, organization, administration, and
22 instructional methods and standards employed or suitable for
23 employment in public educational systems.

24 3. Develop proposals for adequate financing of
25 education as a whole and at each of its many levels.

26 4. Conduct or participate in research of the types
27 referred to in this article in any instance where the
28 commission finds that such research is necessary for the
29 advancement of the purposes and policies of this compact,
30 utilizing fully the resources of national associations,

31

1 regional compact organizations for higher education, and other
2 agencies and institutions, both public and private.

3 5. Formulate suggested policies and plans for the
4 improvement of public education as a whole, or for any segment
5 thereof, and make recommendations with respect thereto
6 available to the appropriate governmental units, agencies and
7 public officials.

8 6. Do such other things as may be necessary or
9 incidental to the administration of any of its authority or
10 functions pursuant to this compact.

11
12 ARTICLE V

13
14 COOPERATION WITH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.--

15 A. If the laws of the United States specifically so
16 provide, or if administrative provision is made therefor
17 within the federal government, the United States may be
18 represented on the commission by not to exceed ten
19 representatives. Any such representative or representatives
20 of the United States shall be appointed and serve in such
21 manner as may be provided by or pursuant to federal law, and
22 may be drawn from any one or more branches of the federal
23 government, but no such representative shall have a vote on
24 the commission.

25 B. The commission may provide information and make
26 recommendations to any executive or legislative agency or
27 officer of the federal government concerning the common
28 educational policies of the states, and may advise with any
29 such agencies or officers concerning any matter of mutual
30 interest.

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ARTICLE VI

COMMITTEES.--

A. To assist in the expeditious conduct of its business when the full commission is not meeting, the commission shall elect a steering committee of thirty-two members which, subject to the provisions of this compact and consistent with the policies of the commission, shall be constituted and function as provided in the bylaws of the commission. One-fourth of the voting membership of the steering committee shall consist of governors, one-fourth shall consist of legislators, and the remainder shall consist of other members of the commission. A federal representative on the commission may serve with the steering committee, but without vote. The voting members of the steering committee shall serve for terms of two years, except that members elected to the first steering committee of the commission shall be elected as follows: sixteen for one year and sixteen for two years. The chair, vice chair, and treasurer of the commission shall be members of the steering committee and, anything in this paragraph to the contrary notwithstanding, shall serve during their continuance in these offices. Vacancies in the steering committee shall not affect its authority to act, but the commission at its next regularly ensuing meeting following the occurrence of any vacancy shall fill it for the unexpired term. No person shall serve more than two terms as a member of the steering committee; provided that service for a partial term of one year or less shall not be counted toward the two term limitations.

B. The commission may establish advisory and technical committees composed of state, local, and federal officials,

1 and private persons to advise it with respect to any one or
2 more of its functions. Any advisory or technical committee
3 may, on request of the states concerned, be established to
4 consider any matter of special concern to two or more of the
5 party states.

6 C. The commission may establish such additional
7 committees as its bylaws may provide.

8
9 ARTICLE VII

10
11 FINANCE.--

12 A. The commission shall advise the governor or
13 designated officer or officers of each party state of its
14 budget and estimated expenditures for such period as may be
15 required by the laws of that party state. Each of the
16 commission's budgets of estimated expenditures shall contain
17 specific recommendations of the amount or amounts to be
18 appropriated by each of the party states.

19 B. The total amount of appropriation requests under
20 any budget shall be apportioned among the party states. In
21 making such apportionment, the commission shall devise and
22 employ a formula which takes equitable account of the
23 populations and per capita income levels of the party states.

24 C. The commission shall not pledge the credit of any
25 party states. The commission may meet any of its obligations
26 in whole or in part with funds available to it pursuant to
27 Article III, G of this compact, provided that the commission
28 takes specific action setting aside such funds prior to
29 incurring an obligation to be met in whole or in part in such
30 manner. Except where the commission makes use of funds
31 available to it pursuant to Article III, G thereof, the

1 commission shall not incur any obligation prior to the
2 allotment of funds by the party states adequate to meet the
3 same.

4 D. The commission shall keep accurate accounts of all
5 receipts and disbursements. The receipts and disbursements of
6 the commission shall be subject to the audit and accounting
7 procedures established by its bylaws. However, all receipts
8 and disbursements of funds handled by the commission shall be
9 audited yearly by a qualified public accountant, and the
10 report of the audit shall be included in and become part of
11 the annual reports of the commission.

12 E. The accounts of the commission shall be open at any
13 reasonable time for inspection by duly constituted officers of
14 the party states and by any persons authorized by the
15 commission.

16 F. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to
17 prevent commission compliance with laws relating to audit or
18 inspection of accounts by or on behalf of any government
19 contributing to the support of the commission.

20
21 ARTICLE VIII
22

23 ELIGIBLE PARTIES; ENTRY INTO AND WITHDRAWAL.--

24 A. This compact shall have as eligible parties all
25 states, territories, and possessions of the United States, the
26 District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. In
27 respect of any such jurisdiction not having a governor, the
28 term "governor," as used in this compact, shall mean the
29 closest equivalent official of such jurisdiction.

30 B. Any state or other eligible jurisdiction may enter
31 into this compact and it shall become binding thereon when it

1 has adopted the same; provided that in order to enter into
2 initial effect, adoption by at least ten eligible party
3 jurisdictions shall be required.

4 C. Adoption of the compact may be either by enactment
5 thereof or by adherence thereto by the governor; provided that
6 in the absence of enactment, adherence by the governor shall
7 be sufficient to make his or her state a party only until
8 December 31, 1967. During any period when a state is
9 participating in this compact through gubernatorial action,
10 the governor shall appoint those persons who, in addition to
11 himself or herself, shall serve as the members of the
12 commission from his or her state, and shall provide to the
13 commission an equitable share of the financial support of the
14 commission from any source available to him or her.

15 D. Except for a withdrawal effective on December 31,
16 1967, in accordance with paragraph C of this article, any
17 party state may withdraw from this compact by enacting a
18 statute repealing the same, but no such withdrawal shall take
19 effect until one year after the governor of the withdrawing
20 state has given notice in writing of the withdrawal to the
21 governors of all other party states. No withdrawal shall
22 affect any liability already incurred by or chargeable to a
23 party state prior to the time of such withdrawal.

24
25 ARTICLE IX
26

27 CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY.--

28 This compact shall be liberally construed so as to
29 effectuate the purposes thereof. The provisions of this
30 compact shall be severable, and if any phrase, clause,
31 sentence or provision of this compact is declared to be

1 contrary to the constitution of any state or of the United
2 States, or the application thereof to any government, agency,
3 person or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the
4 remainder of this compact and the applicability thereof to any
5 government, agency, person or circumstance shall not be
6 affected thereby. If this compact shall be held contrary to
7 the constitution of any state participating therein, the
8 compact shall remain in full force and effect as to the state
9 affected as to all severable matters.

10 Section 16. Chapter 1001, Florida Statutes, shall be
11 entitled "K-20 Governance" and shall consist of ss.
12 1001.01-1001.75.

13 Section 17. Part I of chapter 1001, Florida Statutes,
14 shall be entitled "State-Level Governance" and shall consist
15 of ss. 1001.01-1001.28.

16 Section 18. Part I.a. of chapter 1001, Florida
17 Statutes, shall be entitled "State Board of Education" and
18 shall consist of ss. 1001.01-1001.03.

19 Section 19. Section 1001.01, Florida Statutes, is
20 created to read:

21 1001.01 State Board of Education generally.--

22 (1) The State Board of Education is established as a
23 body corporate. The board shall be a citizen board consisting
24 of seven members who are residents of the state appointed by
25 the Governor to staggered 4-year terms, subject to
26 confirmation by the Senate. Members of the board shall serve
27 without compensation but shall be entitled to reimbursement of
28 travel and per diem expenses in accordance with s. 112.061.
29 Members may be reappointed by the Governor for additional
30 terms not to exceed 8 years of consecutive service.

31

1 (2) The State Board of Education shall select a chair
2 and a vice chair from its appointed members. The chair shall
3 serve a 2-year term and may be reselected for one additional
4 consecutive term.

5 (3) Four members of the state board shall constitute a
6 quorum. No business may be transacted at any meeting unless a
7 quorum is present.

8 Section 20. Section 1001.02, Florida Statutes, is
9 created to read:

10 1001.02 General powers of State Board of Education.--

11 (1) The State Board of Education is the chief
12 implementing and coordinating body of public education in
13 Florida, and it shall focus on high-level policy decisions. It
14 has authority to adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and
15 120.54 to implement the provisions of law conferring duties
16 upon it for the improvement of the state system of K-20 public
17 education. Except as otherwise provided herein, it may, as it
18 finds appropriate, delegate its general powers to the
19 Commissioner of Education or the directors of the divisions of
20 the department.

21 (2) The State Board of Education has the following
22 duties:

23 (a) To adopt comprehensive educational objectives for
24 public education.

25 (b) To adopt comprehensive long-range plans and
26 short-range programs for the development of the state system
27 of public education.

28 (c) To exercise general supervision over the divisions
29 of the Department of Education as necessary to ensure
30 coordination of educational plans and programs and resolve
31 controversies and to minimize problems of articulation and

1 student transfers, to ensure that students moving from one
2 level of education to the next have acquired competencies
3 necessary for satisfactory performance at that level, and to
4 ensure maximum utilization of facilities.

5 (d) To adopt for state universities and community
6 colleges, and from time to time modify, minimum and uniform
7 standards of college-level communication and computation
8 skills generally associated with successful performance and
9 progression through the baccalaureate level and to identify
10 college-preparatory high school coursework and
11 postsecondary-level coursework that prepares students with the
12 academic skills necessary to succeed in postsecondary
13 education.

14 (e) To adopt and submit to the Governor and
15 Legislature, on or before September 1 of each year, a
16 coordinated K-20 education budget that estimates the
17 expenditure requirements for the State Board of Education,
18 including the Department of Education, the Commissioner of
19 Education, and all of the boards, institutions, agencies, and
20 services under the general supervision of the State Board of
21 Education for the ensuing fiscal year. Any program recommended
22 by the State Board of Education which will require increases
23 in state funding for more than 1 year must be presented in a
24 multiyear budget plan.

25 (f) To hold meetings, transact business, keep records,
26 adopt a seal, and perform such other duties as may be
27 necessary for the enforcement of all laws and rules relating
28 to the state system of public education.

29 (g) To approve plans for cooperating with the Federal
30 Government.

31

1 (h) To approve plans for cooperating with other public
2 agencies in the development of rules and in the enforcement of
3 laws for which the state board and such agencies are jointly
4 responsible.

5 (i) To review plans for cooperating with appropriate
6 nonpublic agencies for the improvement of conditions relating
7 to the welfare of schools.

8 (j) To create such subordinate advisory bodies as are
9 required by law or as it finds necessary for the improvement
10 of education.

11 (k) To constitute any education bodies or other
12 structures as required by federal law.

13 (l) To assist in the economic development of the state
14 by developing a state-level planning process to identify
15 future training needs for industry, especially high-technology
16 industry.

17 (m) To assist in the planning and economic development
18 of the state by establishing a clearinghouse for information
19 on educational programs of value to economic development.

20 (n) To adopt cohesive rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1)
21 and 120.54, within statutory authority, for education
22 systemwide issues.

23 (o) To authorize the allocation of resources in
24 accordance with law and rule.

25 (p) To contract with independent institutions
26 accredited by an agency whose standards are comparable to the
27 minimum standards required to operate a postsecondary
28 educational institution at that level in the state. The
29 purpose of the contract is to provide those educational
30 programs and facilities which will meet needs unfulfilled by
31 the state system of public postsecondary education.

1 (q) To recommend that a district school board take
2 action consistent with the state board's decision relating to
3 an appeal of a charter school application.

4 (r) To enforce systemwide education goals and
5 policies.

6 (s) To establish a detailed procedure for the
7 implementation and operation of a systemwide K-20 technology
8 plan that is based on a common set of data definitions.

9 (t) To establish accountability standards for existing
10 legislative performance goals, standards, and measures, and
11 order the development of mechanisms to implement new
12 legislative goals, standards, and measures.

13 (u) To adopt criteria and implementation plans for
14 future growth issues, such as new colleges and universities
15 and campus mergers, and to provide for cooperative agreements
16 between and within public and private education sectors.

17 (v) To develop, and periodically review for
18 adjustment, a coordinated 5-year plan for postsecondary
19 enrollment and annually submit the plan to the Legislature.

20 (w) To approve a new program at the professional level
21 or doctoral level, if:

22 1. The university has taken into account the need and
23 demand for the program, the university's mission, and similar
24 program offerings by public and nonpublic counterparts.

25 2. The addition of the program will not alter the
26 university's emphasis on undergraduate education.

27 (x) To review, and approve or disapprove, degree
28 programs identified as unique pursuant to s. 1007.25.

29 (y) To recommend to the Legislature a plan for
30 implementing block tuition programs and providing other
31 incentives to encourage students to graduate within 4 years.

1 (3) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to
2 establish the criteria for assigning, reviewing, and removing
3 limited-access status to an educational program. The State
4 Board of Education shall monitor the extent of limited-access
5 programs within the state universities and report to the
6 Legislature admissions and enrollment data for limited-access
7 programs. Such report shall be submitted annually by December
8 1 and shall assist in determining the potential need for
9 academic-program contracts with independent institutions
10 pursuant to paragraph (2)(p). The report must specify, for
11 each limited-access program within each institution, the
12 following categories, by race and gender:

13 (a) The number of applicants.

14 (b) The number of applicants granted admission.

15 (c) The number of applicants who are granted admission
16 and enroll.

17 (d) The number of applicants denied admission.

18 (e) The number of applicants neither granted admission
19 nor denied admission.

20
21 Each category must be reported for each term. Each category
22 must be reported by type of student, including the following
23 subcategories: native students, community college associate in
24 arts degree transfer students, and other students. Each
25 category and subcategory must further be reported according to
26 the number of students who meet or exceed the minimum
27 eligibility requirements for admission to the program and the
28 number of students who do not meet or exceed the minimum
29 eligibility requirements for admission to the program.

30 (4) The State Board of Education shall review, and
31 approve or disapprove, baccalaureate-degree programs that

1 exceed 120 semester hours, after considering accreditation
2 requirements, employment and earnings of graduates,
3 comparative program lengths nationally, and comparisons with
4 similar programs offered by independent institutions. By
5 December 31 of each year, the State Board of Education must
6 report to the Legislature any degrees in the state
7 universities that require more than 120 hours, along with
8 appropriate evidence of need. At least every 5 years, the
9 State Board of Education must determine whether the programs
10 still require more than the standard length of 120 hours.
11 (5)(a) The State Board of Education shall adopt a
12 systemwide strategic plan that specifies goals and objectives
13 for the state universities and community colleges. In
14 developing this plan, the State Board of Education shall
15 consider the role of individual public and independent
16 institutions within the state. The plan shall provide for the
17 roles of the universities and community colleges to be
18 coordinated to best meet state needs and reflect
19 cost-effective use of state resources. The strategic plan must
20 clarify mission statements and identify degree programs to be
21 offered at each university and community college in accordance
22 with the objectives provided in this subsection. The
23 systemwide strategic plan must cover a period of 5 years, with
24 modification of the program lists after 2 years. Development
25 of each 5-year plan must be coordinated with and initiated
26 after completion of the master plan. The systemwide and
27 university and community college strategic plans must
28 specifically include programs and procedures for responding to
29 the educational needs of teachers and students in the public
30 schools of this state. The state board shall submit a report
31

1 to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
2 Representatives upon modification of the system plan.

3 (b) The State Board of Education shall develop
4 long-range plans and annual reports for financial aid in this
5 state. The long-range plans shall establish goals and
6 objectives for a comprehensive program of financial aid for
7 Florida students and shall be updated every 5 years. The
8 annual report shall include an assessment of progress made in
9 achieving goals and objectives established in the long-range
10 plans and recommendations for repealing or modifying existing
11 financial aid programs or establishing new programs. A
12 long-range plan shall be submitted by January 1, 2004, and
13 every 5 years thereafter. An annual report shall be submitted
14 on January 1, 2004, and in each successive year that a
15 long-range plan is not submitted, to the President of the
16 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

17 (6) The State Board of Education shall coordinate the
18 programs with the Council for Education Policy Research and
19 Improvement, including doctoral programs. The programs shall
20 be reviewed every 5 years or whenever the state board
21 determines that the effectiveness or efficiency of a program
22 is jeopardized. The State Board of Education shall define the
23 indicators of quality and the criteria for program review for
24 every program. Such indicators include need, student demand,
25 industry-driven competencies for advanced technology and
26 related programs, and resources available to support
27 continuation. The results of the program reviews must be tied
28 to the university and community college budget requests.

29 (7) The State Board of Education shall:
30
31

- 1 (a) Provide for each community college to offer
2 educational training and service programs designed to meet the
3 needs of both students and the communities served.
- 4 (b) Specify, by rule, procedures to be used by the
5 boards of trustees in the annual evaluations of presidents and
6 review the evaluations of presidents by the boards of
7 trustees.
- 8 (c) Establish an effective information system that
9 will provide composite data concerning the community colleges
10 and state universities and ensure that special analyses and
11 studies concerning the institutions are conducted, as
12 necessary, for provision of accurate and cost-effective
13 information concerning the institutions.
- 14 (d) Establish criteria for making recommendations for
15 modifying district boundary lines for community colleges.
- 16 (e) Establish criteria for making recommendations
17 concerning all proposals for the establishment of additional
18 centers or campuses for community colleges and state
19 universities.
- 20 (f) Examine the annual administrative review of each
21 community college and state university.
- 22 (g) Specify, by rule, the degree program courses that
23 may be taken by students concurrently enrolled in
24 college-preparatory instruction.
- 25 (h) Adopt and submit to the Legislature a 3-year list
26 of priorities for fixed-capital-outlay projects.
- 27 (8) The State Board of Education is responsible for
28 reviewing and administering the state program of support for
29 the community colleges and, subject to existing law, shall
30 establish the tuition and out-of-state fees for
31 college-preparatory instruction and for credit instruction

1 that may be counted toward an associate in arts degree, an
2 associate in applied science degree, or an associate in
3 science degree.

4 (9) The State Board of Education shall prescribe
5 minimum standards, definitions, and guidelines for community
6 colleges and state universities that will ensure the quality
7 of education, coordination among the community colleges and
8 state universities, and efficient progress toward
9 accomplishing the community college and state university
10 mission. At a minimum, these rules must address:

11 (a) Personnel.

12 (b) Contracting.

13 (c) Program offerings and classification, including
14 college-level communication and computation skills associated
15 with successful performance in college and with tests and
16 other assessment procedures that measure student achievement
17 of those skills. The performance measures must provide that
18 students moving from one level of education to the next
19 acquire the necessary competencies for that level.

20 (d) Provisions for curriculum development, graduation
21 requirements, college calendars, and program service areas.
22 These provisions must include rules that:

23 1. Provide for the award of an associate in arts
24 degree to a student who successfully completes 60 semester
25 credit hours at the community college.

26 2. Require all of the credits accepted for the
27 associate in arts degree to be in the statewide course
28 numbering system as credits towards a baccalaureate degree
29 offered by a state university.

30 3. Require no more than 36 semester credit hours in
31 general education courses in the subject areas of

1 communication, mathematics, social sciences, humanities, and
2 natural sciences.

3
4 The rules should encourage community colleges to enter into
5 agreements with state universities that allow community
6 college students to complete upper-division-level courses at a
7 community college. An agreement may provide for concurrent
8 enrollment at the community college and the state university
9 and may authorize the community college to offer an
10 upper-division-level course or distance learning.

11 (e) Student admissions, conduct and discipline,
12 nonclassroom activities, and fees.

13 (f) Budgeting.

14 (g) Business and financial matters.

15 (h) Student services.

16 (i) Reports, surveys, and information systems,
17 including forms and dates of submission.

18 Section 21. Section 1001.03, Florida Statutes, is
19 created to read:

20 1001.03 Specific powers of State Board of Education.--

21 (1) PUBLIC K-12 STUDENT PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.--The
22 State Board of Education shall approve the student performance
23 standards known as the Sunshine State Standards in key
24 academic subject areas and grade levels.

25 (2) DIRECT-SUPPORT ORGANIZATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
26 EDUCATION.--The State Board of Education shall govern issues
27 relating to use of property, facilities, and personal services
28 between the Department of Education and its direct-support
29 organization and shall certify that the organization operates
30 at all times in a manner consistent with the goals and best
31 interest of the department, pursuant to s. 1001.24.

1 (3) PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATES.--The State Board of
2 Education shall classify school services, designate the
3 certification subject areas, establish competencies, including
4 the use of technology to enhance student learning, and
5 certification requirements for all school-based personnel, and
6 prescribe rules in accordance with which the professional,
7 temporary, and part-time certificates shall be issued by the
8 Department of Education to applicants who meet the standards
9 prescribed by such rules for their class of service, as
10 described in chapter 1012.

11 (4) PROFESSIONAL TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS.--The State
12 Board of Education shall ensure that not-for-profit,
13 professional teacher associations that offer membership to all
14 teachers, noninstructional personnel, and administrators, and
15 that offer teacher training and staff development at no fee to
16 the district, shall be given equal access to voluntary teacher
17 meetings, be provided access to teacher mailboxes for
18 distribution of professional literature, and be authorized to
19 collect voluntary membership fees through payroll deduction.

20 (5) IDENTIFICATION OF CRITICAL TEACHER SHORTAGE
21 AREAS.--The State Board of Education shall identify critical
22 teacher shortage areas pursuant to s. 1012.07.

23 (6) CAPITAL OUTLAY BOND AND MOTOR VEHICLE TAX
24 ANTICIPATION CERTIFICATE RESOLUTIONS.--The State Board of
25 Education shall issue bonds and approve resolutions regarding
26 the expenditure of funds for capital projects and purposes
27 pursuant to the State Constitution and other applicable law.

28 (7) ARTICULATION ACCOUNTABILITY.--The State Board of
29 Education shall develop articulation accountability measures
30 that assess the status of systemwide articulation processes,
31

1 and shall establish an articulation accountability process in
2 accordance with the provisions of chapter 1008.

3 (8) SYSTEMWIDE ENFORCEMENT.--The State Board of
4 Education shall enforce compliance with law and state board
5 rule by all school districts and public postsecondary
6 institutions, in accordance with the provisions of s. 1008.32.

7 (9) MANAGEMENT INFORMATION DATABASES.--The State Board
8 of Education shall continue to collect and maintain, at a
9 minimum, the management information databases for state
10 universities, and all other components of the public K-20
11 education system as such databases existed on June 30, 2002.

12 (10) COMMON PLACEMENT TESTING FOR PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY
13 EDUCATION.--The State Board of Education shall develop and
14 implement a common placement test to assess the basic
15 computation and communication skills of students who intend to
16 enter a degree program at any community college or state
17 university.

18 (11) MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR NONPUBLIC POSTSECONDARY
19 EDUCATION.--The State Board of Education shall adopt minimum
20 standards relating to nonpublic postsecondary education and
21 institutions, in accordance with the provisions of chapter
22 1005.

23 (12) COMMON POSTSECONDARY DEFINITIONS.--The State
24 Board of Education shall adopt, by rule, common definitions
25 for associate in science degrees and for certificates.

26 (13) CYCLIC REVIEW OF POSTSECONDARY ACADEMIC
27 PROGRAMS.--The State Board of Education shall provide for the
28 cyclic review of all academic programs in community colleges
29 and state universities at least every 7 years. Program reviews
30 shall document how individual academic programs are achieving
31 stated student learning and program objectives within the

1 context of the institution's mission. The results of the
2 program reviews shall inform strategic planning, program
3 development, and budgeting decisions at the institutional
4 level.

5 (14) UNIFORM CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT
6 ADMINISTRATIVE AND MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL.--The State Board of
7 Education shall recommend to the Legislature by February 1,
8 2003, a uniform classification system for school district
9 administrative and management personnel that will facilitate
10 the uniform coding of administrative and management personnel
11 to total district employees.

12 Section 22. Part I.b. of chapter 1001, Florida
13 Statutes, shall be entitled "Commissioner of Education" and
14 shall consist of ss. 1001.10-1001.11.

15 Section 23. Section 1001.10, Florida Statutes, is
16 created to read:

17 1001.10 Commissioner of Education; general powers and
18 duties.--The Commissioner of Education is the chief
19 educational officer of the state, and is responsible for
20 giving full assistance to the State Board of Education in
21 enforcing compliance with the mission and goals of the
22 seamless K-20 education system. The commissioner has the
23 following general powers and duties:

24 (1) To appoint staff necessary to carry out his or her
25 powers and duties.

26 (2) To advise and counsel with the State Board of
27 Education on all matters pertaining to education; to recommend
28 to the State Board of Education actions and policies as, in
29 the commissioner's opinion, should be acted upon or adopted;
30 and to execute or provide for the execution of all acts and
31 policies as are approved.

1 (3) To keep such records as are necessary to set forth
2 clearly all acts and proceedings of the State Board of
3 Education.

4 (4) To have a seal for his or her office with which,
5 in connection with his or her own signature, the commissioner
6 shall authenticate true copies of decisions, acts, or
7 documents.

8 (5) To recommend to the State Board of Education
9 policies and steps designed to protect and preserve the
10 principal of the State School Fund; to provide an assured and
11 stable income from the fund; to execute such policies and
12 actions as are approved; and to administer the State School
13 Fund.

14 (6) To take action on the release of mineral rights
15 based upon the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the
16 Internal Improvement Trust Fund.

17 (7) To submit to the State Board of Education, on or
18 before August 1 of each year, recommendations for a
19 coordinated K-20 education budget that estimates the
20 expenditures for the State Board of Education, including the
21 Department of Education, the Commissioner of Education, and
22 all of the boards, institutions, agencies, and services under
23 the general supervision of the State Board of Education for
24 the ensuing fiscal year. Any program recommended to the State
25 Board of Education that will require increases in state
26 funding for more than 1 year must be presented in a multiyear
27 budget plan.

28 (8) To develop and implement a plan for cooperating
29 with the Federal Government in carrying out any or all phases
30 of the educational program and to recommend policies for
31

1 administering funds that are appropriated by Congress and
2 apportioned to the state for any or all educational purposes.

3 (9) To develop and implement policies for cooperating
4 with other public agencies in carrying out those phases of the
5 program in which such cooperation is required by law or is
6 deemed by the commissioner to be desirable and to cooperate
7 with public and nonpublic agencies in planning and bringing
8 about improvements in the educational program.

9 (10) To prepare forms and procedures as are necessary
10 to be used by district school boards and all other educational
11 agencies to assure uniformity, accuracy, and efficiency in the
12 keeping of records, the execution of contracts, the
13 preparation of budgets, or the submission of reports; and to
14 furnish at state expense, when deemed advisable by the
15 commissioner, those forms that can more economically and
16 efficiently be provided.

17 (11) To implement a program of school improvement and
18 education accountability designed to provide all students the
19 opportunity to make adequate learning gains in each year of
20 school as provided by statute and State Board of Education
21 rule based upon the achievement of the state education goals,
22 recognizing the following:

23 (a) The State Board of Education is the body corporate
24 responsible for the supervision of the system of public
25 education.

26 (b) The district school board is responsible for
27 school and student performance.

28 (c) The individual school is the unit for education
29 accountability.

30
31

1 (d) The community college board of trustees is
2 responsible for community college performance and student
3 performance.

4 (e) The university board of trustees is responsible
5 for university performance and student performance.

6 (12) To establish a Citizen Information Center
7 responsible for the preparation, publication, and distribution
8 of materials relating to the state system of seamless K-20
9 public education.

10 (13) To prepare and publish annually reports giving
11 statistics and other useful information pertaining to the
12 Opportunity Scholarship Program.

13 (14) To have printed or electronic copies of school
14 laws, forms, instruments, instructions, and rules of the State
15 Board of Education and provide for their distribution.

16 (15) To develop criteria for use by state
17 instructional materials committees in evaluating materials
18 submitted for adoption consideration. The criteria shall, as
19 appropriate, be based on instructional expectations reflected
20 in curriculum frameworks and student performance standards.
21 The criteria for each subject or course shall be made
22 available to publishers of instructional materials pursuant to
23 the requirements of chapter 1006.

24 (16) To prescribe procedures for evaluating
25 instructional materials submitted by publishers and
26 manufacturers in each adoption.

27
28 The commissioner's office shall operate all statewide
29 functions necessary to support the State Board of Education
30 and the K-20 education system, including strategic planning
31

1 and budget development, general administration, and assessment
2 and accountability.

3 Section 24. Section 1001.11, Florida Statutes, is
4 created to read:

5 1001.11 Commissioner of Education; other duties.--

6 (1) The Commissioner of Education must independently
7 perform the following duties:

8 (a) Cooperate with and coordinate responses to
9 requests from the members of the Legislature.

10 (b) Serve as the primary source of information to the
11 Legislature, including the President of the Senate and the
12 Speaker of the House of Representatives, concerning the State
13 Board of Education and the K-20 education system.

14 (c) Develop and implement a process for receiving and
15 processing requests, in conjunction with the Legislature, for
16 the allocation of PECO funds for qualified postsecondary
17 education projects.

18 (d) Integrally work with the boards of trustees of the
19 state universities, colleges, and community colleges.

20 (e) Monitor the activities of the State Board of
21 Education and provide information related to current and
22 pending policies to the members of the boards of trustees of
23 the community colleges and state universities.

24 (f) Ensure the timely provision of information
25 requested by the Legislature from the State Board of
26 Education, the commissioner's office, and the Department of
27 Education.

28 (2)(a) The Commissioner of Education shall recommend
29 to the State Board of Education performance goals addressing
30 the educational needs of the state for the K-20 education
31 system. The Council for Education Policy Research and

1 Improvement, as an independent entity, shall develop a report
2 card assigning grades to indicate Florida's progress toward
3 meeting those goals. The annual report card shall contain
4 information showing Florida's performance relative to other
5 states on selected measures, as well as Florida's ability to
6 meet the need for postsecondary degrees and programs and how
7 well the Legislature has provided resources to meet this need.
8 The information shall include the results of the National
9 Assessment of Educational Progress or a similar national
10 assessment program administered to students in Florida. By
11 January 1 of each year, the Council for Education Policy
12 Research and Improvement shall submit the report card to the
13 Legislature, the Governor, and the public.

14 (b) Prior to the regular legislative session, the
15 Commissioner of Education shall present to the Legislature a
16 plan for correcting any deficiencies identified in the report
17 card.

18 (3) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the
19 contrary, the Commissioner of Education, in conjunction with
20 the Legislature, must recommend funding priorities for the
21 distribution of capital outlay funds for public postsecondary
22 educational institutions, based on priorities that include,
23 but are not limited to, the following criteria:

24 (a) Growth at the institutions.
25 (b) Need for specific skills statewide.
26 (c) Need for maintaining and repairing existing
27 facilities.

28 (4) The commissioner shall develop and implement an
29 integrated K-20 information system for educational management
30 in accordance with the requirements of chapter 1008.
31

1 (5) The commissioner shall design and implement a
2 statewide program of educational assessment that provides
3 information for the improvement of the operation and
4 management of the public schools, including schools operating
5 for the purpose of providing educational services to youth in
6 Department of Juvenile Justice programs, in accordance with
7 the requirements of chapter 1008.

8 (6) The commissioner is responsible for implementing
9 and maintaining a system of intensive school improvement and
10 stringent education accountability, in accordance with the
11 requirements of chapter 1008.

12 Section 25. Part I.c. of chapter 1001, Florida
13 Statutes, shall be entitled "Department of Education" and
14 shall consist of ss. 1001.20-1001.28.

15 Section 26. Section 1001.20, Florida Statutes, is
16 created to read:

17 1001.20 Department under direction of state board.--

18 (1) The Department of Education shall be organized
19 consistently with the requirements of s. 20.15, and shall act
20 as an administrative and supervisory agency under the
21 implementation direction of the State Board of Education.

22 (2) The department is to be located in the offices of
23 the Commissioner of Education and shall assist in providing
24 professional leadership and guidance and in carrying out the
25 policies, procedures, and duties authorized by law or by the
26 State Board of Education or found necessary by it to attain
27 the purposes and objectives of this code.

28 (3) The Department of Education shall maintain an
29 Office of the Commissioner of Education that includes the
30 general areas of operation that are common to all delivery
31 sectors, such as administration, communication, legal

1 services, financial aid, and government and public relations,
2 in order to increase efficiency, improve service delivery to
3 students, and fully support the operational needs of the State
4 Board of Education.

5 (4) The Department of Education shall establish the
6 following offices within the Office of the Commissioner of
7 Education which shall coordinate their activities with all
8 other divisions and offices:

9 (a) Office of Technology and Information

10 Services.--Responsible for developing a systemwide technology
11 plan, making budget recommendations to the commissioner,
12 providing data collection and management for the system, and
13 coordinating services with other state, local, and private
14 agencies. The office shall develop a method to address the
15 need for a statewide approach to planning and operations of
16 library and information services to achieve a single K-20
17 education system library information portal and a unified
18 higher education library management system. The Florida
19 Virtual High School shall be administratively housed within
20 the office.

21 (b) Office of Workforce and Economic

22 Development.--Responsible for evaluating the role of each
23 sector of education in Florida's workforce and economic
24 development, assessing the specific work skills and variety of
25 careers provided, and reporting to the State Board of
26 Education the effectiveness of each sector.

27 (c) Office of Educational Facilities and SMART Schools

28 Clearinghouse.--Responsible for validating all educational
29 plant surveys and verifying Florida Inventory of School Houses
30 (FISH) data. The office shall provide technical assistance to
31 public school districts when requested.

1 (d) Office of Student Financial
2 Assistance.--Responsible for providing access to and
3 administering state and federal grants, scholarships, and
4 loans to those students seeking financial assistance for
5 postsecondary study pursuant to program criteria and
6 eligibility requirements.

7 (e) Office of Inspector General.--Organized using
8 existing resources and funds and responsible for promoting
9 accountability, efficiency, and effectiveness and detecting
10 fraud and abuse within school districts, community colleges,
11 and state universities in Florida. The office shall conduct,
12 coordinate, or request investigations into substantiated
13 allegations made by any person relating to waste, fraud, or
14 financial mismanagement within school districts, community
15 colleges, and state universities in Florida. The office shall
16 have access to all information and personnel necessary to
17 perform its duties and shall have all of its current powers,
18 duties, and responsibilities authorized in s. 20.055.

19 Section 27. Section 1001.21, Florida Statutes, is
20 created to read:

21 1001.21 Office of Private Schools and Home Education
22 Programs.--The state recognizes the contributions of private
23 schools and home education programs in providing alternatives
24 to public school education. These nongovernmental educational
25 systems serve the public, but are not considered to be a part
26 of the public system of education.

27 (1) The Office of Private Schools and Home Education
28 Programs is established within the Department of Education.
29 The Department of Education and the Commissioner of Education
30 have no authority over the institutions or students served by
31 the office. The office shall:

- 1 (a) Serve the interests of students and the parents of
2 students in private schools and home education programs.
- 3 (b) Serve the interests of private institutions.
- 4 (c) Provide general information to the public about
5 private and home education delivery systems.
- 6 (2) The Commissioner of Education shall appoint an
7 executive director for the office who shall:
- 8 (a) Serve as a source of communication between private
9 schools, home education programs, the Commissioner of
10 Education, and the State Board of Education.
- 11 (b) Evaluate pending policy to ensure that the policy
12 does not subject private schools and home education programs
13 to additional regulation or mandates.
- 14 (c) Establish a clearinghouse of information for the
15 public.
- 16 (d) Foster a collaborative spirit and working
17 relationship among private schools, home education programs,
18 and the public sector.
- 19 (e) Identify and convey the best practices of private
20 schools and home education programs for the benefit of the
21 public and private education delivery sectors.
- 22 (f) Represent issues and concerns relating to home
23 education programs and private schools on all applicable ad
24 hoc advisory bodies.
- 25 Section 28. Section 1001.22, Florida Statutes, is
26 created to read:
- 27 1001.22 Commission for Independent Education.--The
28 Commission for Independent Education shall authorize granting
29 of certificates, diplomas, and degrees for independent
30 postsecondary educational institutions pursuant to chapter
31 1005.

1 Section 29. Section 1001.23, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1001.23 Specific powers and duties of the Department
4 of Education.--In addition to all other duties assigned to it
5 by law or by rule of the State Board of Education, the
6 department shall:

7 (1) Adopt the school readiness uniform screening
8 developed by the Florida Partnership for School Readiness, in
9 accordance with the criteria itemized in chapter 1008.

10 (2) Implement a training program to develop among
11 state and district educators a cadre of facilitators of school
12 improvement in accordance with the provisions of chapter 1008.

13 (3) Identify the needs of the state system of public
14 education as they relate to the development and production of
15 materials used in instruction, in accordance with the
16 requirements of chapter 1006.

17 (4) After complying with the provisions of s. 257.37,
18 the Department of Education may:

19 (a) Photograph, microphotograph, or reproduce on film
20 or prints, documents, records, data, and information of a
21 permanent character and destroy any of the documents after
22 they have been photographed and after audit of the department
23 has been completed for the period embracing the dates of the
24 instruments. Photographs or microphotographs in the form of
25 film or prints made in compliance with the provisions of this
26 subsection shall have the same force and effect as the
27 originals would have, and shall be treated as originals for
28 the purpose of their admissibility in evidence. Duly certified
29 or authenticated reproductions of such photographs or
30 microphotographs shall be admitted in evidence equally with
31 the original photographs or microphotographs.

1 (b) Destroy general correspondence that is over 3
2 years old; records of bills, accounts, vouchers, and
3 requisitions that are over 5 years old and copies of which
4 have been filed with the Comptroller; and other records,
5 papers, and documents over 3 years old that do not serve as
6 part of an agreement or understanding and do not have value as
7 permanent records.

8 Section 30. Section 1001.24, Florida Statutes, is
9 created to read:

10 1001.24 Direct-support organization; use of property;
11 board of directors; audit.--

12 (1) DEFINITIONS.--For the purposes of this section,
13 the term:

14 (a) "Department of Education direct-support
15 organization" means an organization:

16 1. That is a corporation not for profit that is
17 incorporated under the provisions of chapter 617 and approved
18 by the Department of State.

19 2. That is organized and operated exclusively to
20 receive, hold, invest, and administer property and to make
21 expenditures to or for the benefit of public prekindergarten
22 through 12th grade education in this state.

23 3. That the State Board of Education, after review,
24 has certified to be operating in a manner consistent with the
25 goals and best interest of the Department of Education.

26 (b) "Personal services" includes full-time or
27 part-time personnel, as well as payroll processing.

28 (2) USE OF PROPERTY.--The State Board of Education:

29 (a) May permit the use of property, facilities, and
30 personal services of the department by the direct-support
31 organization, subject to the provisions of this section.

1 (b) Shall prescribe by rule conditions with which the
2 direct-support organization must comply in order to use
3 property, facilities, or personal services of the department.
4 Such rules shall provide for budget and audit review and for
5 oversight by the department.

6 (c) Shall not permit the use of property, facilities,
7 or personal services of the direct-support organization if
8 such organization does not provide equal employment
9 opportunities to all persons, regardless of race, color,
10 national origin, sex, age, or religion.

11 (3) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.--The board of directors of the
12 department direct-support organization shall be appointed by
13 the commissioner and shall include representation from
14 business, industry, and other components of Florida's economy.

15 (4) ANNUAL AUDIT.--Each direct-support organization
16 shall provide for an annual financial audit of its accounts
17 and records to be conducted by an independent certified public
18 accountant in accordance with rules adopted by the Auditor
19 General pursuant to s. 11.45(8). The annual audit report shall
20 be submitted, within 9 months after the end of the fiscal
21 year, to the Auditor General for review. The Auditor General
22 and the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government
23 Accountability shall have the authority to require and receive
24 from the organization or from its independent auditor any
25 records relative to the operation of the organization. The
26 identity of donors who desire to remain anonymous shall be
27 protected, and that anonymity shall be maintained in the
28 auditor's report. All records of the organization other than
29 the auditor's report, management letter, and any supplemental
30 data requested by the Auditor General and the Office of
31

1 Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability shall be
2 confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1).

3 Section 31. Section 1001.25, Florida Statutes, is
4 created to read:

5 1001.25 Educational television.--

6 (1) ESTABLISHMENT AND UTILIZATION OF NETWORK.--The
7 department may establish a television network connecting such
8 communities or such stations as it designates. For this
9 purpose, it may lease facilities in the name of the state from
10 communications' common carriers and use such transmission
11 channels as are necessary; however, if the department decides,
12 upon investigation, that it could more economically construct
13 and maintain such transmission channels, it may design,
14 construct, operate, and maintain them, including a television
15 microwave network. The network shall be utilized primarily for
16 the instruction of students at existing and future public and
17 private educational institutions and of the general public, as
18 practical. The origination and transmission of all programs
19 over such networks shall be as directed under policies
20 approved by the State Board of Education. The department may
21 cooperate with and assist all local and state educational
22 agencies in making surveys pertaining to the use and economics
23 of educational television in the fields of primary,
24 elementary, secondary, or college level education and in the
25 field of adult education, and may assist all public agencies
26 in the planning of programs calculated to further the
27 education of the state's citizens.

28 (2) POWERS OF DEPARTMENT.--

29 (a) The department may encourage:

30 1. The extension of educational television network
31 facilities.

1 2. The coordination of Florida's educational
2 television with that of other states and with the Federal
3 Government.

4 3. The further development of educational television
5 within the state.

6 (b) The department shall provide through educational
7 television and other electronic media a means of extending
8 educational services to all the state system of public
9 education, except the state universities, which provision by
10 the department is limited by paragraph (c) and by s.
11 1006.26(1). The department shall recommend to the State Board
12 of Education rules necessary to provide such services.

13 (c) The department may provide equipment, funds, and
14 other services to extend and update both the existing and the
15 proposed educational television and radio systems of
16 tax-supported and nonprofit, corporate-owned facilities. All
17 stations funded must be qualified by the Corporation for
18 Public Broadcasting. New stations eligible for funding shall
19 provide a first service to an audience that is not currently
20 receiving a broadcast signal or provide a significant new
21 program service as defined by State Board of Education rules.
22 Funds appropriated to the department for educational
23 television and funds appropriated to the department for
24 educational radio may be used by the department for either
25 educational television or educational radio, or both.

26 (3) PROHIBITED USE, PENALTY.--

27 (a) None of the facilities, plant, or personnel of any
28 educational television system that is supported in whole or in
29 part by state funds shall be used directly or indirectly for
30 the promotion, advertisement, or advancement of any political
31 candidate for any municipal, county, legislative,

1 congressional, or state office. However, fair, open, and free
2 discussion between political candidates for municipal, county,
3 legislative, congressional, or state office may be permitted
4 in order to help materially reduce the excessive cost of
5 campaigns and to ensure that the state's citizens are fully
6 informed about issues and candidates in campaigns. The
7 provisions of this paragraph apply to the advocacy for, or
8 opposition to, any specific program, existing or proposed, of
9 governmental action which includes, but is not limited to,
10 constitutional amendments, tax referenda, and bond issues. The
11 provisions of this paragraph shall be in accordance with rules
12 of the State Board of Education.

13 (b) Violation of any prohibition contained in this
14 section is a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as
15 provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

16 (4) DUTY OF DEPARTMENT.--The department is responsible
17 for identifying the needs of the state system of public
18 education as they relate to the development and production of
19 materials used in instruction. When such identified needs are
20 considered to be best satisfied by the production of new
21 materials, the department may commission or contract for the
22 production of such materials.

23 Section 32. Section 1001.26, Florida Statutes, is
24 created to read:

25 1001.26 Public broadcasting program system.--

26 (1) There is created a public broadcasting program
27 system for the state. The department shall administer this
28 program system pursuant to rules adopted by the State Board of
29 Education. This program system must complement and share
30 resources with the instructional programming service of the
31

1 Department of Education and educational UHF, VHF, ITFS, and FM
2 stations in the state. The program system must include:
3 (a) Support for existing Corporation for Public
4 Broadcasting qualified program system educational radio and
5 television stations and new stations meeting Corporation for
6 Public Broadcasting qualifications and providing a first
7 service to an audience that does not currently receive a
8 broadcast signal or providing a significant new program
9 service as defined by rule by the State Board of Education.
10 (b) Maintenance of quality broadcast capability for
11 educational stations that are part of the program system.
12 (c) Interconnection of all educational stations that
13 are part of the program system for simultaneous broadcast and
14 of such stations with all universities and other institutions
15 as necessary for sharing of resources and delivery of
16 programming.
17 (d) Establishment and maintenance of a capability for
18 statewide program distribution with facilities and staff,
19 provided such facilities and staff complement and strengthen
20 existing or future educational television and radio stations
21 in accordance with paragraph (a) and s. 1001.25(2)(c).
22 (e) Provision of both statewide programming funds and
23 station programming support for educational television and
24 educational radio to meet statewide priorities. Priorities for
25 station programming need not be the same as priorities for
26 programming to be used statewide. Station programming may
27 include, but shall not be limited to, citizens' participation
28 programs, music and fine arts programs, coverage of public
29 hearings and governmental meetings, equal air time for
30 political candidates, and other public interest programming.
31

1 (2)(a) The Department of Education is responsible for
2 implementing the provisions of this section pursuant to part
3 III of chapter 287 and may employ personnel, acquire equipment
4 and facilities, and perform all duties necessary for carrying
5 out the purposes and objectives of this section.

6 (b) The department shall provide through educational
7 television and other electronic media a means of extending
8 educational services to all the state system of public
9 education. The department shall recommend to the State Board
10 of Education rules necessary to provide such services.

11 (c) The department is authorized to provide equipment,
12 funds, and other services to extend and update both the
13 existing and the proposed educational television and radio
14 systems of tax-supported and nonprofit, corporate-owned
15 facilities. All stations funded must be qualified by the
16 Corporation for Public Broadcasting. New stations eligible
17 for funding shall provide a first service to an audience that
18 is not currently receiving a broadcast signal or provide a
19 significant new program service as defined by State Board of
20 Education rules. Funds appropriated to the department for
21 educational television and funds appropriated to the
22 department for educational radio may be used by the department
23 for either educational television or educational radio, or for
24 both.

25 (3) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules for
26 the proper enforcement and carrying out of these provisions.

27 Section 33. Section 1001.27, Florida Statutes, is
28 created to read:

29 1001.27 State satellite network.--

30 (1) There is created a state satellite network, which
31 shall provide one-way video and audio transmissions with

1 regional access for all Floridians, state agencies, county and
2 municipal governments, business and industry, and other public
3 and private entities to participate in classroom instruction,
4 continuing education, special events programs, and one-way
5 video teleconferencing.

6 (2) The network shall consist of compatible satellite
7 receiving equipment at public educational institutions in each
8 of the 28 community college regions.

9 (3) The department, in consultation with the
10 Department of Management Services, shall implement the
11 provisions of this section and coordinate the network.
12 Specifically, the department shall:

13 (a) Provide for technical analysis of suitable
14 existing satellite receiving equipment at Florida public
15 postsecondary institutions for inclusion in the network.

16 (b) Acquire by competitive sealed bid and place
17 appropriate receiving equipment in those community college
18 regions of the state in which such equipment is presently not
19 available at a public postsecondary educational institution.

20 (c) Develop an implementation plan that provides for
21 designation of a site in each community college region for
22 inclusion in the initial network. Criteria for selection
23 shall include:

24 1. Accessibility to a substantial portion of the
25 population of the region.

26 2. Demonstrated institutional commitment to support
27 and encourage use of the network both within the region and
28 statewide.

29 3. Willingness to complement state support with
30 matching institutional resources.

31

1 4. Evidence of cooperation and coordinated planning
2 with other postsecondary institutions in the region.

3 5. Availability of existing telecommunications
4 equipment which is compatible or adaptable for use in the
5 network.

6 (d) Identify additional sites for inclusion in the
7 network in the event that demand exceeds the capacity of the
8 initial network.

9 (e) Coordinate scheduling and encourage use of the
10 network.

11 (f) Develop operating procedures for the system and
12 recommend fee schedules for both public and private entities
13 wishing to transmit or receive programming through the
14 network. Scheduling procedures shall assign the highest
15 priority to educational programming.

16 (g) Provide training for institutional, state agency,
17 and other personnel in effective techniques for the use of the
18 network.

19 (h) Provide initial startup support for operations,
20 maintenance, and publicity costs of the network. Continuation
21 costs in these areas shall be recovered through user fees and
22 local resources.

23 (4) All audio components of this system that are not
24 transmitted simultaneously with video to a domestic satellite
25 shall be transmitted through common carriers regulated
26 pursuant to chapter 364.

27 (5) The State Board of Education may adopt any rules
28 necessary for the implementation of this section.

29 (6) This section shall be implemented only to the
30 extent specifically authorized and funded by law.

31

1 Section 34. Section 1001.28, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1001.28 Distance learning duties.--The duties of the
4 Department of Education concerning distance learning include,
5 but are not limited to, the duty to:

6 (1) Facilitate the implementation of a statewide
7 coordinated system and resource system for cost-efficient
8 advanced telecommunications services and distance education
9 which will increase overall student access to education.

10 (2) Coordinate the use of existing resources,
11 including, but not limited to, the state's satellite
12 transponders on the education satellites, the SUNCOM Network,
13 the Florida Information Resource Network (FIRN), the
14 Department of Management Services, the Department of
15 Corrections, and the Department of Children and Family
16 Services' satellite communication facilities to support a
17 statewide advanced telecommunications services and distance
18 learning network.

19 (3) Assist in the coordination of the utilization of
20 the production and uplink capabilities available through
21 Florida's public television stations, eligible facilities,
22 independent colleges and universities, private firms, and
23 others as needed.

24 (4) Seek the assistance and cooperation of Florida's
25 cable television providers in the implementation of the
26 statewide advanced telecommunications services and distance
27 learning network.

28 (5) Seek the assistance and cooperation of Florida's
29 telecommunications carriers to provide affordable student
30 access to advanced telecommunications services and to distance
31 learning.

1 (6) Coordinate partnerships for development,
2 acquisition, use, and distribution of distance learning.

3 (7) Secure and administer funding for programs and
4 activities for distance learning from federal, state, local,
5 and private sources and from fees derived from services and
6 materials.

7 (8) Manage the state's satellite transponder resources
8 and enter into lease agreements to maximize the use of
9 available transponder time. All net revenue realized through
10 the leasing of available transponder time, after deducting the
11 costs of performing the management function, shall be recycled
12 to support the public education distance learning in this
13 state based upon an allocation formula of one-third to the
14 Department of Education, one-third to community colleges, and
15 one-third to state universities.

16 (9) Hire appropriate staff which may include a
17 position that shall be exempt from part II of chapter 110 and
18 is included in the Senior Management Service in accordance
19 with s. 110.205.

20
21 Nothing in this section shall be construed to abrogate,
22 supersede, alter, or amend the powers and duties of any state
23 agency, district school board, community college board of
24 trustees, university board of trustees, or the State Board of
25 Education.

26 Section 35. Part II of chapter 1001, Florida Statutes,
27 shall be entitled "School District Governance" and shall
28 consist of ss. 1001.30-1001.55.

29 Section 36. Section 1001.30, Florida Statutes, is
30 created to read:

31

1 1001.30 District unit.--Each county shall constitute a
2 school district and shall be known as the school district of
3 ... County, Florida. Each district shall constitute a unit
4 for the control, organization, and administration of schools.
5 The responsibility for the actual operation and administration
6 of all schools needed within the districts in conformity with
7 rules and minimum standards prescribed by the state, and also
8 the responsibility for the provision of any desirable and
9 practicable opportunities authorized by law beyond those
10 required by the state, are delegated by law to the school
11 officials of the respective districts.

12 Section 37. Section 1001.31, Florida Statutes, is
13 created to read:

14 1001.31 Scope of district system.--A district school
15 system shall include all public schools, classes, and courses
16 of instruction and all services and activities directly
17 related to education in that district which are under the
18 direction of the district school officials. A district school
19 system may also include alternative site schools for
20 disruptive or violent youth. Such schools for disruptive or
21 violent youth may be funded by each district or provided
22 through cooperative programs administered by a consortium of
23 school districts, private providers, state and local law
24 enforcement agencies, and the Department of Juvenile Justice.
25 Pursuant to cooperative agreement, a district school system
26 shall provide instructional personnel at juvenile justice
27 facilities of 50 or more beds or slots with access to the
28 district school system database for the purpose of accessing
29 student academic, immunization, and registration records for
30 students assigned to the programs. Such access shall be in the
31 same manner as provided to other schools in the district.

1 Section 38. Section 1001.32, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1001.32 Management, control, operation,
4 administration, and supervision.--The district school system
5 must be managed, controlled, operated, administered, and
6 supervised as follows:

7 (1) DISTRICT SYSTEM.--The district school system shall
8 be considered as a part of the state system of public
9 education. All actions of district school officials shall be
10 consistent and in harmony with state laws and with rules and
11 minimum standards of the state board and the commissioner.
12 District school officials, however, shall have the authority
13 to provide additional educational opportunities, as desired,
14 which are authorized, but not required, by law or by the
15 district school board.

16 (2) DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD.--In accordance with the
17 provisions of s. 4(b) of Art. IX of the State Constitution,
18 district school boards shall operate, control, and supervise
19 all free public schools in their respective districts and may
20 exercise any power except as expressly prohibited by the State
21 Constitution or general law.

22 (3) DISTRICT SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT.--Responsibility
23 for the administration and management of the schools and for
24 the supervision of instruction in the district shall be vested
25 in the district school superintendent as the secretary and
26 executive officer of the district school board, as provided by
27 law.

28 (4) SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OR HEAD OF
29 SCHOOL.--Responsibility for the administration of any school
30 or schools at a given school center, for the supervision of
31 instruction therein, and for providing leadership in the

1 development or revision and implementation of a school
2 improvement plan required pursuant to s. 1001.42(16) shall be
3 delegated to the school principal or head of the school or
4 schools in accordance with rules established by the district
5 school board.

6 Section 39. Section 1001.33, Florida Statutes, is
7 created to read:

8 1001.33 Schools under control of district school board
9 and district school superintendent.--Except as otherwise
10 provided by law, all public schools conducted within the
11 district shall be under the direction and control of the
12 district school board with the district school superintendent
13 as executive officer.

14 Section 40. Part II.a. of chapter 1001, Florida
15 Statutes, shall be entitled "District School Boards" and shall
16 consist of ss. 1001.34-1001.452.

17 Section 41. Section 1001.34, Florida Statutes, is
18 created to read:

19 1001.34 Membership of district school board.--Each
20 district school board shall be composed of not less than five
21 members. Each member of the district school board shall be a
22 qualified elector of the district in which she or he serves,
23 shall be a resident of the district school board member
24 residence area from which she or he is elected, and shall
25 maintain said residency throughout her or his term of office.

26 Section 42. Section 1001.35, Florida Statutes, is
27 created to read:

28 1001.35 Term of office.--District school board members
29 shall be elected at the general election in November for terms
30 of 4 years.

31

1 Section 43. Section 1001.36, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1001.36 District school board member residence
4 areas.--

5 (1) For the purpose of electing district school board
6 members, each district shall be divided into at least five
7 district school board member residence areas, which shall be
8 numbered one to five, inclusive, and which shall, as nearly as
9 practicable, be equal in population.

10 (a) For those school districts, which have seven
11 district school board members, the district may be divided
12 into five district school board member residence areas, with
13 two district school board members elected at large, or the
14 district may be divided into seven district school board
15 member residence areas. In the latter case, the residence
16 areas shall be numbered one to seven inclusive and shall be
17 equal in population as nearly as practicable.

18 (b) For those school districts which have seven
19 district school board members, the number of district school
20 board member residence areas shall be determined by resolution
21 passed by a majority vote of the district school board.

22 (2) Any district school board may make any change that
23 it deems necessary in the boundaries of any district school
24 board member residence area at any meeting of the district
25 school board, provided that such changes shall be made only in
26 odd-numbered years and that no change that would affect the
27 residence qualifications of any incumbent member shall
28 disqualify such incumbent member during the term for which he
29 or she is elected.

30 (3) Such changes in boundaries shall be shown by
31 resolutions spread upon the minutes of the district school

1 board, shall be recorded in the office of the clerk of the
2 circuit court, and shall be published at least once in a
3 newspaper published in the district within 30 days after the
4 adoption of the resolution, or, if there be no newspaper
5 published in the district, shall be posted at the county
6 courthouse door for 4 weeks thereafter. A certified copy of
7 this resolution shall be transmitted to the Department of
8 State.

9 Section 44. Section 1001.361, Florida Statutes, is
10 created to read:

11 1001.361 Election of board by districtwide
12 vote.--Notwithstanding any provision of local law or any
13 county charter, the election of members of the district school
14 board shall be by vote of the qualified electors of the entire
15 district in a nonpartisan election as provided in chapter 105.
16 Each candidate for district school board member shall, at the
17 time she or he qualifies, be a resident of the district school
18 board member residence area from which the candidate seeks
19 election. Each candidate who qualifies to have her or his name
20 placed on the ballot shall be listed according to the district
21 school board member residence area in which she or he resides.
22 Each qualified elector of the district shall be entitled to
23 vote for one candidate from each district school board member
24 residence area. The candidate from each district school board
25 member residence area who receives the highest number of votes
26 in the general election shall be elected to the district
27 school board.

28 Section 45. Section 1001.362, Florida Statutes, is
29 created to read:

30
31

1 1001.362 Alternate procedure for the election of
2 district school board members to provide for single-member
3 representation.--

4 (1) This section shall be known and may be referred to
5 as "The School District Local Option Single-Member
6 Representation Law of 1984."

7 (2) District school board members shall be elected to
8 office in accordance with the provisions of ss. 1001.36 and
9 1001.361, or as otherwise provided by law, unless a
10 proposition calling for single-member representation within
11 the residence areas of the district is submitted to and
12 approved by a majority of the qualified electors voting on
13 such proposition in the manner provided in subsection (3).

14 (a) If the district school board is composed of five
15 members, such proposition shall provide that the five members
16 shall reside one in each of five residence areas, the areas
17 together covering the entire district and as nearly equal in
18 population as practicable, pursuant to s. 1001.36, each of
19 whom shall be elected only by the qualified electors who
20 reside in the same residence area as the member.

21 (b) If the district school board is composed of seven
22 members, at the option of the school board, such proposition
23 shall provide that:

24 1. Five of the seven members shall reside one in each
25 of five residence areas, the areas together covering the
26 entire district and as nearly equal in population as
27 practicable, pursuant to s. 1001.36, each of whom shall be
28 elected only by the qualified electors who reside in the same
29 residence area as the member, and two of the seven members
30 shall be elected at large; or

31

1 2. All seven members shall reside one in each of seven
2 residence areas, the areas together covering the entire
3 district and as nearly equal in population as practicable,
4 pursuant to s. 1001.36, each of whom shall be elected only by
5 the qualified electors who reside in the same residence area
6 as the member.

7 (c) All members shall be elected for 4-year terms, but
8 such terms shall be staggered so that, alternately, one more
9 or one less than half of the members elected from residence
10 areas and, if applicable, one of the members elected at large
11 from the entire district are elected every 2 years. Any
12 member may be elected to an initial term of less than 4 years
13 if necessary to achieve or maintain such system of staggered
14 terms.

15 (3) A proposition calling for single-member
16 representation within the residence areas of the district
17 shall be submitted to the electors of the district at any
18 primary, general, or otherwise-called special election, in
19 either manner following:

20 (a) The district school board may adopt a formal
21 resolution directing an election to be held to place the
22 proposition on the ballot.

23 (b) The electors of the school district may petition
24 to have the proposition placed on the ballot by presenting to
25 the school board petitions signed by not less than 10 percent
26 of the duly qualified electors residing within the school
27 district. The number of signatures required shall be
28 determined by the supervisor of elections according to the
29 number of registered electors in the district as of the date
30 the petitioning electors register as a political committee as
31 provided in subsection (4).

1 (4) The electors petitioning to have the proposition
2 placed on the ballot shall register as a political committee
3 pursuant to s. 106.03, and a specific person shall be
4 designated therein as chair of the committee to act for the
5 committee.

6 (5)(a) Each petition form circulated for single-member
7 representation within the residence areas of a district where
8 the school board is composed of five members shall include the
9 wording: "As a registered elector of the school district of
10 County, Florida, I am petitioning for a referendum
11 election to determine whether the five school board members of
12 said district shall be elected from single-member residence
13 areas by electors residing in each of those areas only."

14 (b) Each petition form circulated for single-member
15 representation within the residence areas of a district where
16 the district school board is composed of seven members, none
17 of whom are to be elected at large, shall include the wording:
18 "As a registered elector of the school district of
19 County, Florida, I am petitioning for a referendum election to
20 determine whether the seven members of said district shall be
21 elected from single-member residence areas by electors
22 residing in each of those areas only."

23 (c) Each petition form circulated for single-member
24 representation within the residence areas of a district where
25 the school board is composed of seven members, two of whom are
26 to be elected at large, shall include the wording: "As a
27 registered elector of the school district of County,
28 Florida, I am petitioning for a referendum election to
29 determine whether five of the seven district school board
30 members of said district shall be elected from single-member
31

1 residence areas by electors residing in each of those areas
2 only, with the two remaining members being elected at large."

3
4 The petition shall also include space for the signature and
5 address of the elector. Each signature obtained shall be
6 dated when made and is valid for a period of 4 years following
7 that date.

8 (6) Upon the filing of the petitions with the district
9 school board by the chair of the committee, the district
10 school board shall submit the petitions to the supervisor of
11 elections for verification of the signatures. Within a period
12 of not more than 30 days, the supervisor of elections shall
13 determine whether the petitions contain the required number of
14 valid signatures. The supervisor of elections shall be paid
15 by the committee seeking verification the sum of 10 cents for
16 each name checked.

17 (7) If it is determined that the petitions have the
18 required signatures, the supervisor of elections shall certify
19 the petitions to the district school board, which shall adopt
20 a resolution requesting that an election date be set to
21 conform to the earliest primary, general, or otherwise-called
22 special election that occurs not less than 30 days after
23 certification of the petitions. If it is determined that the
24 petitions do not contain the required signatures, the
25 supervisor of elections shall so notify the district school
26 board, which shall file the petitions without taking further
27 action, and the matter shall be at an end. No additional names
28 may be added to the petitions, and the petitions may not be
29 used in any other proceeding.

1 (8) No special election may be called for the sole
2 purpose of presenting the proposition to the vote of the
3 electors.

4 (9) Any district adopting any of the propositions set
5 forth in this section may thereafter return to the procedures
6 otherwise provided by law by following the same procedure
7 outlined in subsection (3).

8 (10) No district school board member elected prior to
9 or at the election that approves any revision as permitted
10 herein shall be affected in his or her term of office. The
11 resolution adopted by the district school board under
12 paragraph (3)(a) or subsection (7) which presents the proposed
13 revision to the electorate for approval shall specify an
14 orderly method and procedure for implementing the revision
15 contemplated in the resolution.

16 Section 46. Section 1001.363, Florida Statutes, is
17 created to read:

18 1001.363 District school board members to represent
19 entire district.--Each district school board of each district
20 shall represent the entire district. Each member of the
21 district school board shall serve as the representative of the
22 entire district, rather than as the representative of a
23 district school board member residence area.

24 Section 47. Section 1001.37, Florida Statutes, is
25 created to read:

26 1001.37 District school board members shall
27 qualify.--Before entering upon the duties of office after
28 being elected, or, if appointed, within 10 days after
29 receiving notice of appointment, each member of the district
30 school board shall take the prescribed oath of office.

31

1 Section 48. Section 1001.371, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1001.371 Organization of district school board.--On
4 the third Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each
5 year, the district school board shall organize by electing a
6 chair. It may elect a vice chair, and the district school
7 superintendent shall act ex officio as the secretary. If a
8 vacancy should occur in the position of chair, the district
9 school board shall proceed to elect a chair at the next
10 ensuing regular or special meeting. At the organization
11 meeting, the district school superintendent shall act as chair
12 until the organization is completed. The chair and secretary
13 shall then make and sign a copy of the proceedings of
14 organization, including the schedule for regular meetings and
15 the names and addresses of all district school officers, and
16 annex their affidavits that the same is a true and correct
17 copy of the original, and the secretary shall file the
18 document within 2 weeks with the Department of Education.

19 Section 49. Section 1001.372, Florida Statutes, is
20 created to read:

21 1001.372 District school board meetings.--
22 (1) REGULAR AND SPECIAL MEETINGS.--The district school
23 board shall hold not less than one regular meeting each month
24 for the transaction of business according to a schedule
25 arranged by the district school board and shall convene in
26 special sessions when called by the district school
27 superintendent or by the district school superintendent on
28 request of the chair of the district school board, or on
29 request of a majority of the members of the district school
30 board; provided that actions taken at special meetings shall
31 have the same force and effect as if taken at a regular

1 meeting; and provided further that in the event the district
2 school superintendent should fail to call a special meeting
3 when requested to do so, as prescribed herein, such a meeting
4 may be called by the chair of the district school board or by
5 a majority of the members of the district school board by
6 giving 2 days' written notice of the time and purpose of the
7 meeting to all members and to the district school
8 superintendent, in which event the minutes of the meeting
9 shall set forth the facts regarding the procedure in calling
10 the meeting and the reason therefor and shall be signed either
11 by the chair or by a majority of the members of the district
12 school board.

13 (2) PLACE OF MEETINGS.--

14 (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), all regular
15 and special meetings of the district school board shall be
16 held in the office of the district school superintendent or in
17 a room convenient to that office and regularly designated as
18 the district school board meeting room.

19 (b) Upon the giving of due public notice, regular or
20 special meetings of the district school board may be held at
21 any appropriate public place in the county.

22 (c) For purpose of this section, due public notice
23 shall consist of publication in a newspaper of general
24 circulation in the county or in each county where there is no
25 newspaper of general circulation in the county an announcement
26 over at least one radio station whose signal is generally
27 received in the county, a reasonable number of times daily
28 during the 48 hours immediately preceding the date of such
29 meeting, or by posting a notice at the courthouse door if no
30 newspaper is published in the county, at least 2 days prior to
31 the meeting.

1 (3) REMOVAL OF PERSONS INTERFERING WITH MEETINGS.--The
2 presiding officer of any district school board may order the
3 removal, from a public meeting held by the district school
4 board, of any person interfering with the expeditious or
5 orderly process of such meeting, provided such officer has
6 first issued a warning that continued interference with the
7 orderly processes of the meeting will result in removal. Any
8 law enforcement authority or a sergeant-at-arms designated by
9 the officer shall remove any person ordered removed pursuant
10 to this section.

11 (4) MAJORITY A QUORUM.--A majority shall constitute a
12 quorum for any meeting of the district school board. No
13 business may be transacted at any meeting unless a quorum is
14 present, except that a minority of the district school board
15 may adjourn the meeting from time to time until a quorum is
16 present.

17 Section 50. Section 1001.38, Florida Statutes, is
18 created to read:

19 1001.38 Vacancies; how filled.--The office of any
20 district school board member shall be vacant when the member
21 removes his or her residence from the district school board
22 member residence area from which he or she was elected. All
23 vacancies on the district school board shall be filled by
24 appointment by the Governor.

25 Section 51. Section 1001.39, Florida Statutes, is
26 created to read:

27 1001.39 District school board members; travel
28 expenses.--

29 (1) In addition to the salary provided in s. 1001.395,
30 each member of a district school board shall be allowed, from
31 the district school fund, reimbursement of travel expenses as

1 authorized in s. 112.061, except as provided in subsection
2 (2). Any travel outside the district shall also be governed
3 by the rules of the State Board of Education.

4 (2) Each district school board may reimburse a
5 district school board member for travel expenses for travel
6 from the member's residence incurred in the performance of a
7 public purpose authorized by law to be performed by the
8 district school board, including, but not limited to,
9 attendance at regular and special board meetings. Mileage
10 allowance in the amount provided by law for reimbursement of
11 travel expenses, when authorized, shall be computed from the
12 member's place of residence to the place of the meeting or
13 function and return.

14 Section 52. Section 1001.395, Florida Statutes, is
15 created to read:

16 1001.395 District school board members; generally;
17 compensation.--Each district school board shall be a citizen
18 board. Beginning with the expiration of their terms that are
19 in effect on January 7, 2003, members of the district school
20 board shall serve without compensation but shall be entitled
21 to reimbursement of travel and per diem expenses in accordance
22 with s. 112.061.

23 Section 53. Section 1001.40, Florida Statutes, is
24 created to read:

25 1001.40 District school board to constitute a
26 corporation.--The governing body of each school district shall
27 be a district school board. Each district school board is
28 constituted a body corporate by the name of "The School Board
29 of County, Florida." In all suits against district
30 school boards, service of process shall be had on the chair of
31 the district school board or, if he or she cannot be found, on

1 the district school superintendent as executive officer of the
2 district school board or, in the absence of the chair and the
3 district school superintendent, on another member of the
4 district school board.

5 Section 54. Section 1001.41, Florida Statutes, is
6 created to read:

7 1001.41 General powers of district school board.--The
8 district school board, after considering recommendations
9 submitted by the district school superintendent, shall
10 exercise the following general powers:

11 (1) Determine policies and programs consistent with
12 state law and rule deemed necessary by it for the efficient
13 operation and general improvement of the district school
14 system.

15 (2) Adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54
16 to implement the provisions of law conferring duties upon it
17 to supplement those prescribed by the State Board of Education
18 and the Commissioner of Education.

19 (3) Prescribe and adopt standards as are considered
20 desirable by it for improving the district school system.

21 (4) Contract, sue, and be sued. The district school
22 board shall constitute the contracting agent for the district
23 school system.

24 (5) Perform duties and exercise those responsibilities
25 that are assigned to it by law or by rules of the State Board
26 of Education or the Commissioner of Education and, in addition
27 thereto, those that it may find to be necessary for the
28 improvement of the district school system in carrying out the
29 purposes and objectives of the education code.

30 (6) Assign students to schools.
31

1 (7) Enter into agreements for accepting credit card,
2 charge card, and debit card payments as compensation for
3 goods, services, tuition, and fees, as authorized by law.

4 Section 55. Section 1001.42, Florida Statutes, is
5 created to read:

6 1001.42 Powers and duties of district school
7 board.--The district school board, acting as a board, shall
8 exercise all powers and perform all duties listed below:

9 (1) REQUIRE MINUTES AND RECORDS TO BE KEPT.--Require
10 the district school superintendent, as secretary, to keep such
11 minutes and records as are necessary to set forth clearly all
12 actions and proceedings of the school board.

13 (a) Minutes, recording.--The minutes of each meeting
14 shall be reviewed, corrected if necessary, and approved at the
15 next regular meeting, provided that this action may be taken
16 at an intervening special meeting if the district school board
17 desires. The minutes shall be kept as a public record in a
18 permanent location.

19 (b) Minutes, contents.--The minutes shall show the
20 vote of each member present on all matters on which the
21 district school board takes action. It shall be the duty of
22 each member to see to it that both the matter and his or her
23 vote thereon are properly recorded in the minutes. Unless
24 otherwise shown by the minutes, it shall be presumed that the
25 vote of each member present supported any action taken by the
26 district school board in either the exercise of, violation of,
27 or neglect of the powers and duties imposed upon the district
28 school board by law or rule, whether such action is recorded
29 in the minutes or is otherwise established. It shall also be
30 presumed that the policies, appointments, programs, and
31 expenditures not recorded in the minutes but made and actually

1 in effect in the district school system were made and put into
2 effect at the direction of the district school board, unless
3 it can be shown that they were done without the actual or
4 constructive knowledge of the members of the district school
5 board.

6 (2) CONTROL PROPERTY.--Subject to rules of the State
7 Board of Education, control property and convey the title to
8 real and personal property.

9 (3) ADOPT SCHOOL PROGRAM.--Adopt a school program for
10 the entire school district.

11 (4) ESTABLISHMENT, ORGANIZATION, AND OPERATION OF
12 SCHOOLS.--Adopt and provide for the execution of plans for the
13 establishment, organization, and operation of the schools of
14 the district, including, but not limited to, the following:

15 (a) Schools and enrollment plans.--Establish schools
16 and adopt enrollment plans that may include school attendance
17 areas and open enrollment provisions.

18 (b) Elimination of school centers and consolidation of
19 schools.--Provide for the elimination of school centers and
20 the consolidation of schools.

21 (c) Adequate educational facilities for all children
22 without tuition.--Provide adequate educational facilities for
23 all children without payment of tuition.

24 (d) Cooperate with school boards of adjoining
25 districts in maintaining schools.--Approve plans for
26 cooperating with school boards of adjoining districts in this
27 state or in adjoining states for establishing school
28 attendance areas composed of territory lying within the
29 districts and for the joint maintenance of district-line
30 schools or other schools which are to serve those attendance
31

1 areas. The conditions of such cooperation shall be as
2 follows:
3 1. Establishment.--The establishment of a school to
4 serve attendance areas lying in more than one district and the
5 plans for maintaining the school and providing educational
6 services to students shall be effected by annual resolutions
7 spread upon the minutes of each district school board
8 concerned, which resolutions shall set out the territorial
9 limits of the areas from which children are to attend the
10 school and the plan to be followed in maintaining and
11 operating the school.
12 2. Control.--Control of the school or schools involved
13 shall be vested in the district school board of the district
14 in which the school or schools are located unless otherwise
15 agreed by the district school boards.
16 3. Settlement of disagreements.--In the event an
17 agreement cannot be reached relating to such attendance areas
18 or to the school or schools therein, the matter may be
19 referred jointly by the cooperating district school boards or
20 by either district school board to the Department of Education
21 for decision under rules of the State Board of Education, and
22 its decision shall be binding on both school boards.
23 (e) Classification and standardization of
24 schools.--Provide for the classification and standardization
25 of schools.
26 (f) Opening and closing of schools; fixing uniform
27 date.--Adopt policies for the opening and closing of schools
28 and fix uniform dates.
29 (g) Observance of school holidays and vacation
30 periods.--Designate the observance of school holidays and
31 vacation periods.

1 (h) Career and technical classes and schools.--Provide
2 for the establishment and maintenance of career and technical
3 schools, departments, or classes, giving instruction in career
4 and technical education as defined by rules of the State Board
5 of Education, and use any moneys raised by public taxation in
6 the same manner as moneys for other school purposes are used
7 for the maintenance and support of public schools or classes.

8 (i) District school boards may establish public
9 evening schools.--Have the authority to establish public
10 evening schools.

11 (j) Cooperate with other agencies in joint
12 projects.--Cooperate with other agencies in joint projects.

13 (k) Planning time for teachers.--The district school
14 board may adopt rules for planning time for teachers in
15 accordance with the provisions of chapter 1012.

16 (l) Exceptional students.--Provide for an appropriate
17 program of special instruction, facilities, and services for
18 exceptional students as prescribed by the State Board of
19 Education as acceptable in accordance with the provisions of
20 s. 1003.57.

21 (m) Alternative education programs for students in
22 residential care facilities.--Provide in accordance with the
23 provisions of chapter 1006, educational programs according to
24 rules of the State Board of Education to students who reside
25 in residential care facilities operated by the Department of
26 Children and Family Services.

27 (n) Educational services in detention facilities.--In
28 accordance with the provisions of chapter 1006, district
29 school boards shall offer services to students in detention
30 facilities.

31

1 (5) PERSONNEL.--Designate positions to be filled,
2 prescribe qualifications for those positions, and provide for
3 the appointment, compensation, promotion, suspension, and
4 dismissal of employees, subject to the requirements of chapter
5 1012. Notwithstanding s. 1012.55 or any other provision of law
6 or rule to the contrary, the district school board may,
7 consistent with adopted district school board policy, appoint
8 persons to the position of school principal who do not hold
9 educator certification.

10 (6) CHILD WELFARE.--In accordance with the provisions
11 of chapters 1003 and 1006, provide for the proper accounting
12 for all children of school age, for the attendance and control
13 of students at school, and for proper attention to health,
14 safety, and other matters relating to the welfare of children.

15 (7) COURSES OF STUDY AND OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL
16 MATERIALS.--Provide adequate instructional materials for all
17 students in accordance with the requirements of chapter 1006.

18 (8) TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS.--After considering
19 recommendations of the district school superintendent, make
20 provision for the transportation of students to the public
21 schools or school activities they are required or expected to
22 attend; authorize transportation routes arranged efficiently
23 and economically; provide the necessary transportation
24 facilities, and, when authorized under rules of the State
25 Board of Education and if more economical to do so, provide
26 limited subsistence in lieu thereof; and adopt the necessary
27 rules and regulations to ensure safety, economy, and
28 efficiency in the operation of all buses, as prescribed in
29 chapter 1006.

30 (9) SCHOOL PLANT.--Approve plans for locating,
31 planning, constructing, sanitating, insuring, maintaining,

1 protecting, and condemning school property as prescribed in
2 chapter 1013 and as follows:
3 (a) School building program.--Approve and adopt a
4 districtwide school building program.
5 (b) Sites, buildings, and equipment.--
6 1. Select and purchase school sites, playgrounds, and
7 recreational areas located at centers at which schools are to
8 be constructed, of adequate size to meet the needs of
9 projected students to be accommodated.
10 2. Approve the proposed purchase of any site,
11 playground, or recreational area for which district funds are
12 to be used.
13 3. Expand existing sites.
14 4. Rent buildings when necessary.
15 5. Enter into leases or lease-purchase arrangements,
16 in accordance with the requirements and conditions provided in
17 s. 1013.15(2), with private individuals or corporations for
18 the rental of necessary grounds and educational facilities for
19 school purposes or of educational facilities to be erected for
20 school purposes. Current or other funds authorized by law may
21 be used to make payments under a lease-purchase agreement.
22 Notwithstanding any other statutes, if the rental is to be
23 paid from funds received from ad valorem taxation and the
24 agreement is for a period greater than 12 months, an approving
25 referendum must be held. The provisions of such contracts,
26 including building plans, shall be subject to approval by the
27 Department of Education, and no such contract shall be entered
28 into without such approval. As used in this section,
29 "educational facilities" means the buildings and equipment
30 that are built, installed, or established to serve educational
31 purposes and that may lawfully be used. The State Board of

1 Education may adopt such rules as are necessary to implement
2 these provisions.

3 6. Provide for the proper supervision of construction.
4 7. Make or contract for additions, alterations, and
5 repairs on buildings and other school properties.

6 8. Ensure that all plans and specifications for
7 buildings provide adequately for the safety and well-being of
8 students, as well as for economy of construction.

9 (c) Maintenance and upkeep of school plant.--Provide
10 adequately for the proper maintenance and upkeep of school
11 plants, so that students may attend school without sanitary or
12 physical hazards, and provide for the necessary heat, lights,
13 water, power, and other supplies and utilities necessary for
14 the operation of the schools.

15 (d) Insurance of school property.--Carry insurance on
16 every school building in all school plants including contents,
17 boilers, and machinery, except buildings of three classrooms
18 or less that are of frame construction and located in a tenth
19 class public protection zone as defined by the Florida
20 Inspection and Rating Bureau, and on all school buses and
21 other property under the control of the district school board
22 or title to which is vested in the district school board,
23 except as exceptions may be authorized under rules of the
24 State Board of Education.

25 (e) Condemnation of buildings.--Condemn and prohibit
26 the use for public school purposes of any building that can be
27 shown for sanitary or other reasons to be no longer suitable
28 for such use and, when any building is condemned by any state
29 or other government agency as authorized in chapter 1013, see
30 that it is no longer used for school purposes.
31

1 (10) FINANCE.--Take steps to assure students adequate
2 educational facilities through the financial procedure
3 authorized in chapters 1010 and 1011 and as prescribed below:
4 (a) Provide for all schools to operate at least 180
5 days.--Provide for the operation of all public schools, both
6 elementary and secondary, as free schools for a term of at
7 least 180 days or the equivalent on an hourly basis as
8 specified by rules of the State Board of Education; determine
9 district school funds necessary in addition to state funds to
10 operate all schools for such minimum term; and arrange for the
11 levying of district school taxes necessary to provide the
12 amount needed from district sources.
13 (b) Annual budget.--Cause to be prepared, adopt, and
14 have submitted to the Department of Education as required by
15 law and rules of the State Board of Education, the annual
16 school budget, such budget to be so prepared and executed as
17 to promote the improvement of the district school system.
18 (c) Tax levies.--Adopt and spread on its minutes a
19 resolution fixing the district school tax levy, provided for
20 under s. 9, Art. VII of the State Constitution, necessary to
21 carry on the school program adopted for the district for the
22 next ensuing fiscal year as required by law, and fixing the
23 district bond interest and sinking fund tax levy necessary for
24 districts against which bonds are outstanding; and adopt and
25 spread on its minutes a resolution suggesting the tax levy
26 provided for in s. 9, Art. VII of the State Constitution,
27 found necessary to carry on the school program adopted for the
28 district for the next ensuing fiscal year.
29 (d) School funds.--Require that an accurate account is
30 kept of all funds that should be transmitted to the district
31 school board for school purposes at various periods during the

1 year from all sources and, if any funds are not transmitted
2 promptly, take the necessary steps to have such funds made
3 available.

4 (e) Borrow money.--Borrow money, as prescribed in ss.
5 1011.12-1011.16, when necessary in anticipation of funds
6 reasonably to be expected during the year as shown by the
7 budget.

8 (f) Financial records and accounts.--Provide for
9 keeping of accurate records of all financial transactions.

10 (g) Approval and payment of accounts.--Implement a
11 system of accounting and budgetary control to ensure that
12 payments do not exceed amounts budgeted, as required by law;
13 make available all records for proper audit by state
14 officials; and have prepared required periodic statements to
15 be filed with the Department of Education as provided by rules
16 of the State Board of Education.

17 (h) Bonds of employees.--Fix and prescribe the bonds,
18 and pay the premium on all such bonds, of all school employees
19 who are responsible for school funds in order to provide
20 reasonable safeguards for all such funds or property.

21 (i) Contracts for materials, supplies, and
22 services.--Contract for materials, supplies, and services
23 needed for the district school system. No contract for
24 supplying these needs shall be made with any member of the
25 district school board, with the district school
26 superintendent, or with any business organization in which any
27 district school board member or the district school
28 superintendent has any financial interest whatsoever.

29 (j) Purchasing regulations to be secured from
30 Department of Management Services.--Secure purchasing
31 regulations and amendments and changes thereto from the

1 Department of Management Services and prior to any purchase
2 have reported to it by its staff, and give consideration to
3 the lowest price available to it under such regulations,
4 provided a regulation applicable to the item or items being
5 purchased has been adopted by the department. The department
6 should meet with educational administrators to expand the
7 inventory of standard items for common usage in all schools
8 and postsecondary educational institutions.

9 (k) Protection against loss.--Provide for adequate
10 protection against any loss or damage to school property or
11 loss resulting from any liability for which the district
12 school board or its officers, agents, or employees may be
13 responsible under law. In fulfilling this responsibility, the
14 district school board may purchase insurance, to be
15 self-insured, to enter into risk management programs managed
16 by district school boards, school-related associations, or
17 insurance companies, or to have any combination thereof in any
18 area to the extent the district school board is either
19 authorized or required by law to contract for insurance. Any
20 risk management program entered into pursuant to this
21 subsection shall provide for strict accountability of all
22 funds to the member district school boards and an annual audit
23 by an independent certified public accountant of all receipts
24 and disbursements.

25 (l) Internal auditor.--The district school board may
26 employ an internal auditor to perform ongoing financial
27 verification of the financial records of the school district.
28 The internal auditor shall report directly to the district
29 school board or its designee.

30 (m) Financial and performance audits.--In addition to
31 the audits required by ss. 11.45 and 218.39, the district

1 school board may contract with an independent certified public
2 accountant to conduct a financial or performance audit of its
3 accounts and records retained by it and paid from its public
4 funds.

5 (11) RECORDS AND REPORTS.--Provide for the keeping of
6 all necessary records and the making of all needed or required
7 reports, as follows:

8 (a) Forms, blanks, and reports.--Require all employees
9 to keep accurately all records and to make promptly in the
10 proper form all reports required by law or by rules of the
11 State Board of Education.

12 (b) Reports to the department.--Require that the
13 district school superintendent prepare all reports to the
14 Department of Education that may be required by law or rules
15 of the State Board of Education; see that all such reports are
16 promptly transmitted to the department; withhold the further
17 payment of salary to the superintendent or employee when
18 notified by the department that he or she has failed to file
19 any report within the time or in the manner prescribed; and
20 continue to withhold the salary until the district school
21 board is notified by the department that such report has been
22 received and accepted, provided that when any report has not
23 been received by the date due and after due notice has been
24 given to the district school board of that fact, the
25 department, if it deems necessary, may require the report to
26 be prepared by a member of its staff, and the district school
27 board shall pay all expenses connected therewith. Any member
28 of the district school board who is responsible for the
29 violation of this provision is subject to suspension and
30 removal.

31

1 (c) Reports to parents.--Require that, at regular
2 intervals, reports are made by school principals or teachers
3 to parents, apprising them of the progress being made by the
4 students in their studies and giving other needful
5 information.

6 (12) COOPERATION WITH OTHER DISTRICT SCHOOL
7 BOARDS.--May establish and participate in educational
8 consortia that are designed to provide joint programs and
9 services to cooperating school districts, consistent with the
10 provisions of s. 4(b), Art. IX of the State Constitution. The
11 State Board of Education shall adopt rules providing for the
12 establishment, funding, administration, and operation of such
13 consortia.

14 (13) ENFORCEMENT OF LAW AND RULES.--Require that all
15 laws and rules of the State Board of Education or of the
16 district school board are properly enforced.

17 (14) SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM.--Assume such
18 responsibilities and exercise such powers and perform such
19 duties as may be assigned to it by law or as may be required
20 by rules of the State Board of Education or, as in the opinion
21 of the district school board, are necessary to ensure school
22 lunch services, consistent with needs of students; effective
23 and efficient operation of the program; and the proper
24 articulation of the school lunch program with other phases of
25 education in the district.

26 (15) PUBLIC INFORMATION AND PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT
27 PROGRAM.--

28 (a) Adopt procedures whereby the general public can be
29 adequately informed of the educational programs, needs, and
30 objectives of public education within the district, including
31

1 educational opportunities available through the Florida
2 Virtual School.

3 (b) Encourage teachers and administrators to keep
4 parents informed of student progress, student programs,
5 student attendance requirements pursuant to ss. 1003.26,
6 1003.27, 414.1251, and 984.151, and availability of resources
7 for academic assistance.

8 (16) IMPLEMENT SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AND
9 ACCOUNTABILITY.--Maintain a system of school improvement and
10 education accountability as provided by statute and State
11 Board of Education rule. This system of school improvement and
12 education accountability shall be consistent with, and
13 implemented through, the district's continuing system of
14 planning and budgeting required by this section and ss.
15 1008.385, 1010.01, and 1011.01. This system of school
16 improvement and education accountability shall include, but is
17 not limited to, the following:

18 (a) School improvement plans.--Annually approve and
19 require implementation of a new, amended, or continuation
20 school improvement plan for each school in the district,
21 except that a district school board may establish a district
22 school improvement plan that includes all schools in the
23 district operating for the purpose of providing educational
24 services to youth in Department of Juvenile Justice programs.
25 Such plan shall be designed to achieve the state education
26 priorities pursuant to s. 1000.03(5) and student performance
27 standards. Each plan shall also address issues relative to
28 budget, training, instructional materials, technology,
29 staffing, student support services, specific school safety and
30 discipline strategies, and other matters of resource
31 allocation, as determined by district school board policy, and

1 shall be based on an analysis of student achievement and other
2 school performance data.

3 (b) Approval process.--Develop a process for approval
4 of a school improvement plan presented by an individual school
5 and its advisory council. In the event a district school board
6 does not approve a school improvement plan after exhausting
7 this process, the Department of Education shall be notified of
8 the need for assistance.

9 (c) Assistance and intervention.--

10 1. Develop a 2-year plan of increasing individualized
11 assistance and intervention for each school in danger of not
12 meeting state standards or making adequate progress, as
13 defined pursuant to statute and State Board of Education rule,
14 toward meeting the goals and standards of its approved school
15 improvement plan.

16 2. Provide assistance and intervention to a school
17 that is identified as being in performance grade category "D"
18 pursuant to s. 1008.34 and is in danger of failing.

19 3. Develop a plan to encourage teachers with
20 demonstrated mastery in improving student performance to
21 remain at or transfer to a school designated as performance
22 grade category "D" or "F" or to an alternative school that
23 serves disruptive or violent youths. If a classroom teacher,
24 as defined by s. 1012.01(2)(a), who meets the definition of
25 teaching mastery developed according to the provisions of this
26 paragraph, requests assignment to a school designated as
27 performance grade category "D" or "F" or to an alternative
28 school that serves disruptive or violent youths, the district
29 school board shall make every practical effort to grant the
30 request.

31

1 4. Prioritize, to the extent possible, the
2 expenditures of funds received from the supplemental academic
3 instruction categorical fund under s. 1011.62(1)(f) to improve
4 student performance in schools that receive a performance
5 grade category designation of "D" or "F."

6 (d) After 2 years.--Notify the Commissioner of
7 Education and the State Board of Education in the event any
8 school does not make adequate progress toward meeting the
9 goals and standards of a school improvement plan by the end of
10 2 years of failing to make adequate progress and proceed
11 according to guidelines developed pursuant to statute and
12 State Board of Education rule. School districts shall provide
13 intervention and assistance to schools in danger of being
14 designated as performance grade category "F," failing to make
15 adequate progress.

16 (e) Public disclosure.--Provide information regarding
17 performance of students and educational programs as required
18 pursuant to ss. 1008.385 and 1008.22 and implement a system of
19 school reports as required by statute and State Board of
20 Education rule that shall include schools operating for the
21 purpose of providing educational services to youth in
22 Department of Juvenile Justice programs, and for those
23 schools, report on the elements specified in s. 1003.52(20).
24 Annual public disclosure reports shall be in an easy-to-read
25 report card format and shall include the school's student and
26 school performance grade category designation and performance
27 data as specified in state board rule.

28 (f) School improvement funds.--Provide funds to
29 schools for developing and implementing school improvement
30 plans. Such funds shall include those funds appropriated for
31 the purpose of school improvement pursuant to s. 24.121(5)(c).

1 (17) LOCAL-LEVEL DECISIONMAKING.--

2 (a) Adopt policies that clearly encourage and enhance
3 maximum decisionmaking appropriate to the school site. Such
4 policies must include guidelines for schools in the adoption
5 and purchase of district and school site instructional
6 materials and technology, staff training, school advisory
7 council member training, student support services, budgeting,
8 and the allocation of staff resources.

9 (b) Adopt waiver process policies to enable all
10 schools to exercise maximum flexibility and notify advisory
11 councils of processes to waive school district and state
12 policies.

13 (c) Develop policies for periodically monitoring the
14 membership composition of school advisory councils to ensure
15 compliance with requirements established in s. 1001.452.

16 (d) Adopt policies that assist in giving greater
17 autonomy, including authority over the allocation of the
18 school's budget, to schools designated as performance grade
19 category "A," making excellent progress, and schools rated as
20 having improved at least two performance grade categories.

21 (18) OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS.--Adopt policies
22 allowing students attending schools that have been designated
23 as performance grade category "F," failing to make adequate
24 progress, for 2 school years in a 4-year period to attend a
25 higher performing school in the district or an adjoining
26 district or be granted a state opportunity scholarship to a
27 private school, in conformance with s. 1002.38 and State Board
28 of Education rule.

29 (19) AUTHORITY TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.--May declare
30 an emergency in cases in which one or more schools in the
31 district are failing or are in danger of failing and negotiate

1 special provisions of its contract with the appropriate
2 bargaining units to free these schools from contract
3 restrictions that limit the school's ability to implement
4 programs and strategies needed to improve student performance.

5 (20) SCHOOL-WITHIN-A-SCHOOL.--In order to reduce the
6 anonymity of students in large schools, adopt policies to
7 encourage any school that does not meet the definition of a
8 small school, as established by s. 1013.43(2), to subdivide
9 into schools-within-a-school, that shall operate within
10 existing resources in accordance with the provisions of
11 chapter 1003.

12 (21) FLORIDA VIRTUAL SCHOOL.--Provide students with
13 access to enroll in courses available through the Florida
14 Virtual School and award credit for successful completion of
15 such courses. Access shall be available to students during or
16 after the normal school day, and through summer school
17 enrollment.

18 (22) ADOPT RULES.--Adopt rules pursuant to ss.
19 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement this section.

20 Section 56. Section 1001.43, Florida Statutes, is
21 created to read:

22 1001.43 Supplemental powers and duties of district
23 school board.--The district school board may exercise the
24 following supplemental powers and duties as authorized by this
25 code or State Board of Education rule.

26 (1) STUDENT MANAGEMENT.--The district school board may
27 adopt programs and policies to ensure the safety and welfare
28 of individuals, the student body, and school personnel, which
29 programs and policies may:

30 (a) Prohibit the possession of weapons and drugs on
31 campus, student hazing, and other activities that could

1 threaten the operation of the school or the safety and welfare
2 of the student body or school personnel.

3 (b) Require uniforms to be worn by the student body,
4 or impose other dress-related requirements, if the district
5 school board finds that those requirements are necessary for
6 the safety or welfare of the student body or school personnel.

7 (c) Provide procedures for student dismissal
8 precautions and for granting permission for students to leave
9 school grounds during school hours, including releasing a
10 student from school upon request by a parent or for public
11 appearances of school groups.

12 (d) Provide procedures for managing protests,
13 demonstrations, sit-ins, walk-outs, or other acts of civil
14 disobedience.

15 (e) Provide procedures for detaining students and for
16 readmission of students after expulsion.

17 (f) Regulate student automobile use and parking.

18 (2) FISCAL MANAGEMENT.--The district school board may
19 adopt policies providing for fiscal management of the school
20 district with respect to school purchasing, facilities,
21 nonstate revenue sources, budgeting, fundraising, and other
22 activities relating to the fiscal management of district
23 resources, including, but not limited to, the policies
24 governing:

25 (a) Sales calls and demonstrations by agents,
26 solicitors, salespersons, and vendors on campus; local
27 preference criteria for vendors; specifications for quantity
28 purchasing; prioritization of awards for bids; declining bid
29 awards; and purchase requisitions, approvals, and routing.

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1 (b) Sales by booster clubs; marathon fundraisers; and
2 student sales of candy, paper products, or other goods
3 authorized by the district school board.

4 (c) Inventory and disposal of district property; use
5 of safe-deposit boxes; and selection of real estate
6 appraisers.

7 (d) Payment of contractors and other service
8 providers.

9 (e) Accounting systems; petty cash accounts procedures
10 and reporting; school activities funds procedures and
11 reporting; management and reporting of grants from private
12 sources; and management of funds, including auxiliary
13 enterprise funds.

14 (f) District budgeting system, including setting
15 budget deadlines and schedules, budget planning, and
16 implementation and determination of budget priorities.

17 (3) INSTRUCTIONAL AIDS.--The district school board may
18 adopt policies providing for innovative teaching techniques,
19 teaching programs and methods, instructional aids and
20 objectives, extracurricular and interscholastic activities,
21 and supplemental programs including, but not limited to,
22 policies providing for:

23 (a) Use of technology, including appropriate use of
24 the Internet as a tool for learning.

25 (b) Instructional priorities and objectives, pilot
26 projects and evaluations, curriculum adoption and design, and
27 lesson planning.

28 (c) Extracurricular and interscholastic activities,
29 including field trips, publishing a student newspaper and
30 other publications, and special programs relating to the arts,
31 music, or other topics of current interest.

1 (d) Participation in physical education programs,
2 including appropriate physical education attire and protective
3 gear; programs for exceptional students; summer school; and
4 the Title I program, including comparability procedures.

5 (4) FACILITIES MANAGEMENT.--The district school board
6 may adopt policies providing for management of the physical
7 campus and its environs, including, but not limited to, energy
8 conservation measures; building and ground maintenance;
9 fencing, landscaping, and other property improvements; site
10 acquisition; new construction and renovation; dedication and
11 rededication or naming and renaming of district buildings and
12 other district facilities; and development of facilities
13 management planning and priorities.

14 (5) SCHOOL COMMUNITY RELATIONS.--The district school
15 board may adopt policies governing public gifts and donations
16 to schools; input from the community concerning instruction
17 resources; advertising in schools; participation in community
18 affairs, including coordination with local governments and
19 planning authorities; protocols for interagency agreements;
20 business community partnerships; community use of school
21 facilities; public solicitations in schools, including the
22 distribution and posting of promotional materials and
23 literature; visitors to the school campus; school advisory
24 councils; and parent volunteers and chaperones.

25 (6) LEGAL ISSUES.--The district school board may adopt
26 policies and procedures necessary to implement federal
27 mandates and programs, court orders, and other legal
28 requirements of the state.

29 (7) FIRST AID AND EMERGENCIES.--The district school
30 board may adopt programs and policies to ensure appropriate
31 response in emergency situations; the provision of first aid

1 to individuals, the student body, and school personnel; and
2 the effective management of student illness, which programs
3 and policies may include, but are not limited to:
4 (a) The provision of first aid and emergency medical
5 care and the provision of school health care facilities and
6 services.
7 (b) The provision of school safety patrol.
8 (c) Procedures for reporting hazards, including
9 threats of nature, bomb threats, threatening messages, and
10 similar occurrences, and the provision of warning systems
11 including alarm systems and other technical devices.
12 (d) Procedures for evacuating the classrooms,
13 playground, or any other district facility.
14 (e) Procedures for reporting accidents, including
15 traffic accidents and traffic violations involving
16 district-owned vehicles.
17 (f) Student insurance programs.
18 (8) STUDENT ASSESSMENT AND AFFAIRS.--The district
19 school board may adopt policies and procedures governing
20 attendance monitoring and checks; truancy; graduation
21 requirements and graduation exercises; fees, fines, and
22 charges imposed on students; evaluation of student records and
23 transcripts; transfer of student records; grading and academic
24 evaluation of students; tests and examinations, including
25 early examinations; guidance and counseling; and student
26 participation in competitions, student performances and
27 exhibitions, contests for students, and social events.
28 (9) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.--The district
29 school board may adopt policies and procedures governing
30 purchase of property insurance, including comprehensive
31 general liability insurance; transportation of students for

1 extracurricular activities and special events, including
2 transportation of students in privately owned vehicles;
3 transportation of district personnel, including personal use
4 of district owned vehicles; computer security and computer
5 room access and computer database resources; mail and delivery
6 services, including use of couriers; copyright compliance;
7 computerized data systems, including computer use,
8 transmission of data, access to the Internet, and other
9 technology-based services.

10 (10) DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD GOVERNANCE AND
11 OPERATIONS.--The district school board may adopt policies and
12 procedures necessary for the daily business operation of the
13 district school board, including, but not limited to, the
14 provision of legal services for the district school board;
15 conducting a district legislative program; district school
16 board member participation at conferences, conventions, and
17 workshops, including member compensation and reimbursement for
18 expenses; district school board policy development, adoption,
19 and repeal; district school board meeting procedures,
20 including participation via telecommunications networks, use
21 of technology at meetings, and presentations by nondistrict
22 personnel; citizen communications with the district school
23 board and with individual district school board members;
24 collaboration with local government and other entities as
25 required by law; and organization of the district school
26 board, including special committees and advisory committees.

27 (11) PERSONNEL.--The district school board may adopt
28 policies and procedures necessary for the management of all
29 personnel of the school system.

30 (12) COOPERATION WITH COMMUNITY COLLEGES.--The
31 district school board shall work with the community colleges

1 in the district to ensure that the community college students
2 have access to remedial education.

3 Section 57. Section 1001.44, Florida Statutes, is
4 created to read:

5 1001.44 Technical centers.--

6 (1) DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD MAY ESTABLISH OR ACQUIRE
7 TECHNICAL CENTERS.--Any district school board, after first
8 obtaining the approval of the Department of Education, may, as
9 a part of the district school system, organize, establish and
10 operate a technical center, or acquire and operate a technical
11 school previously established.

12 (2) DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARDS OF CONTIGUOUS DISTRICTS MAY
13 ESTABLISH OR ACQUIRE TECHNICAL CENTERS.--The district school
14 boards of any two or more contiguous districts may, upon first
15 obtaining the approval of the department, enter into an
16 agreement to organize, establish and operate, or acquire and
17 operate, a technical center under this section.

18 (3) TECHNICAL CENTER PART OF DISTRICT SCHOOL SYSTEM
19 DIRECTED BY A DIRECTOR.--

20 (a) A technical center established or acquired under
21 provisions of law and minimum standards prescribed by the
22 commissioner shall comprise a part of the district school
23 system and shall mean an educational institution offering
24 terminal courses of a technical nature, and courses for
25 out-of-school youth and adults; shall be subject to all
26 applicable provisions of this code; shall be under the control
27 of the district school board of the school district in which
28 it is located; and shall be directed by a director responsible
29 through the district school superintendent to the district
30 school board of the school district in which the center is
31 located.

1 (b) Each technical center shall maintain an academic
2 transcript for each student enrolled in the center. Such
3 transcript shall delineate each course completed by the
4 student. Courses shall be delineated by the course prefix and
5 title assigned pursuant to s. 1007.24. The center shall make
6 a copy of a student's transcript available to any student who
7 requests it.

8 Section 58. Section 1001.451, Florida Statutes, is
9 created to read:

10 1001.451 Regional consortium service
11 organizations.--In order to provide a full range of programs
12 to larger numbers of students, minimize duplication of
13 services, and encourage the development of new programs and
14 services:

15 (1) School districts with 20,000 or fewer unweighted
16 full-time equivalent students may enter into cooperative
17 agreements to form a regional consortium service organization.
18 Each regional consortium service organization shall provide,
19 at a minimum, three of the following services: exceptional
20 student education; teacher education centers; environmental
21 education; federal grant procurement and coordination; data
22 processing; health insurance; risk management insurance; staff
23 development; purchasing; or planning and accountability.

24 (2)(a) Each regional consortium service organization
25 that consists of four or more school districts is eligible to
26 receive, through the Department of Education, an incentive
27 grant of \$25,000 per school district to be used for the
28 delivery of services within the participating school
29 districts.

30 (b) Application for incentive grants shall be made to
31 the Commissioner of Education by July 30 of each year for

1 distribution to qualifying regional consortium service
2 organizations by January 1 of the fiscal year.

3 Section 59. Section 1001.452, Florida Statutes, is
4 created to read:

5 1001.452 District and school advisory councils.--

6 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.--

7 (a) The district school board shall establish an
8 advisory council for each school in the district and shall
9 develop procedures for the election and appointment of
10 advisory council members. Each school advisory council shall
11 include in its name the words "school advisory council." The
12 school advisory council shall be the sole body responsible for
13 final decisionmaking at the school relating to implementation
14 of the provisions of ss. 1008.345, and 1001.42(16). A majority
15 of the members of each school advisory council must be persons
16 who are not employed by the school. Each advisory council
17 shall be composed of the principal and an appropriately
18 balanced number of teachers, education support employees,
19 students, parents, and other business and community citizens
20 who are representative of the ethnic, racial, and economic
21 community served by the school. Technical center and high
22 school advisory councils shall include students, and middle
23 and junior high school advisory councils may include students.
24 School advisory councils of technical and adult education
25 centers are not required to include parents as members.
26 Council members representing teachers, education support
27 employees, students, and parents shall be elected by their
28 respective peer groups at the school in a fair and equitable
29 manner as follows:

30 1. Teachers shall be elected by teachers.

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1 2. Education support employees shall be elected by
2 education support employees.

3 3. Students shall be elected by students.

4 4. Parents shall be elected by parents.

5
6 The district school board shall establish procedures for use
7 by schools in selecting business and community members that
8 include means of ensuring wide notice of vacancies and of
9 taking input on possible members from local business, chambers
10 of commerce, community and civic organizations and groups, and
11 the public at large. The district school board shall review
12 the membership composition of each advisory council. If the
13 district school board determines that the membership elected
14 by the school is not representative of the ethnic, racial, and
15 economic community served by the school, the district school
16 board shall appoint additional members to achieve proper
17 representation. The commissioner shall determine if schools
18 have maximized their efforts to include on their advisory
19 councils minority persons and persons of lower socioeconomic
20 status. Although schools are strongly encouraged to establish
21 school advisory councils, the district school board of any
22 school district that has a student population of 10,000 or
23 fewer may establish a district advisory council which shall
24 include at least one duly elected teacher from each school in
25 the district. For the purposes of school advisory councils
26 and district advisory councils, the term "teacher" shall
27 include classroom teachers, certified student services
28 personnel, and media specialists. For purposes of this
29 paragraph, "education support employee" means any person
30 employed by a school who is not defined as instructional or
31

1 administrative personnel pursuant to s. 1012.01 and whose
2 duties require 20 or more hours in each normal working week.

3 (b) The district school board may establish a district
4 advisory council representative of the district and composed
5 of teachers, students, parents, and other citizens or a
6 district advisory council that may be comprised of
7 representatives of each school advisory council. Recognized
8 schoolwide support groups that meet all criteria established
9 by law or rule may function as school advisory councils.

10 (c) For those schools operating for the purpose of
11 providing educational services to youth in Department of
12 Juvenile Justice programs, district school boards may
13 establish a district advisory council with appropriate
14 representatives for the purpose of developing and monitoring a
15 district school improvement plan that encompasses all such
16 schools in the district, pursuant to s. 1001.42(16)(a).

17 (2) DUTIES.--Each advisory council shall perform such
18 functions as are prescribed by regulations of the district
19 school board; however, no advisory council shall have any of
20 the powers and duties now reserved by law to the district
21 school board. Each school advisory council shall assist in the
22 preparation and evaluation of the school improvement plan
23 required pursuant to s. 1001.42(16). With technical assistance
24 from the Department of Education, each school advisory council
25 shall assist in the preparation of the school's annual budget
26 and plan as required by s. 1008.385(1). A portion of funds
27 provided in the annual General Appropriations Act for use by
28 school advisory councils must be used for implementing the
29 school improvement plan.

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1 Section 60. Part II.b. of chapter 1001, Florida
2 Statutes, shall be entitled "District School Superintendents"
3 and shall consist of ss. 1001.46-1001.53.

4 Section 61. Section 1001.46, Florida Statutes, is
5 created to read:

6 1001.46 District school superintendent; election and
7 term of office.--The district school superintendent shall be
8 elected for a term of 4 years or until the election or
9 appointment and qualification of his or her successor.

10 Section 62. Section 1001.461, Florida Statutes, is
11 created to read:

12 1001.461 District school superintendent; procedures
13 for making office appointive.--

14 (1) Pursuant to the provisions of s. 5, Art. IX of the
15 State Constitution, the district school superintendent shall
16 be appointed by the district school board in a school district
17 wherein the proposition is affirmed by a majority of the
18 qualified electors voting in the same election making the
19 office of district school superintendent appointive.

20 (2) To submit the proposition to the electors, the
21 district school board by formal resolution shall request an
22 election, that shall be at a general election or a statewide
23 primary or special election. The board of county
24 commissioners, upon such timely request from the district
25 school board, shall cause to be placed on the ballot at such
26 election the proposition to make the office of district school
27 superintendent appointive.

28 (3) Any district adopting the appointive method for
29 its district school superintendent may after 4 years return to
30 its former status and reject the provisions of this section by
31

1 following the same procedure outlined in subsection (2) for
2 adopting the provisions thereof.

3 Section 63. Section 1001.462, Florida Statutes, is
4 created to read:

5 1001.462 Oath of district school
6 superintendent.--Before entering upon the duties of his or her
7 office, the district school superintendent shall take the oath
8 of office prescribed by the State Constitution.

9 Section 64. Section 1001.463, Florida Statutes, is
10 created to read:

11 1001.463 Vacancy in office of district school
12 superintendent.--The office of district school superintendent
13 in any district shall be vacant when the district school
14 superintendent removes his or her residence from the district.

15 Section 65. Section 1001.464, Florida Statutes, is
16 created to read:

17 1001.464 District school superintendent to devote full
18 time to office.--The position of district school
19 superintendent shall be considered a full-time position.

20 Section 66. Section 1001.47, Florida Statutes, is
21 created to read:

22 1001.47 District school superintendent; salary.--
23 (1) Each district school superintendent shall receive
24 as salary the amount indicated pursuant to this section.
25 However, a district school board, by majority vote, may
26 approve a salary in excess of the amount specified in this
27 section.

28 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 145 to
29 the contrary, the annual salaries of elected district school
30 superintendents for 1993 and each year thereafter shall be
31 established at the same amounts as the district school

1 superintendents were paid for fiscal year 1991-1992, adjusted
2 by each annual increase provided for in chapter 145.

3 (3) This section does not apply to a district school
4 superintendent appointed pursuant to the terms of s. 1001.50.

5 (4)(a) There shall be an additional \$2,000 per year
6 special qualification salary for each district school
7 superintendent who has met the certification requirements
8 established by the Department of Education. Any district
9 school superintendent who is certified during a calendar year
10 shall receive in that year a pro rata share of the special
11 qualification salary based on the remaining period of the
12 year.

13 (b) In order to qualify for the special qualification
14 salary provided by paragraph (a), the district school
15 superintendent must complete the requirements established by
16 the Department of Education within 6 years after first taking
17 office.

18 (c) After a district school superintendent meets the
19 requirements of paragraph (a), in order to remain certified
20 the district school superintendent shall thereafter be
21 required to complete each year a course of continuing
22 education as prescribed by the Department of Education.

23 (5)(a) The Department of Education shall provide a
24 leadership development and performance compensation program
25 for district school superintendents, comparable to chief
26 executive officer development programs for corporate executive
27 officers, to include:

28 1. A content-knowledge-and-skills phase consisting of:
29 creative leadership models and theory, demonstration of
30 effective practice, simulation exercises and personal skills
31 practice, and assessment with feedback, taught in a

1 professional training setting under the direction of
2 experienced, successful trainers.

3 2. A competency-acquisition phase consisting of
4 on-the-job application of knowledge and skills for a period of
5 not less than 6 months following the successful completion of
6 the content-knowledge-and-skills phase. The
7 competency-acquisition phase shall be supported by adequate
8 professional technical assistance provided by experienced
9 trainers approved by the department. Competency acquisition
10 shall be demonstrated through assessment and feedback.

11 (b) Upon the successful completion of both phases and
12 demonstrated successful performance, as determined by the
13 department, a district school superintendent shall be issued a
14 Chief Executive Officer Leadership Development Certificate and
15 shall be given an annual performance salary incentive of not
16 less than \$3,000 or more than \$7,500 based upon his or her
17 performance evaluation.

18 (c) A district school superintendent's eligibility to
19 continue receiving the annual performance salary incentive is
20 contingent upon his or her continued performance assessment
21 and followup training prescribed by the department.

22 Section 67. Section 1001.48, Florida Statutes, is
23 created to read:

24 1001.48 Secretary and executive officer of the
25 district school board.--The district school superintendent
26 shall be the secretary and executive officer of the district
27 school board, provided that when the district school
28 superintendent is required to be absent on account of
29 performing services in the volunteer forces of the United
30 States or in the National Guard of the state or in the regular
31 Army or Navy of the United States, when said district school

1 superintendent shall be called into active training or service
2 of the United States under an Act of Congress or pursuant to a
3 proclamation by the President of the United States, the
4 district school superintendent shall then be entitled to a
5 leave of absence not to exceed the remaining portion of the
6 term for which he or she was elected.

7 Section 68. Section 1001.49, Florida Statutes, is
8 created to read:

9 1001.49 General powers of district school
10 superintendent.--The district school superintendent shall have
11 the authority, and when necessary for the more efficient and
12 adequate operation of the district school system, the district
13 school superintendent shall exercise the following powers:

14 (1) GENERAL OVERSIGHT.--Exercise general oversight
15 over the district school system in order to determine problems
16 and needs, and recommend improvements.

17 (2) ADVISE, COUNSEL, AND RECOMMEND TO DISTRICT SCHOOL
18 BOARD.--Advise and counsel with the district school board on
19 all educational matters and recommend to the district school
20 board for action such matters as should be acted upon.

21 (3) RECOMMEND POLICIES.--Recommend to the district
22 school board for adoption such policies pertaining to the
23 district school system as the district school superintendent
24 may consider necessary for its more efficient operation.

25 (4) RECOMMEND AND EXECUTE RULES.--Prepare and organize
26 by subjects and submit to the district school board for
27 adoption such rules to supplement those adopted by the State
28 Board of Education as, in the district school superintendent's
29 opinion, will contribute to the efficient operation of any
30 aspect of education in the district. When rules have been
31

1 adopted, the district school superintendent shall see that
2 they are executed.

3 (5) RECOMMEND AND EXECUTE MINIMUM STANDARDS.--From
4 time to time prepare, organize by subject, and submit to the
5 district school board for adoption such minimum standards
6 relating to the operation of any phase of the district school
7 system as are needed to supplement those adopted by the State
8 Board of Education and as will contribute to the efficient
9 operation of any aspect of education in the district and
10 ensure that minimum standards adopted by the district school
11 board and the state board are observed.

12 (6) PERFORM DUTIES AND EXERCISE
13 RESPONSIBILITIES.--Perform such duties and exercise such
14 responsibilities as are assigned to the district school
15 superintendent by law and by rules of the State Board of
16 Education.

17 Section 69. Section 1001.50, Florida Statutes, is
18 created to read:

19 1001.50 Superintendents employed under Art. IX of the
20 State Constitution.--

21 (1) In every district authorized to employ a district
22 school superintendent under Art. IX of the State Constitution,
23 the district school superintendent shall be the executive
24 officer of the district school board and shall not be subject
25 to the provisions of law, either general or special, relating
26 to tenure of employment or contracts of other school
27 personnel. The district school superintendent's duties
28 relating to the district school system shall be as provided by
29 law and rules of the State Board of Education.

30 (2) The district school board of each of such
31 districts shall enter into contracts of employment with the

1 district school superintendent and shall adopt rules relating
2 to his or her appointment.

3 (3) The district school board of each such district
4 shall pay to the district school superintendent a reasonable
5 annual salary. In determining the amount of compensation to be
6 paid, the board shall take into account such factors as:

7 (a) The population of the district.

8 (b) The rate and character of population growth.

9 (c) The size and composition of the student body to be
10 served.

11 (d) The geographic extent of the district.

12 (e) The number and character of the schools to be
13 supervised.

14 (f) The educational qualifications, professional
15 experience, and age of the candidate for the position of
16 district school superintendent.

17 Section 70. Section 1001.51, Florida Statutes, is
18 created to read:

19 1001.51 Duties and responsibilities of district school
20 superintendent.--The district school superintendent shall
21 exercise all powers and perform all duties listed below and
22 elsewhere in the law, provided that, in so doing, he or she
23 shall advise and counsel with the district school board. The
24 district school superintendent shall perform all tasks
25 necessary to make sound recommendations, nominations,
26 proposals, and reports required by law to be acted upon by the
27 district school board. All such recommendations, nominations,
28 proposals, and reports by the district school superintendent
29 shall be either recorded in the minutes or shall be made in
30 writing, noted in the minutes, and filed in the public records
31 of the district school board. It shall be presumed that, in

1 the absence of the record required in this section, the
2 recommendations, nominations, and proposals required of the
3 district school superintendent were not contrary to the action
4 taken by the district school board in such matters.

5 (1) ASSIST IN ORGANIZATION OF DISTRICT SCHOOL
6 BOARD.--Preside at the organization meeting of the district
7 school board and transmit to the Department of Education,
8 within 2 weeks following such meeting, a certified copy of the
9 proceedings of organization, including the schedule of regular
10 meetings, and the names and addresses of district school
11 officials.

12 (2) REGULAR AND SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE DISTRICT
13 SCHOOL BOARD.--Attend all regular meetings of the district
14 school board, call special meetings when emergencies arise,
15 and advise, but not vote, on questions under consideration.

16 (3) RECORDS FOR THE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD.--Keep
17 minutes of all official actions and proceedings of the
18 district school board and keep such other records, including
19 records of property held or disposed of by the district school
20 board, as may be necessary to provide complete information
21 regarding the district school system.

22 (4) SCHOOL PROPERTY.--Act for the district school
23 board as custodian of school property.

24 (5) SCHOOL PROGRAM; PREPARE PLANS.--Supervise the
25 assembling of data and sponsor studies and surveys essential
26 to the development of a planned school program for the entire
27 district and prepare and recommend such a program to the
28 district school board as the basis for operating the district
29 school system.

30 (6) ESTABLISHMENT, ORGANIZATION, AND OPERATION OF
31 SCHOOLS, CLASSES, AND SERVICES.--Recommend the establishment,

1 organization, and operation of such schools, classes, and
2 services as are needed to provide adequate educational
3 opportunities for all children in the district.

4 (7) PERSONNEL.--Be responsible, as required herein,
5 for directing the work of the personnel, subject to the
6 requirements of chapter 1012.

7 (8) COURSES OF STUDY AND OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL
8 AIDS.--Recommend such plans for improving, providing,
9 distributing, accounting for, and caring for textbooks and
10 other instructional aids as will result in general improvement
11 of the district school system, as prescribed in chapter 1006.

12 (9) TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS.--Provide for student
13 transportation as prescribed in s. 1006.21.

14 (10) SCHOOL PLANT.--Recommend plans, and execute such
15 plans as are approved, regarding all phases of the school
16 plant program, as prescribed in chapter 1013.

17 (11) FINANCE.--Recommend measures to the district
18 school board to assure adequate educational facilities
19 throughout the district, in accordance with the financial
20 procedure authorized in chapters 1010 and 1011 and as
21 prescribed below:

22 (a) Plan for operating all schools for minimum
23 term.--Determine and recommend district funds necessary in
24 addition to state funds to provide for at least a 180-day
25 school term or the equivalent on an hourly basis as specified
26 by rules adopted by the State Board of Education and recommend
27 plans for ensuring the operation of all schools for the term
28 authorized by the district school board.

29 (b) Annual budget.--Prepare the annual school budget
30 to be submitted to the district school board for adoption
31 according to law and submit this budget, when adopted by the

1 district school board, to the Department of Education on or
2 before the date required by rules of the State Board of
3 Education.
4 (c) Tax levies.--Recommend to the district school
5 board, on the basis of the needs shown by the budget, the
6 amount of district school tax levy necessary to provide the
7 district school funds needed for the maintenance of the public
8 schools; recommend to the district school board the tax levy
9 required on the basis of the needs shown in the budget for the
10 district bond interest and sinking fund of each district; and
11 recommend to the district school board to be included on the
12 ballot at each district millage election the school district
13 tax levies necessary to carry on the school program.
14 (d) School funds.--Keep an accurate account of all
15 funds that should be transmitted to the district school board
16 for school purposes at various periods during the year and
17 ensure, insofar as possible, that these funds are transmitted
18 promptly and report promptly to the district school board any
19 delinquencies or delays that occur in making available any
20 funds that should be made available for school purposes.
21 (e) Borrowing money.--Recommend when necessary the
22 borrowing of money as prescribed by law.
23 (f) Financial records and accounting.--Keep or have
24 kept accurate records of all financial transactions.
25 (g) Payrolls and accounts.--Maintain accurate and
26 current statements of accounts due to be paid by the district
27 school board; certify these statements as correct; liquidate
28 district school board obligations in accordance with the
29 official budget and rules of the district school board; and
30 prepare periodic reports as required by rules of the State
31 Board of Education, showing receipts, balances, and

1 disbursements to date, and file copies of such periodic
2 reports with the Department of Education.

3 (h) Bonds for employees.--Recommend the bonds of all
4 school employees who should be bonded in order to provide
5 reasonable safeguards for all school funds or property.

6 (i) Contracts.--After study of the feasibility of
7 contractual services with industry, recommend to the district
8 school board the desirable terms, conditions, and
9 specifications for contracts for supplies, materials, or
10 services to be rendered and see that materials, supplies, or
11 services are provided according to contract.

12 (j) Investment policies.--After careful examination,
13 recommend policies to the district school board that will
14 provide for the investment or deposit of school funds not
15 needed for immediate expenditures which shall earn the maximum
16 possible yield under the circumstances on such investments or
17 deposits. The district school superintendent shall cause to be
18 invested at all times all school moneys not immediately needed
19 for expenditures pursuant to the policies of the district
20 school board.

21 (k) Protection against loss.--Recommend programs and
22 procedures to the district school board necessary to protect
23 the school system adequately against loss or damage to school
24 property or against loss resulting from any liability for
25 which the district school board or its officers, agents, or
26 employees may be responsible under law.

27 (l) Millage elections.--Recommend plans and procedures
28 for holding and supervising all school district millage
29 elections.

30 (m) Budgets and expenditures.--Prepare, after
31 consulting with the principals of the various schools,

1 tentative annual budgets for the expenditure of district funds
2 for the benefit of public school students of the district.

3 (n) Bonds.--Recommend the amounts of bonds to be
4 issued in the district and assist in the preparation of the
5 necessary papers for an election to determine whether the
6 proposed bond issue will be approved by the electors and, if
7 such bond issue be approved by the electors, recommend plans
8 for the sale of bonds and for the proper expenditure of the
9 funds derived therefrom.

10 (12) RECORDS AND REPORTS.--Recommend such records as
11 should be kept in addition to those prescribed by rules of the
12 State Board of Education; prepare forms for keeping such
13 records as are approved by the district school board; ensure
14 that such records are properly kept; and make all reports that
15 are needed or required, as follows:

16 (a) Forms, blanks, and reports.--Require that all
17 employees accurately keep all records and promptly make in
18 proper form all reports required by the education code or by
19 rules of the State Board of Education; recommend the keeping
20 of such additional records and the making of such additional
21 reports as may be deemed necessary to provide data essential
22 for the operation of the school system; and prepare such forms
23 and blanks as may be required and ensure that these records
24 and reports are properly prepared.

25 (b) Reports to the department.--Prepare, for the
26 approval of the district school board, all reports that may be
27 required by law or rules of the State Board of Education to be
28 made to the department and transmit promptly all such reports,
29 when approved, to the department, as required by law. If any
30 such reports are not transmitted at the time and in the manner
31 prescribed by law or by State Board of Education rules, the

1 salary of the district school superintendent must be withheld
2 until the report has been properly submitted. Unless otherwise
3 provided by rules of the State Board of Education, the annual
4 report on attendance and personnel is due on or before July 1,
5 and the annual school budget and the report on finance are due
6 on the date prescribed by the commissioner.

7
8 Any district school superintendent who knowingly signs and
9 transmits to any state official a false or incorrect report
10 shall forfeit his or her right to any salary for the period of
11 1 year from that date.

12 (13) COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES.--

13 (a) Cooperation with governmental agencies in
14 enforcement of laws and rules.--Recommend plans for
15 cooperating with, and, on the basis of approved plans,
16 cooperate with federal, state, county, and municipal agencies
17 in the enforcement of laws and rules pertaining to all matters
18 relating to education and child welfare.

19 (b) Identifying and reporting names of migratory
20 children, other information.--Recommend plans for identifying
21 and reporting to the Department of Education the name of each
22 child in the school district who qualifies according to the
23 definition of a migratory child, based on Pub. L. No. 95-561,
24 and for reporting such other information as may be prescribed
25 by the department.

26 (14) ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS AND RULES.--Require that all
27 laws and rules of the State Board of Education, as well as
28 supplementary rules of the district school board, are properly
29 observed and report to the district school board any violation
30 that the district school superintendent does not succeed in
31 having corrected.

1 (15) COOPERATE WITH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD.--Cooperate
2 with the district school board in every manner practicable to
3 the end that the district school system may continuously be
4 improved.

5 (16) VISITATION OF SCHOOLS.--Visit the schools;
6 observe the management and instruction; give suggestions for
7 improvement; and advise supervisors, principals, teachers,
8 patrons, and other citizens with the view of promoting
9 interest in education and improving the school conditions of
10 the district.

11 (17) CONFERENCES, INSTITUTES, AND STUDY COURSES.--Call
12 and conduct institutes and conferences with employees of the
13 district school board, school patrons, and other interested
14 citizens; organize and direct study and extension courses for
15 employees, advising them as to their professional studies; and
16 assist patrons and people generally in acquiring knowledge of
17 the aims, services, and needs of the schools.

18 (18) PROFESSIONAL AND GENERAL IMPROVEMENT.--Attend
19 such conferences for district school superintendents as may be
20 called or scheduled by the Department of Education and avail
21 himself or herself of means of professional and general
22 improvement so that he or she may function most efficiently.

23 (19) RECOMMEND REVOKING CERTIFICATES.--Recommend in
24 writing to the Department of Education the revoking of any
25 certificate for good cause, including a full statement of the
26 reason for the district school superintendent's
27 recommendation.

28 (20) MAKE RECORDS AVAILABLE TO SUCCESSOR.--Leave with
29 the district school board and make available to his or her
30 successor, upon retiring from office, a complete inventory of
31 school equipment and other property, together with all

1 official records and such other records as may be needed in
2 supervising instruction and in administering the district
3 school system.

4 (21) RECOMMEND PROCEDURES FOR INFORMING GENERAL
5 PUBLIC.--Recommend to the district school board procedures
6 whereby the general public can be adequately informed of the
7 educational programs, needs, and objectives of public
8 education within the district.

9 (22) SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY.--Recommend
10 procedures for implementing and maintaining a system of school
11 improvement and education accountability as provided by
12 statute and State Board of Education rule.

13 (23) OTHER DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.--Perform such
14 other duties as are assigned to the district school
15 superintendent by law or by rules of the State Board of
16 Education.

17 Section 71. Section 1001.52, Florida Statutes, is
18 created to read:

19 1001.52 Reproduction and destruction of district
20 school records.--

21 (1) The purpose of this section is to reduce the
22 present space required by the district school systems for the
23 storage of their records and to permit the district school
24 superintendent to administer the affairs of the district
25 school system more efficiently.

26 (2) After complying with the provisions of s. 257.37,
27 the district school superintendent may photograph,
28 microphotograph, or reproduce documents, records, data, and
29 information of a permanent character which in his or her
30 discretion he or she may select, and the district school
31 superintendent may destroy any of the said documents after

1 they have been reproduced and after audit of the district
2 school superintendent's office has been completed for the
3 period embracing the dates of said instruments. Information
4 made in compliance with the provisions of this section shall
5 have the same force and effect as the originals thereof would
6 have, and shall be treated as originals for the purpose of
7 their admissibility into evidence. Duly certified or
8 authenticated reproductions shall be admitted into evidence
9 equally with the originals.

10 (3) After complying with the provisions of s. 257.37,
11 the district school superintendent may, in his or her
12 discretion, destroy general correspondence that is over 3
13 years old and other records, papers, and documents over 3
14 years old that do not serve as part of an agreement or
15 understanding and do not have value as permanent records.

16 Section 72. Section 1001.53, Florida Statutes, is
17 created to read:

18 1001.53 District school superintendent responsible for
19 enforcement of attendance.--The district school superintendent
20 shall be responsible for the enforcement of the attendance
21 provisions of chapters 1003 and 1006. In a district in which
22 no attendance assistant is employed, the district school
23 superintendent shall have those duties and responsibilities
24 and exercise those powers assigned by law to attendance
25 assistants.

26 Section 73. Part II.c. of chapter 1001, Florida
27 Statutes, shall be entitled "School Principals" and shall
28 consist of s. 1001.54.

29 Section 74. Section 1001.54, Florida Statutes, is
30 created to read:

31 1001.54 Duties of school principals.--

1 (1) A district school board shall employ, through
2 written contract, public school principals. The school
3 principal has authority over school district personnel in
4 accordance with s. 1012.28.

5 (2) Each school principal shall provide leadership in
6 the development or revision and implementation of a school
7 improvement plan, pursuant to s. 1001.42(16).

8 (3) Each school principal must make the necessary
9 provisions to ensure that all school reports are accurate and
10 timely, and must provide the necessary training opportunities
11 for staff to accurately report attendance, FTE program
12 participation, student performance, teacher appraisal, and
13 school safety and discipline data.

14 (4) Each school principal is responsible for the
15 management and care of instructional materials, in accordance
16 with the provisions of chapter 1006.

17 Section 75. Part III of chapter 1001, Florida
18 Statutes, shall be entitled "Community Colleges" and shall
19 consist of ss. 1001.61-1001.65.

20 Section 76. Section 1001.61, Florida Statutes, is
21 created to read:

22 1001.61 Community college boards of trustees;
23 membership.--

24 (1) Community college boards of trustees shall be
25 comprised of five members when a community college district is
26 confined to one school board district; seven members when a
27 community college district is confined to one school board
28 district and the board of trustees so elects; and not more
29 than nine members when the district contains two or more
30 school board districts, as provided by rules of the State
31

1 Board of Education. However, Florida Community College at
2 Jacksonville shall have an odd number of trustees.

3 (2) Trustees shall be appointed by the Governor and
4 confirmed by the Senate in regular session.

5 (3) Members of the board of trustees shall receive no
6 compensation but may receive reimbursement for expenses as
7 provided in s. 112.061.

8 (4) At its first regular meeting after July 1 of each
9 year, each community college board of trustees shall organize
10 by electing a chair, whose duty as such is to preside at all
11 meetings of the board, to call special meetings thereof, and
12 to attest to actions of the board, and a vice chair, whose
13 duty as such is to act as chair during the absence or
14 disability of the elected chair. It is the further duty of the
15 chair of each board of trustees to notify the Governor, in
16 writing, whenever a board member fails to attend three
17 consecutive regular board meetings in any one fiscal year,
18 which absences may be grounds for removal.

19 (5) A community college president shall serve as the
20 executive officer and corporate secretary of the board of
21 trustees and shall be responsible to the board of trustees for
22 setting the agenda for meetings of the board of trustees in
23 consultation with the chair. The president also serves as the
24 chief administrative officer of the community college, and all
25 the components of the institution and all aspects of its
26 operation are responsible to the board of trustees through the
27 president.

28 Section 77. Section 1001.62, Florida Statutes, is
29 created to read:

30 1001.62 Transfer of benefits arising under local or
31 special acts.--All local or special acts in force on July 1,

1 1968, that provide benefits for a community college through a
2 district school board shall continue in full force and effect,
3 and such benefits shall be transmitted to the community
4 college board of trustees.

5 Section 78. Section 1001.63, Florida Statutes, is
6 created to read:

7 1001.63 Community college board of trustees; board of
8 trustees to constitute a corporation.--Each community college
9 board of trustees is constituted a body corporate by the name
10 of "The District Board of Trustees of ...(name of community
11 college)..., Florida" with all the powers and duties of a body
12 corporate, including a corporate seal, the power to contract
13 and be contracted with, to sue or be sued, to plead and be
14 impleaded in all courts of law or equity, and to give and
15 receive donations. In all suits against a board of trustees,
16 service of process shall be made on the chair of the board of
17 trustees or, in the absence of the chair, the corporate
18 secretary or designee of the chair.

19 Section 79. Section 1001.64, Florida Statutes, is
20 created to read:

21 1001.64 Community college boards of trustees; powers
22 and duties.--

23 (1) The boards of trustees shall be responsible for
24 cost-effective policy decisions appropriate to the community
25 college's mission, the implementation and maintenance of
26 high-quality education programs within law and rules of the
27 State Board of Education, the measurement of performance, the
28 reporting of information, and the provision of input regarding
29 state policy, budgeting, and education standards.

30 (2) Each board of trustees is vested with the
31 responsibility to govern its respective community college and

1 with such necessary authority as is needed for the proper
2 operation and improvement thereof in accordance with rules of
3 the State Board of Education.

4 (3) A board of trustees shall have the power to take
5 action without a recommendation from the president and shall
6 have the power to require the president to deliver to the
7 board of trustees all data and information required by the
8 board of trustees in the performance of its duties.

9 (4)(a) The board of trustees, after considering
10 recommendations submitted by the community college president,
11 may adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to
12 implement the provisions of law conferring duties upon it.
13 These rules may supplement those prescribed by the State Board
14 of Education if they will contribute to the more orderly and
15 efficient operation of community colleges.

16 (b) Each board of trustees is specifically authorized
17 to adopt rules, procedures, and policies, consistent with law
18 and rules of the State Board of Education, related to its
19 mission and responsibilities as set forth in s. 1004.65, its
20 governance, personnel, budget and finance, administration,
21 programs, curriculum and instruction, buildings and grounds,
22 travel and purchasing, technology, students, contracts and
23 grants, or college property.

24 (5) Each board of trustees shall have responsibility
25 for the use, maintenance, protection, and control of community
26 college owned or community college controlled buildings and
27 grounds, property and equipment, name, trademarks and other
28 proprietary marks, and the financial and other resources of
29 the community college. Such authority may include placing
30 restrictions on activities and on access to facilities,
31 firearms, food, tobacco, alcoholic beverages, distribution of

1 printed materials, commercial solicitation, animals, and
2 sound.

3 (6) Each board of trustees has responsibility for the
4 establishment and discontinuance of program and course
5 offerings in accordance with law and rule; provision for
6 instructional and noninstructional community services,
7 location of classes, and services provided; and dissemination
8 of information concerning such programs and services. New
9 programs must be approved pursuant to s. 1004.03.

10 (7) Each board of trustees has responsibility for:
11 ensuring that students have access to general education
12 courses as identified in rule; requiring no more than 60
13 semester hours of degree program coursework, including 36
14 semester hours of general education coursework, for an
15 associate in arts degree; notifying students that earned hours
16 in excess of 60 semester hours may not be accepted by state
17 universities; notifying students of unique program
18 prerequisites; and ensuring that degree program coursework
19 beyond general education coursework is consistent with degree
20 program prerequisite requirements adopted pursuant to s.
21 1007.25(5).

22 (8) Each board of trustees has authority for policies
23 related to students, enrollment of students, student records,
24 student activities, financial assistance, and other student
25 services.

26 (a) Each board of trustees shall govern admission of
27 students pursuant to s. 1007.263 and rules of the State Board
28 of Education. A board of trustees may establish additional
29 admissions criteria, which shall be included in the district
30 interinstitutional articulation agreement developed according
31 to s. 1007.235, to ensure student readiness for postsecondary

1 instruction. Each board of trustees may consider the past
2 actions of any person applying for admission or enrollment and
3 may deny admission or enrollment to an applicant because of
4 misconduct if determined to be in the best interest of the
5 community college.

6 (b) Each board of trustees shall adopt rules
7 establishing student performance standards for the award of
8 degrees and certificates pursuant to s. 1004.68.

9 (c) Boards of trustees are authorized to establish
10 intrainstitutional and interinstitutional programs to maximize
11 articulation pursuant to s. 1007.22.

12 (d) Boards of trustees shall identify their core
13 curricula, which shall include courses required by the State
14 Board of Education, pursuant to the provisions of s.
15 1007.25(6).

16 (e) Each board of trustees must adopt a written
17 antihazng policy, provide a program for the enforcement of
18 such rules, and must adopt appropriate penalties for
19 violations of such rules pursuant to the provisions of s.
20 1006.63(1)-(3).

21 (f) Each board of trustees may establish a uniform
22 code of conduct and appropriate penalties for violation of its
23 rules by students and student organizations, including rules
24 governing student academic honesty. Such penalties, unless
25 otherwise provided by law, may include fines, the withholding
26 of diplomas or transcripts pending compliance with rules or
27 payment of fines, and the imposition of probation, suspension,
28 or dismissal.

29 (g) Each board of trustees pursuant to s. 1006.53
30 shall adopt a policy in accordance with rules of the State
31 Board of Education that reasonably accommodates the religious

1 observance, practice, and belief of individual students in
2 regard to admissions, class attendance, and the scheduling of
3 examinations and work assignments.

4 (9) A board of trustees may contract with the board of
5 trustees of a state university for the community college to
6 provide college-preparatory instruction on the state
7 university campus.

8 (10) Each board of trustees shall establish fees
9 pursuant to ss. 1009.22, 1009.23, 1009.25, 1009.26, and
10 1009.27.

11 (11) Each board of trustees shall submit an
12 institutional budget request, including a request for fixed
13 capital outlay, and an operating budget to the State Board of
14 Education for approval in accordance with guidelines
15 established by the State Board of Education.

16 (12) Each board of trustees shall account for
17 expenditures of all state, local, federal and other funds in
18 the manner described by the Department of Education.

19 (13) Each board of trustees is responsible for the
20 uses for the proceeds of academic improvement trust funds
21 pursuant to s. 1011.85.

22 (14) Each board of trustees shall develop a strategic
23 plan specifying institutional goals and objectives for the
24 community college for recommendation to the State Board of
25 Education.

26 (15) Each board of trustees shall develop an
27 accountability plan pursuant to s. 1008.45.

28 (16) Each board of trustees must expend performance
29 funds provided for workforce development education pursuant to
30 the provisions of s. 1011.80.

31

1 (17) Each board of trustees is accountable for
2 performance in certificate career education and diploma
3 programs pursuant to s. 1008.44.

4 (18) Each board of trustees shall establish the
5 personnel program for all employees of the community college,
6 including the president, pursuant to the provisions of chapter
7 1012 and rules and guidelines of the State Board of Education,
8 including: compensation and other conditions of employment;
9 recruitment and selection; nonreappointment; standards for
10 performance and conduct; evaluation; benefits and hours of
11 work; leave policies; recognition; inventions and work
12 products; travel; learning opportunities; exchange programs;
13 academic freedom and responsibility; promotion; assignment;
14 demotion; transfer; ethical obligations and conflict of
15 interest; restrictive covenants; disciplinary actions;
16 complaints; appeals and grievance procedures; and separation
17 and termination from employment.

18 (19) The board of trustees shall conduct annual
19 evaluations of the president in accordance with rules of the
20 State Board of Education and submit such evaluations to the
21 State Board of Education for review. The evaluation must
22 address the achievement of the performance goals established
23 by the accountability process implemented pursuant to s.
24 1008.45 and the performance of the president in achieving the
25 annual and long-term goals and objectives established in the
26 community college's employment accountability program
27 implemented pursuant to s. 1012.86.

28 (20) Each board of trustees is authorized to enter
29 into contracts to provide a State Community College System
30 Optional Retirement Program pursuant to s. 1012.875 and to
31

1 enter into consortia with other boards of trustees for this
2 purpose.

3 (21) Each board of trustees is authorized to purchase
4 annuities for its community college personnel who have 25 or
5 more years of creditable service and who have reached age 55
6 and have applied for retirement under the Florida Retirement
7 System pursuant to the provisions of s. 1012.87.

8 (22) A board of trustees may defray all costs of
9 defending civil actions against officers, employees, or agents
10 of the board of trustees pursuant to s. 1012.85.

11 (23) Each board of trustees has authority for risk
12 management, safety, security, and law enforcement operations.
13 Each board of trustees is authorized to employ personnel,
14 including police officers pursuant to s. 1012.88, to carry out
15 the duties imposed by this subsection.

16 (24) Each board of trustees shall provide rules
17 governing parking and the direction and flow of traffic within
18 campus boundaries. Except for sworn law enforcement personnel,
19 persons employed to enforce campus parking rules have no
20 authority to arrest or issue citations for moving traffic
21 violations. The board of trustees may adopt a uniform code of
22 appropriate penalties for violations. Such penalties, unless
23 otherwise provided by law, may include the levying of fines,
24 the withholding of diplomas or transcripts pending compliance
25 with rules or payment of fines, and the imposition of
26 probation, suspension, or dismissal. Moneys collected from
27 parking rule infractions shall be deposited in appropriate
28 funds at each community college for student financial aid
29 purposes.

30 (25) Each board of trustees constitutes the
31 contracting agent of the community college. It may when acting

1 as a body make contracts, sue, and be sued in the name of the
2 board of trustees. In any suit, a change in personnel of the
3 board of trustees shall not abate the suit, which shall
4 proceed as if such change had not taken place.

5 (26) Each board of trustees is authorized to contract
6 for the purchase, sale, lease, license, or acquisition in any
7 manner (including purchase by installment or lease-purchase
8 contract which may provide for the payment of interest on the
9 unpaid portion of the purchase price and for the granting of a
10 security interest in the items purchased) of goods, materials,
11 equipment, and services required by the community college. The
12 board of trustees may choose to consolidate equipment
13 contracts under master equipment financing agreements made
14 pursuant to s. 287.064.

15 (27) Each board of trustees shall be responsible for
16 managing and protecting real and personal property acquired or
17 held in trust for use by and for the benefit of such community
18 college. To that end, any board of trustees is authorized to
19 be self-insured, to enter into risk management programs, or to
20 purchase insurance for whatever coverage it may choose, or to
21 have any combination thereof, in anticipation of any loss,
22 damage, or destruction. A board of trustees may contract for
23 self-insurance services pursuant to s. 1001.64(27).

24 (28) Each board of trustees is authorized to enter
25 into agreements for, and accept, credit card, charge card, and
26 debit card payments as compensation for goods, services,
27 tuition, and fees. Each community college is further
28 authorized to establish accounts in credit card, charge card,
29 and debit card banks for the deposit of sales invoices.

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1 (29) Each board of trustees may provide incubator
2 facilities to eligible small business concerns pursuant to s.
3 1004.79.

4 (30) Each board of trustees may establish a technology
5 transfer center for the purpose of providing institutional
6 support to local business and industry and governmental
7 agencies in the application of new research in technology
8 pursuant to the provisions of s. 1004.78.

9 (31) Each board of trustees may establish economic
10 development centers for the purpose of serving as liaisons
11 between community colleges and the business sector pursuant to
12 the provisions of s. 1004.80.

13 (32) Each board of trustees may establish a child
14 development training center pursuant to s. 1004.81.

15 (33) Each board of trustees is authorized to develop
16 and produce work products relating to educational endeavors
17 that are subject to trademark, copyright, or patent statutes
18 pursuant to chapter 1004.

19 (34) Each board of trustees shall administer the
20 facilities program pursuant to chapter 1013, including but not
21 limited to: the construction of public educational and
22 ancillary plant; the acquisition and disposal of property;
23 compliance with building and life safety codes; submission of
24 data and information relating to facilities and construction;
25 use of buildings and grounds; establishment of safety and
26 sanitation programs for the protection of building occupants;
27 and site planning and selection.

28 (35) Each board of trustees may exercise the right of
29 eminent domain pursuant to the provisions of chapter 1013.

30 (36) Each board of trustees may enter into
31 lease-purchase arrangements with private individuals or

1 corporations for necessary grounds and buildings for community
2 college purposes, other than dormitories, or for buildings
3 other than dormitories to be erected for community college
4 purposes. Such arrangements shall be paid from capital outlay
5 and debt service funds as provided by s. 1011.84(2), with
6 terms not to exceed 30 years at a stipulated rate. The
7 provisions of such contracts, including building plans, are
8 subject to approval by the Department of Education, and no
9 such contract may be entered into without such approval.

10 (37) Each board of trustees may purchase, acquire,
11 receive, hold, own, manage, lease, sell, dispose of, and
12 convey title to real property, in the best interests of the
13 community college.

14 (38) Each board of trustees is authorized to borrow
15 funds and incur debt, including entering into lease-purchase
16 agreements and the issuance of revenue bonds as specifically
17 authorized and only for the purposes authorized in ss.
18 1009.22(6) and (9) and 1009.23(11) and (12). At the option of
19 the board of trustees, bonds may be issued which are secured
20 by a combination of revenues authorized to be pledged to bonds
21 pursuant to ss. 1009.22(6) and 1009.23(11) or ss. 1009.22(9)
22 and 1009.23(12). Lease-purchase agreements may be secured by a
23 combination of revenues as specifically authorized pursuant to
24 ss. 1009.22(7) and 1009.23(10).

25 (39) Each board of trustees shall prescribe conditions
26 for direct-support organizations to be certified and to use
27 community college property and services. Conditions relating
28 to certification must provide for audit review and oversight
29 by the board of trustees.

30 (40) Each board of trustees may adopt policies
31 pursuant to s. 1010.02 that provide procedures for

1 transferring to the direct-support organization of that
2 community college for administration by such organization
3 contributions made to the community college.

4 (41) The board of trustees shall exert every effort to
5 collect all delinquent accounts pursuant to s. 1010.03.

6 (42) Each board of trustees shall implement a plan, in
7 accordance with guidelines of the State Board of Education,
8 for working on a regular basis with the other community
9 college boards of trustees, representatives of the university
10 boards of trustees, and representatives of the district school
11 boards to achieve the goals of the seamless education system.

12 (43) Each board of trustees has responsibility for
13 compliance with state and federal laws, rules, regulations,
14 and requirements.

15 (44) Each board of trustees may adopt rules,
16 procedures, and policies related to institutional governance,
17 administration, and management in order to promote orderly and
18 efficient operation, including, but not limited to, financial
19 management, budget management, physical plant management, and
20 property management.

21 (45) Each board of trustees may adopt rules and
22 procedures related to data or technology, including, but not
23 limited to, information systems, communications systems,
24 computer hardware and software, and networks.

25 (46) Each board of trustees may consider the past
26 actions of any person applying for employment and may deny
27 employment to a person because of misconduct if determined to
28 be in the best interest of the community college.

29 Section 80. Section 1001.65, Florida Statutes, is
30 created to read:
31

1 1001.65 Community college presidents; powers and
2 duties.--The president is the chief executive officer of the
3 community college, shall be corporate secretary of the
4 community college board of trustees, and is responsible for
5 the operation and administration of the community college.

6 Each community college president shall:

7 (1) Recommend the adoption of rules, as appropriate,
8 to the community college board of trustees to implement
9 provisions of law governing the operation and administration
10 of the community college, which shall include the specific
11 powers and duties enumerated in this section. Such rules shall
12 be consistent with law, the mission of the community college
13 and the rules and policies of the State Board of Education.

14 (2) Prepare a budget request and an operating budget
15 pursuant to s. 1011.30 for approval by the community college
16 board of trustees at such time and in such format as the State
17 Board of Education may prescribe.

18 (3) Establish and implement policies and procedures to
19 recruit, appoint, transfer, promote, compensate, evaluate,
20 reward, demote, discipline, and remove personnel, within law
21 and rules of the State Board of Education and in accordance
22 with rules or policies approved by the community college board
23 of trustees.

24 (4) Govern admissions, subject to law and rules or
25 policies of the community college board of trustees and the
26 State Board of Education.

27 (5) Approve, execute, and administer contracts for and
28 on behalf of the community college board of trustees for
29 licenses; the acquisition or provision of commodities, goods,
30 equipment, and services; leases of real and personal property;
31 and planning and construction to be rendered to or by the

1 community college, provided such contracts are within law and
2 guidelines of the State Board of Education and in conformance
3 with policies of the community college board of trustees, and
4 are for the implementation of approved programs of the
5 community college.

6 (6) Act for the community college board of trustees as
7 custodian of all community college property and financial
8 resources. The authority vested in the community college
9 president under this subsection includes the authority to
10 prioritize the use of community college space, property,
11 equipment, and resources and the authority to impose charges
12 for the use of those items.

13 (7) Establish the internal academic calendar of the
14 community college within general guidelines of the State Board
15 of Education.

16 (8) Administer the community college's program of
17 intercollegiate athletics.

18 (9) Recommend to the board of trustees the
19 establishment and termination of programs within the approved
20 role and scope of the community college.

21 (10) Award degrees.

22 (11) Recommend to the board of trustees a schedule of
23 tuition and fees to be charged by the community college,
24 within law and rules of the State Board of Education.

25 (12) Organize the community college to efficiently and
26 effectively achieve the goals of the community college.

27 (13) Review periodically the operations of the
28 community college in order to determine how effectively and
29 efficiently the community college is being administered and
30 whether it is meeting the goals of its strategic plan adopted
31 by the State Board of Education.

1 (14) Enter into agreements for student exchange
2 programs that involve students at the community college and
3 students in other institutions of higher learning.

4 (15) Approve the internal procedures of student
5 government organizations and provide purchasing, contracting,
6 and budgetary review processes for these organizations.

7 (16) Ensure compliance with federal and state laws,
8 rules, regulations, and other requirements that are applicable
9 to the community college.

10 (17) Maintain all data and information pertaining to
11 the operation of the community college, and report on the
12 attainment by the community college of institutional and
13 statewide performance accountability goals.

14 (18) The college president shall certify to the
15 department a project's compliance with the requirements for
16 expenditure of PECO funds prior to release of funds pursuant
17 to the provisions of chapter 1013.

18 (19) Each community college president must provide to
19 the law enforcement agency and fire department that has
20 jurisdiction over the community college a copy of the floor
21 plans and other relevant documents for each educational
22 facility as defined in s. 1013.01(6). After the initial
23 submission of the floor plans and other relevant documents,
24 the community college president shall submit, by October 1 of
25 each year, revised floor plans and other relevant documents
26 for each educational facility that was modified during the
27 preceding year.

28 (20) Each community college president shall establish
29 a committee to consider requests for waivers from the
30 provisions of s. 1008.29 and approve or disapprove the
31 committee's recommendations.

1 (21) Community college presidents shall jointly
2 develop and implement with school superintendents a
3 comprehensive articulated acceleration program, including a
4 comprehensive interinstitutional articulation agreement, for
5 the students enrolled in their respective school districts and
6 service areas pursuant to the provisions of s. 1007.235.

7 (22) Each president of a community college shall have
8 authority, after notice to the student of the charges and
9 after a hearing thereon, to expel, suspend, or otherwise
10 discipline any student who is found to have violated any law,
11 ordinance, or rule or regulation of the State Board of
12 Education or of the board of trustees of the community college
13 pursuant to the provisions of s. 1006.62.

14 (23) Each community college president shall submit an
15 annual employment accountability plan to the Department of
16 Education pursuant to the provisions of s. 1012.86.

17 (24) The community college presidents, or the
18 presidents' designees, shall annually evaluate each department
19 chairperson, dean, provost, and vice president in achieving
20 the annual and long-term goals and objectives of the community
21 college's employment accountability plan.

22 (25) The authority vested with a community college
23 shall be vested with the president of the community college or
24 his or her designee.

25 Section 81. Part IV of chapter 1001, Florida Statutes,
26 shall be entitled "State Universities" and shall consist of
27 ss. 1001.71-1001.75.

28 Section 82. Section 1001.71, Florida Statutes, is
29 created to read:

30 1001.71 University boards of trustees; membership.--
31

1 (1) University boards of trustees shall be comprised
2 of 12 members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the
3 Senate in the regular legislative session immediately
4 following his or her appointment. In addition, the student
5 body president elected on the main campus of the university
6 shall serve ex officio as a voting member of his or her
7 university board of trustees. There shall be no state
8 residency requirement for university board members, but the
9 Governor shall consider diversity and regional representation.

10 (2) Members of the boards of trustees shall receive no
11 compensation but may be reimbursed for travel and per diem
12 expenses as provided in s. 112.061.

13 (3) The Governor may remove a trustee upon the
14 recommendation of the State Board of Education, or for cause.

15 (4) Boards of trustees' members shall be appointed for
16 staggered 4-year terms, and may be reappointed for additional
17 terms not to exceed 8 years of service.

18 (5) Each board of trustees shall select its chair and
19 vice chair from the appointed members at its first regular
20 meeting after July 1. The chair shall serve for 2 years and
21 may be reselected for one additional consecutive term. The
22 duties of the chair shall include presiding at all meetings of
23 the board of trustees, calling special meetings of the board
24 of trustees, attesting to actions of the board of trustees,
25 and notifying the Governor in writing whenever a board member
26 fails to attend three consecutive regular board meetings in
27 any fiscal year, which failure may be grounds for removal. The
28 duty of the vice chair is to act as chair during the absence
29 or disability of the chair.

30 (6) The university president shall serve as executive
31 officer and corporate secretary of the board of trustees and

1 shall be responsible to the board of trustees for all
2 operations of the university and for setting the agenda for
3 meetings of the board of trustees in consultation with the
4 chair.

5 Section 83. Section 1001.72, Florida Statutes, is
6 created to read:

7 1001.72 University boards of trustees; boards to
8 constitute a corporation.--

9 (1) Each board of trustees shall be a public body
10 corporate by the name of "The (name of university) Board of
11 Trustees," with all the powers of a body corporate, including
12 a corporate seal, the power to contract and be contracted
13 with, to sue and be sued, to plead and be impleaded in all
14 courts of law or equity, and to give and receive donations. In
15 all suits against a board of trustees, service of process
16 shall be made on the chair of the board of trustees or, in the
17 absence of the chair, on the corporate secretary or designee.

18 (2) It is the intent of the Legislature that the
19 university boards of trustees are not departments of the
20 executive branch of state government within the scope and
21 meaning of s. 6, Art. IV of the State Constitution.

22 (3) The corporation is constituted as a public
23 instrumentality, and the exercise by the corporation of the
24 power conferred by this section is considered to be the
25 performance of an essential public function. The corporation
26 shall constitute an agency for the purposes of s. 120.52. The
27 corporation is subject to chapter 119, subject to exceptions
28 applicable to the corporation, and to the provisions of
29 chapter 286; however, the corporation shall be entitled to
30 provide notice of internal review committee meetings for
31 competitive proposals or procurement to applicants by mail or

1 facsimile rather than by means of publication. The corporation
2 is not governed by chapter 607, but by the provisions of this
3 part.

4 (4) No bureau, department, division, agency, or
5 subdivision of the state shall exercise any responsibility and
6 authority to operate any state university except as
7 specifically provided by law or rules of the State Board of
8 Education. This section shall not prohibit any department,
9 bureau, division, agency, or subdivision of the state from
10 providing access to programs or systems or providing other
11 assistance to a state university pursuant to an agreement
12 between the board of trustees and such department, bureau,
13 division, agency, or subdivision of the state.

14 Section 84. Section 1001.73, Florida Statutes, is
15 created to read:

16 1001.73 University board empowered to act as
17 trustee.--

18 (1) Whenever appointed by any competent court of the
19 state, or by any statute, or in any will, deed, or other
20 instrument, or in any manner whatever as trustee of any funds
21 or real or personal property in which any of the institutions
22 or agencies under its management, control, or supervision, or
23 their departments or branches or students, faculty members,
24 officers, or employees, may be interested as beneficiaries, or
25 otherwise, or for any educational purpose, a university board
26 of trustees is hereby authorized to act as trustee with full
27 legal capacity as trustee to administer such trust property,
28 and the title thereto shall vest in said board as trustee. In
29 all such cases, the university board of trustees shall have
30 the power and capacity to do and perform all things as fully
31 as any individual trustee or other competent trustee might do

1 or perform, and with the same rights, privileges, and duties,
2 including the power, capacity, and authority to convey,
3 transfer, mortgage, or pledge such property held in trust and
4 to contract and execute all other documents relating to said
5 trust property which may be required for, or appropriate to,
6 the administration of such trust or to accomplish the purposes
7 of any such trust.

8 (2) Deeds, mortgages, leases, and other contracts of
9 the university board of trustees relating to real property of
10 any such trust or any interest therein may be executed by the
11 university board of trustees, as trustee, in the same manner
12 as is provided by the laws of the state for the execution of
13 similar documents by other corporations or may be executed by
14 the signatures of a majority of the members of the board of
15 trustees; however, to be effective, any such deed, mortgage,
16 or lease contract for more than 10 years of any trust
17 property, executed hereafter by the university board of
18 trustees, shall be approved by a resolution of the State Board
19 of Education; and such approving resolution may be evidenced
20 by the signature of either the chair or the secretary of the
21 State Board of Education to an endorsement on the instrument
22 approved, reciting the date of such approval, and bearing the
23 seal of the State Board of Education. Such signed and sealed
24 endorsement shall be a part of the instrument and entitled to
25 record without further proof.

26 (3) Any and all such appointments of, and acts by, the
27 Board of Regents as trustee of any estate, fund, or property
28 prior to May 18, 1949, are hereby validated, and said board's
29 capacity and authority to act as trustee subject to the
30 provisions of s. 1000.01(5)(a) in all of such cases is
31 ratified and confirmed; and all deeds, conveyances, lease

1 contracts, and other contracts heretofore executed by the
2 Board of Regents, either by the signatures of a majority of
3 the members of the board or in the board's name by its chair
4 or chief executive officer, are hereby approved, ratified,
5 confirmed, and validated.

6 (4) Nothing herein shall be construed to authorize a
7 university board of trustees to contract a debt on behalf of,
8 or in any way to obligate, the state; and the satisfaction of
9 any debt or obligation incurred by the university board as
10 trustee under the provisions of this section shall be
11 exclusively from the trust property, mortgaged or encumbered;
12 and nothing herein shall in any manner affect or relate to the
13 provisions of ss. 1010.61-1010.619, or s. 1013.78.

14 Section 85. Section 1001.74, Florida Statutes, is
15 created to read:

16 1001.74 Powers and duties of university boards of
17 trustees.--

18 (1) The boards of trustees shall be responsible for
19 cost-effective policy decisions appropriate to the
20 university's mission, the implementation and maintenance of
21 high-quality education programs within law and rules of the
22 State Board of Education, the measurement of performance, the
23 reporting of information, and the provision of input regarding
24 state policy, budgeting, and education standards.

25 (2) Each board of trustees is vested with the
26 authority to govern its university, as necessary to provide
27 proper governance and improvement of the university in
28 accordance with law and with rules of the State Board of
29 Education. Each board of trustees shall perform all duties
30 assigned by law or by rule of the State Board of Education or
31 the Commissioner of Education.

1 (3) A board of trustees shall have the power to take
2 action without a recommendation from the president and shall
3 have the power to require the president to deliver to the
4 board of trustees all data and information required by the
5 board of trustees in the performance of its duties.

6 (4) Each board of trustees may adopt rules pursuant to
7 ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the provisions of law
8 conferring duties upon it. Such rules must be consistent with
9 rules of the State Board of Education.

10 (5) Each board of trustees shall have the authority to
11 acquire real and personal property and contract for the sale
12 and disposal of same and approve and execute contracts for the
13 purchase, sale, lease, license, or acquisition of commodities,
14 goods, equipment, contractual services, leases of real and
15 personal property, and construction. The acquisition may
16 include purchase by installment or lease-purchase. Such
17 contracts may provide for payment of interest on the unpaid
18 portion of the purchase price. Title to all real property
19 acquired prior to January 7, 2003, and to all real property
20 acquired with funds appropriated by the Legislature shall be
21 vested in the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement
22 Trust Fund and shall be transferred and conveyed by it.
23 Notwithstanding any other provisions of this subsection, each
24 board of trustees shall comply with the provisions of s.
25 287.055 for the procurement of professional services as
26 defined therein.

27 (6) Each board of trustees shall have responsibility
28 for the use, maintenance, protection, and control of
29 university-owned or university-controlled buildings and
30 grounds, property and equipment, name, trademarks and other
31 proprietary marks, and the financial and other resources of

1 the university. Such authority may include placing
2 restrictions on activities and on access to facilities,
3 firearms, food, tobacco, alcoholic beverages, distribution of
4 printed materials, commercial solicitation, animals, and
5 sound. The authority vested in the board of trustees in this
6 subsection includes the prioritization of the use of space,
7 property, equipment, and resources and the imposition of
8 charges for those items.

9 (7) Each board of trustees has responsibility for the
10 establishment and discontinuance of degree programs up to and
11 including the master's degree level; the establishment and
12 discontinuance of course offerings; provision of credit and
13 noncredit educational offerings; location of classes; services
14 provided; and dissemination of information concerning such
15 programs and services. Approval of new programs must be
16 pursuant to criteria established by the State Board of
17 Education.

18 (8) Each board of trustees is authorized to create
19 divisions of sponsored research pursuant to the provisions of
20 s. 1011.411 to serve the function of administration and
21 promotion of the programs of research.

22 (9) Each board of trustees has responsibility for:
23 ensuring that students have access to general education
24 courses as identified in rule and requiring no more than 120
25 semester hours of coursework for baccalaureate degree programs
26 unless approved by the State Board of Education. At least half
27 of the required coursework for any baccalaureate degree must
28 be offered at the lower-division level, except in program
29 areas approved by the State Board of Education.

30 (10) Each board of trustees has responsibility for
31 policies related to students, enrollment of students, student

1 activities and organizations, financial assistance, and other
2 student services.

3 (a) Each board of trustees shall govern admission of
4 students pursuant to s. 1007.261 and rules of the State Board
5 of Education. Each board of trustees may consider the past
6 actions of any person applying for admission or enrollment and
7 may deny admission or enrollment to an applicant because of
8 misconduct if determined to be in the best interest of the
9 university.

10 (b) Each board of trustees shall establish student
11 performance standards for the award of degrees and
12 certificates.

13 (c) Each board of trustees must identify its core
14 curricula and work with school districts to ensure that its
15 curricula coordinate with the core curricula and prepare
16 students for college-level work.

17 (d) Each board of trustees must adopt a written
18 antihazing policy, appropriate penalties for violations of
19 such policy, and a program for enforcing such policy.

20 (e) Each board of trustees may establish a uniform
21 code of conduct and appropriate penalties for violations of
22 its rules by students and student organizations, including
23 rules governing student academic honesty. Such penalties,
24 unless otherwise provided by law, may include fines, the
25 withholding of diplomas or transcripts pending compliance with
26 rules or payment of fines, and the imposition of probation,
27 suspension, or dismissal.

28 (f) Each board of trustees shall establish a
29 committee, at least one-half of the members of which shall be
30 students appointed by the student body president, to
31 periodically review and evaluate the student judicial system.

- 1 (g) Each board of trustees must adopt a policy
2 pursuant to s. 1006.53 that reasonably accommodates the
3 religious observance, practice, and belief of individual
4 students in regard to admissions, class attendance, and the
5 scheduling of examinations and work assignments.
- 6 (h) A board of trustees may establish
7 intrainstitutional and interinstitutional programs to maximize
8 articulation pursuant to s. 1007.22.
- 9 (i) Each board of trustees shall approve the internal
10 procedures of student government organizations.
- 11 (11) Each board of trustees shall establish fees
12 pursuant to ss. 1009.24 and 1009.26.
- 13 (12) Each board of trustees shall submit an
14 institutional budget request, including a request for fixed
15 capital outlay, and an operating budget to the State Board of
16 Education for approval in accordance with guidelines
17 established by the State Board of Education.
- 18 (13) Each board of trustees shall account for
19 expenditures of all state, local, federal, and other funds in
20 the manner described by the Department of Education.
- 21 (14) Each board of trustees shall develop a strategic
22 plan specifying institutional goals and objectives for the
23 university for recommendation to the State Board of Education.
- 24 (15) Each board of trustees shall develop an
25 accountability plan pursuant to guidelines established by the
26 State Board of Education.
- 27 (16) Each board of trustees shall maintain an
28 effective information system to provide accurate, timely, and
29 cost-effective information about the university.
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- 1 (17) Each board of trustees is authorized to secure
2 comprehensive general liability insurance pursuant to s.
3 1004.24.
- 4 (18) Each board of trustees may provide for payment of
5 the costs of civil actions against officers, employees, or
6 agents of the board pursuant to s. 1012.965.
- 7 (19) Each board of trustees shall establish the
8 personnel program for all employees of the university,
9 including the president, pursuant to the provisions of chapter
10 1012 and, in accordance with rules and guidelines of the State
11 Board of Education, including: compensation and other
12 conditions of employment, recruitment and selection,
13 nonreappointment, standards for performance and conduct,
14 evaluation, benefits and hours of work, leave policies,
15 recognition and awards, inventions and works, travel, learning
16 opportunities, exchange programs, academic freedom and
17 responsibility, promotion, assignment, demotion, transfer,
18 tenure and permanent status, ethical obligations and conflicts
19 of interest, restrictive covenants, disciplinary actions,
20 complaints, appeals and grievance procedures, and separation
21 and termination from employment.
- 22 (20) Each board of trustees may consider the past
23 actions of any person applying for employment and may deny
24 employment to a person because of misconduct if determined to
25 be in the best interest of the university.
- 26 (21) Each board of trustees shall appoint a
27 presidential search committee to make recommendations to the
28 full board of trustees, from which the board of trustees may
29 select a candidate for ratification by the State Board of
30 Education.
- 31

- 1 (22) Each board of trustees shall conduct an annual
2 evaluation of the president in accordance with rules of the
3 State Board of Education and submit such evaluations to the
4 State Board of Education for review. The evaluation must
5 address the achievement of the performance goals established
6 by the accountability process implemented pursuant to s.
7 1008.46 and the performance of the president in achieving the
8 annual and long-term goals and objectives established in the
9 institution's employment equity accountability program
10 implemented pursuant to s. 1012.95.
- 11 (23) Each board of trustees constitutes the
12 contracting agent of the university.
- 13 (24) Each board of trustees may enter into agreements
14 for, and accept, credit card payments as compensation for
15 goods, services, tuition, and fees.
- 16 (25) Each board of trustees may establish educational
17 research centers for child development pursuant to s. 1011.48.
- 18 (26) Each board of trustees may develop and produce
19 work products relating to educational endeavors that are
20 subject to trademark, copyright, or patent statutes pursuant
21 to s. 1004.23.
- 22 (27) Each board of trustees shall submit to the State
23 Board of Education, for approval, all new campuses and
24 instructional centers.
- 25 (28) Each board of trustees shall administer a program
26 for the maintenance and construction of facilities pursuant to
27 chapter 1013.
- 28 (29) Each board of trustees shall ensure compliance
29 with the provisions of s. 287.09451 for all procurement and
30 ss. 255.101 and 255.102 for construction contracts, and rules
31 adopted pursuant thereto, relating to the utilization of

1 minority business enterprises, except that procurements
2 costing less than the amount provided for in CATEGORY FIVE as
3 provided in s. 287.017 shall not be subject to s. 287.09451.

4 (30) Each board of trustees may exercise the right of
5 eminent domain pursuant to the provisions of chapter 1013. Any
6 suits or actions brought by the board of trustees shall be
7 brought in the name of the board of trustees, and the
8 Department of Legal Affairs shall conduct the proceedings for,
9 and act as the counsel of, the board of trustees.

10 (31) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 253.025,
11 each board of trustees may, with the consent of the Board of
12 Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund, sell, convey,
13 transfer, exchange, trade, or purchase real property and
14 related improvements necessary and desirable to serve the
15 needs and purposes of the university.

16 (a) The board of trustees may secure appraisals and
17 surveys. The board of trustees shall comply with the rules of
18 the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund
19 in securing appraisals. Whenever the board of trustees finds
20 it necessary for timely property acquisition, it may contract,
21 without the need for competitive selection, with one or more
22 appraisers whose names are contained on the list of approved
23 appraisers maintained by the Division of State Lands in the
24 Department of Environmental Protection.

25 (b) The board of trustees may negotiate and enter into
26 an option contract before an appraisal is obtained. The option
27 contract must state that the final purchase price may not
28 exceed the maximum value allowed by law. The consideration for
29 such an option contract may not exceed 10 percent of the
30 estimate obtained by the board of trustees or 10 percent of
31

1 the value of the parcel, whichever is greater, unless
2 otherwise authorized by the board of trustees.

3 (c) This subsection is not intended to abrogate in any
4 manner the authority delegated to the Board of Trustees of the
5 Internal Improvement Trust Fund or the Division of State Lands
6 to approve a contract for purchase of state lands or to
7 require policies and procedures to obtain clear legal title to
8 parcels purchased for state purposes. Title to property
9 acquired by a university board of trustees prior to January 7,
10 2003, and to property acquired with funds appropriated by the
11 Legislature shall vest in the Board of Trustees of the
12 Internal Improvement Trust Fund.

13 (32) Each board of trustees shall prepare and adopt a
14 campus master plan pursuant to s. 1013.30.

15 (33) Each board of trustees shall prepare, adopt, and
16 execute a campus development agreement pursuant to s. 1013.30.

17 (34) Each board of trustees has responsibility for
18 compliance with state and federal laws, rules, regulations,
19 and requirements.

20 (35) Each board of trustees may govern traffic on the
21 grounds of that campus pursuant to s. 1006.66.

22 (36) A board of trustees has responsibility for
23 supervising faculty practice plans for the academic health
24 science centers.

25 (37) Each board of trustees shall prescribe conditions
26 for direct-support organizations and university health
27 services support organizations to be certified and to use
28 university property and services. Conditions relating to
29 certification must provide for audit review and oversight by
30 the board of trustees.

31

1 (38) Each board of trustees shall actively implement a
2 plan, in accordance with guidelines of the State Board of
3 Education, for working on a regular basis with the other
4 university boards of trustees, representatives of the
5 community college boards of trustees, and representatives of
6 the district school boards, to achieve the goals of the
7 seamless education system.

8 (39) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 216.351, a
9 board of trustees may authorize the rent or lease of parking
10 facilities, provided that such facilities are funded through
11 parking fees or parking fines imposed by a university. A board
12 of trustees may authorize a university to charge fees for
13 parking at such rented or leased parking facilities.

14 (40) Each board of trustees may adopt rules and
15 procedures related to data and technology, including
16 information systems, communications systems, computer hardware
17 and software, and networks.

18 (41) A board of trustees shall perform such other
19 duties as are provided by law or rule of the State Board of
20 Education.

21 Section 86. Section 1001.75, Florida Statutes, is
22 created to read:

23 1001.75 University presidents; powers and duties.--The
24 president is the chief executive officer of the state
25 university, shall be corporate secretary of the university
26 board of trustees, and is responsible for the operation and
27 administration of the university. Each state university
28 president shall:

29 (1) Recommend the adoption of rules, as appropriate,
30 to the university board of trustees to implement provisions of
31 law governing the operation and administration of the

1 university, which shall include the specific powers and duties
2 enumerated in this section. Such rules shall be consistent
3 with the mission of the university and the rules and policies
4 of the State Board of Education.

5 (2) Prepare a budget request and an operating budget
6 for approval by the university board of trustees.

7 (3) Establish and implement policies and procedures to
8 recruit, appoint, transfer, promote, compensate, evaluate,
9 reward, demote, discipline, and remove personnel, within law
10 and rules of the State Board of Education and in accordance
11 with rules or policies approved by the university board of
12 trustees.

13 (4) Govern admissions, subject to law and rules or
14 policies of the university board of trustees and the State
15 Board of Education.

16 (5) Approve, execute, and administer contracts for and
17 on behalf of the university board of trustees for licenses;
18 the acquisition or provision of commodities, goods, equipment,
19 and services; leases of real and personal property; and
20 planning and construction to be rendered to or by the
21 university, provided such contracts are within law and rules
22 of the State Board of Education and in conformance with
23 policies of the university board of trustees, and are for the
24 implementation of approved programs of the university.

25 University presidents shall comply with the provisions of s.
26 287.055 for the procurement of professional services and may
27 approve and execute all contracts on behalf of the board of
28 trustees for planning, construction, and equipment. For the
29 purposes of a university president's contracting authority, a
30 "continuing contract" for professional services under the
31 provisions of s. 287.055 is one in which construction costs do

- 1 not exceed \$1 million or the fee for study activity does not
2 exceed \$100,000.
- 3 (6) Act for the university board of trustees as
4 custodian of all university property.
- 5 (7) Establish the internal academic calendar of the
6 university within general guidelines of the State Board of
7 Education.
- 8 (8) Administer the university's program of
9 intercollegiate athletics.
- 10 (9) Recommend to the board of trustees the
11 establishment and termination of undergraduate and
12 master's-level degree programs within the approved role and
13 scope of the university.
- 14 (10) Award degrees.
- 15 (11) Recommend to the board of trustees a schedule of
16 tuition and fees to be charged by the university, within law
17 and rules of the State Board of Education.
- 18 (12) Organize the university to efficiently and
19 effectively achieve the goals of the university.
- 20 (13) Review periodically the operations of the
21 university in order to determine how effectively and
22 efficiently the university is being administered and whether
23 it is meeting the goals of its strategic plan adopted by the
24 State Board of Education.
- 25 (14) Enter into agreements for student exchange
26 programs that involve students at the university and students
27 in other institutions of higher learning.
- 28 (15) Provide purchasing, contracting, and budgetary
29 review processes for student government organizations.
30
31

1 (16) Ensure compliance with federal and state laws,
2 rules, regulations, and other requirements that are applicable
3 to the university.

4 (17) Maintain all data and information pertaining to
5 the operation of the university, and report on the attainment
6 by the university of institutional and statewide performance
7 accountability goals.

8 (18) Adjust property records and dispose of
9 state-owned tangible personal property in the university's
10 custody in accordance with procedures established by the
11 university board of trustees. Notwithstanding the provisions
12 of s. 273.055(5), all moneys received from the disposition of
13 state-owned tangible personal property shall be retained by
14 the university and disbursed for the acquisition of tangible
15 personal property and for all necessary operating
16 expenditures. The university shall maintain records of the
17 accounts into which such moneys are deposited.

18 (19) The powers, duties, and authority vested with a
19 university shall be vested with the president of the
20 university or his or her designee.

21 Section 87. Chapter 1002, Florida Statutes, shall be
22 entitled "Student and Parental Rights and Educational Choices"
23 and shall consist of ss. 1002.01-1002.44.

24 Section 88. Part I of chapter 1002, Florida Statutes,
25 shall be entitled "General Provisions" and shall consist of s.
26 1002.01.

27 Section 89. Section 1002.01, Florida Statutes, is
28 created to read:

29 1002.01 Definitions.--

30 (1) A "home education program" means the sequentially
31 progressive instruction of a student directed by his or her

1 parent in order to satisfy the attendance requirements of ss.
2 1002.41, 1003.01(4), and 1003.21(1).

3 (2) A "private school" is a nonpublic school defined
4 as an individual, association, copartnership, or corporation,
5 or department, division, or section of such organizations,
6 that designates itself as an educational center that includes
7 kindergarten or a higher grade or as an elementary, secondary,
8 business, technical, or trade school below college level or
9 any organization that provides instructional services that
10 meet the intent of s. 1003.01(14) or that gives preemployment
11 or supplementary training in technology or in fields of trade
12 or industry or that offers academic, literary, or career and
13 technical training below college level, or any combination of
14 the above, including an institution that performs the
15 functions of the above schools through correspondence or
16 extension, except those licensed under the provisions of
17 chapter 1005. A private school may be a parochial, religious,
18 denominational, for-profit, or nonprofit school. This
19 definition does not include home education programs conducted
20 in accordance with s. 1002.41.

21 Section 90. Part II of chapter 1002, Florida Statutes,
22 shall be entitled "Student and Parental Rights" and shall
23 consist of ss. 1002.20-1002.22.

24 Section 91. Section 1002.20, Florida Statutes, is
25 created to read:

26 1002.20 K-12 student and parent rights.--K-12 students
27 and their parents are afforded numerous statutory rights
28 including, but not limited to, the following:

29 (1) SYSTEM OF EDUCATION.--In accordance with s. 1,
30 Art. IX of the State Constitution, all K-12 public school
31 students are entitled to a uniform, safe, secure, efficient,

1 and high quality system of education, one that allows students
2 the opportunity to obtain a high quality education. Parents
3 are responsible to ready their children for school; however,
4 the State of Florida cannot be the guarantor of each
5 individual student's success.

6 (2) ATTENDANCE.--

7 (a) Compulsory school attendance.--The compulsory
8 school attendance laws apply to all children between the ages
9 of 6 and 16 years, as provided in s. 1003.21(1) and (2)(a),
10 and, in accordance with the provisions of s. 1003.21(1) and
11 (2)(a):

12 1. A student who attains the age of 16 years during
13 the school year has the right to file a formal declaration of
14 intent to terminate school enrollment if the declaration is
15 signed by the parent. The parent has the right to be notified
16 by the school district of the district's receipt of the
17 student's declaration of intent to terminate school
18 enrollment.

19 2. Students who become or have become married or who
20 are pregnant and parenting have the right to attend school and
21 receive the same or equivalent educational instruction as
22 other students.

23 (b) Regular school attendance.--Parents of students
24 who have attained the age of 6 years by February 1 of any
25 school year but who have not attained the age of 16 years must
26 comply with the compulsory school attendance laws. Parents
27 have the option to comply with the school attendance laws by
28 attendance of the student in a public school; a parochial,
29 religious, or denominational school; a private school; a home
30 education program; or a private tutoring program, in
31 accordance with the provisions of s. 1003.01(14).

1 (c) Absence for religious purposes.--A parent of a
2 public school student may request and be granted permission
3 for absence of the student from school for religious
4 instruction or religious holidays, in accordance with the
5 provisions of s. 1003.21(2)(b).

6 (d) Dropout prevention and academic intervention
7 programs.--The parent of a public school student has the right
8 to receive written notice by certified mail prior to placement
9 of the student in a dropout prevention and academic
10 intervention program and shall be notified in writing and
11 entitled to an administrative review of any action by school
12 personnel relating to the student's placement, in accordance
13 with the provisions of s. 1003.53(5).

14 (3) HEALTH ISSUES.--

15 (a) School-entry health examinations.--The parent of
16 any child attending a public or private school shall be exempt
17 from the requirement of a health examination upon written
18 request stating objections on religious grounds in accordance
19 with the provisions of s. 1003.22(1) and (2).

20 (b) Immunizations.--The parent of any child attending
21 a public or private school shall be exempt from the school
22 immunization requirements upon meeting any of the exemptions
23 in accordance with the provisions of s. 1003.22(5).

24 (c) Biological experiments.--Parents may request that
25 their child be excused from performing surgery or dissection
26 in biological science classes in accordance with the
27 provisions of s. 1003.47.

28 (d) Reproductive health and disease education.--A
29 public school student whose parent makes written request to
30 the school principal shall be exempted from the teaching of
31

1 reproductive health or any disease, including HIV/AIDS, in
2 accordance with the provisions of s. 1003.42(3).

3 (e) Contraceptive services to public school
4 students.--In accordance with the provisions of s.
5 1006.062(7), students may not be referred to or offered
6 contraceptive services at school facilities without the
7 parent's consent.

8 (f) Career and technical education courses involving
9 hazardous substances.--High school students must be given
10 plano safety glasses or devices in career and technical
11 education courses involving the use of hazardous substances
12 likely to cause eye injury, in accordance with the provisions
13 of s. 1006.65.

14 (g) Substance abuse reports.--The parent of a public
15 school student must be timely notified of any verified report
16 of a substance abuse violation by the student, in accordance
17 with the provisions of s. 1006.09(8).

18 (h) Inhaler use.--Asthmatic students whose parent and
19 physician provide their approval to the school principal may
20 carry a metered dose inhaler on their person while in school.
21 The school principal shall be provided a copy of the parent's
22 and physician's approval.

23 (4) DISCIPLINE.--

24 (a) Suspension of public school student.--In
25 accordance with the provisions of s. 1006.09(1)-(4):

26 1. A student may be suspended only as provided by rule
27 of the district school board. A good faith effort must be made
28 to immediately inform the parent by telephone of the student's
29 suspension and the reason. Each suspension and the reason
30 must be reported in writing within 24 hours to the parent by
31 U.S. mail. A good faith effort must be made to use parental

1 assistance before suspension unless the situation requires
2 immediate suspension.

3 2. A student with a disability may only be recommended
4 for suspension or expulsion in accordance with State Board of
5 Education rules.

6 (b) Expulsion.--Public school students and their
7 parents have the right to written notice of a recommendation
8 of expulsion, including the charges against the student and a
9 statement of the right of the student to due process, in
10 accordance with the provisions of s. 1001.51(8).

11 (c) Corporal punishment.--In accordance with the
12 provisions of s. 1003.32, corporal punishment of a public
13 school student may only be administered by a teacher or school
14 principal within guidelines of the school principal and
15 according to district school board policy. Another adult must
16 be present and must be informed in the student's presence of
17 the reason for the punishment. Upon request, the teacher or
18 school principal must provide the parent with a written
19 explanation of the reason for the punishment and the name of
20 the other adult who was present.

21 (5) SAFETY.--In accordance with the provisions of s.
22 1006.13(5), students who have been victims of certain felony
23 offenses by other students, as well as the siblings of the
24 student victims, have the right to be kept separated from the
25 student offender both at school and during school
26 transportation.

27 (6) EDUCATIONAL CHOICE.--

28 (a) Public school choices.--Parents of public school
29 students may seek whatever public school choice options that
30 are applicable to their students and are available to students
31 in their school districts. These options may include

1 controlled open enrollment, lab schools, charter schools,
2 charter technical career centers, magnet schools, alternative
3 schools, special programs, advanced placement, dual
4 enrollment, International Baccalaureate, early admissions,
5 credit by examination or demonstration of competency, the New
6 World School of the Arts, the Florida School for the Deaf and
7 Blind, and the Florida Virtual High School. These options may
8 also include the public school choice options of the
9 Opportunity Scholarship Program and the McKay Scholarships for
10 Students with Disabilities Program.

11 (b) Private school choices.--Parents of public school
12 students may seek private school choice options under certain
13 programs.

14 1. Under the Opportunity Scholarship Program, the
15 parent of a student in a failing public school may request and
16 receive an opportunity scholarship for the student to attend a
17 private school in accordance with the provisions of s.
18 1002.38.

19 2. Under the McKay Scholarships for Students with
20 Disabilities Program, the parent of a public school student
21 with a disability who is dissatisfied with the student's
22 progress may request and receive a McKay Scholarship for the
23 student to attend a private school in accordance with the
24 provisions of s. 1002.39.

25 3. Under the corporate income tax credit scholarship
26 program, the parent of a student who qualifies for free or
27 reduced-price school lunch may seek a scholarship from an
28 eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization in
29 accordance with the provisions of s. 220.187.

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1 (c) Home education.--The parent of a student may
2 choose to place the student in a home education program in
3 accordance with the provisions of s. 1002.41.

4 (d) Private tutoring.--The parent of a student may
5 choose to place the student in a private tutoring program in
6 accordance with the provisions of s. 1002.43(1).

7 (7) NONDISCRIMINATION.--All education programs,
8 activities, and opportunities offered by public educational
9 institutions must be made available without discrimination on
10 the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, gender,
11 disability, or marital status, in accordance with the
12 provisions of s. 1000.05.

13 (8) STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.--Parents of public
14 school students with disabilities and parents of public school
15 students in residential care facilities are entitled to notice
16 and due process in accordance with the provisions of ss.
17 1003.57 and 1003.58. Public school students with disabilities
18 must be provided the opportunity to meet the graduation
19 requirements for a standard high school diploma in accordance
20 with the provisions of s. 1003.43(4). Certain public school
21 students with disabilities may be awarded a special diploma
22 upon high school graduation.

23 (9) BLIND STUDENTS.--Blind students have the right to
24 an individualized written education program and appropriate
25 instructional materials to attain literacy, in accordance with
26 provisions of s. 1003.55.

27 (10) LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT STUDENTS.--In
28 accordance with the provisions of s. 1003.56, limited English
29 proficient students have the right to receive ESOL (English
30 for Speakers of Other Languages) instruction designed to
31 develop the student's mastery of listening, speaking, reading,

1 and writing in English as rapidly as possible, and the
2 students' parents have the right of parental involvement in
3 the ESOL program.

4 (11) BASIC RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS.--In accordance with the
5 joint statement of current case law by the American Jewish
6 Congress, the ACLU, the Anti-Defamation League, and others:

7 (a) Right to pray.--Students have the right to pray
8 individually or in groups or to discuss their religious views
9 with their peers so long as they are not disruptive.

10 (b) Right to express.--Students may express their
11 religious beliefs in the form of reports, homework, and
12 artwork, and such expressions are constitutionally protected.
13 Teachers may not reject or correct such submissions simply
14 because they include a religious symbol or address religious
15 themes.

16 (c) Right to distribute.--Students have the right to
17 distribute religious literature to their schoolmates, subject
18 to those reasonable time, place, and manner or other
19 constitutionally acceptable restrictions imposed on the
20 distribution of all nonschool literature.

21 (d) Right to participate.--Student participation in
22 before-school or after-school events, such as "See you at the
23 pole," is permissible.

24 (e) Right to speak.--Students have the right to speak
25 to, and attempt to persuade, their peers about religious
26 topics just as they do with regard to political topics.

27 (f) Right to meet.--Student religious clubs in
28 secondary schools must be permitted to meet and to have equal
29 access to campus media to announce their meetings if a school
30 receives federal funds and permits any student noncurricular
31 club to meet during noninstructional time.

1 (12) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.--A public school student
2 must be excused from reciting the pledge of allegiance upon
3 written request by the student's parent, in accordance with
4 the provisions of s. 1003.44.

5 (13) STUDENT RECORDS.--

6 (a) Parent rights.--Parents have rights regarding the
7 student records of their children, including right of access,
8 right of waiver of access, right to challenge and hearing, and
9 right of privacy, in accordance with the provisions of s.
10 1002.22.

11 (b) Student rights.--In accordance with the provisions
12 of s. 1008.386, a student is not required to provide his or
13 her social security number as a condition for enrollment or
14 graduation.

15 (14) STUDENT REPORT CARDS.--Students and their parents
16 have the right to receive student report cards on a regular
17 basis that clearly depict and grade the student's academic
18 performance in each class or course, the student's conduct,
19 and the student's attendance, in accordance with the
20 provisions of s. 1003.33.

21 (15) STUDENT PROGRESS REPORTS.--Parents of public
22 school students shall be apprised at regular intervals of the
23 academic progress and other needed information regarding their
24 child, in accordance with the provisions of s. 1003.02(1)(h)2.

25 (16) SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT
26 RATING REPORTS.--Parents of public school students are
27 entitled to an easy-to-read report card about the grade
28 designation, school accountability including the school
29 financial report, and school improvement rating of their
30 child's school in accordance with the provisions of ss.
31 1008.22, 1003.02(3), and 1010.215(5).

1 (17) ATHLETICS; PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL.--

2 (a) Eligibility.--Eligibility requirements for all
3 students participating in high school athletic competition
4 must allow a student to be eligible in the school in which he
5 or she first enrolls each school year, or makes himself or
6 herself a candidate for an athletic team by engaging in
7 practice before enrolling, in accordance with the provisions
8 of s. 1006.20(2)(a).

9 (b) Medical evaluation.--Students must satisfactorily
10 pass a medical evaluation each year before participating in
11 athletics, unless the parent objects in writing based on
12 religious tenets or practices, in accordance with the
13 provisions of s. 1006.20(2)(d).

14 (18) EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.--In accordance with
15 the provisions of s. 1006.15:

16 (a) Eligibility.--Students who meet specified academic
17 and conduct requirements are eligible to participate in
18 extracurricular activities.

19 (b) Home education students.--Home education students
20 who meet specified academic and conduct requirements are
21 eligible to participate in extracurricular activities at the
22 public school to which the student would be assigned or could
23 choose to attend according to district school board policies,
24 or may develop an agreement to participate at a private
25 school.

26 (c) Charter school students.--Charter school students
27 who meet specified academic and conduct requirements are
28 eligible to participate in extracurricular activities at the
29 public school to which the student would be assigned or could
30 choose to attend according to district school board policies,
31

1 unless such activity is provided by the student's charter
2 school.

3 (d) Discrimination prohibited.--Organizations that
4 regulate or govern extracurricular activities of public
5 schools shall not discriminate against any eligible student
6 based on an educational choice of public, private, or home
7 education.

8 (19) INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS.--

9 (a) Core courses.--Each public school student is
10 entitled to sufficient instructional materials in the core
11 courses of mathematics, language arts, social studies,
12 science, reading, and literature, in accordance with the
13 provisions of ss. 1003.02(1)(d) and 1006.40(2).

14 (b) Curricular objectives.--The parent of each public
15 school student has the right to receive effective
16 communication from the school principal as to the manner in
17 which instructional materials are used to implement the
18 school's curricular objectives, in accordance with the
19 provisions of s. 1006.28(3)(a).

20 (c) Sale of instructional materials.--Upon request of
21 the parent of a public school student, the school principal
22 must sell to the parent any instructional materials used in
23 the school, in accordance with the provisions of s.
24 1006.28(3)(c).

25 (d) Dual enrollment students.--Instructional materials
26 purchased by a district school board or community college
27 board of trustees on behalf of public school dual enrollment
28 students shall be made available to the dual enrollment
29 students free of charge, in accordance with the provisions of
30 s. 1007.271(14) and (15).

31

1 (20) JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAMS.--Students who are in
2 juvenile justice programs have the right to receive
3 educational programs and services in accordance with the
4 provisions of s. 1003.52.

5 (21) PARENTAL INPUT AND MEETINGS.--

6 (a) Meetings with school district personnel.--Parents
7 of public school students may be accompanied by another adult
8 of their choice at any meeting with school district personnel.

9 (b) School district best financial management practice
10 reviews.--Public school students and their parents may provide
11 input regarding their concerns about the operations and
12 management of the school district both during and after the
13 conduct of a school district best financial management
14 practices review, in accordance with the provisions of s.
15 1008.35.

16 (c) District school board educational facilities
17 programs.--Parents of public school students and other members
18 of the public have the right to receive proper public notice
19 and opportunity for public comment regarding the district
20 school board's educational facilities work program, in
21 accordance with the provisions of s. 1013.35.

22 (22) TRANSPORTATION.--

23 (a) Transportation to school.--Public school students
24 shall be provided transportation to school, in accordance with
25 the provisions of s. 1006.21(3)(a).

26 (b) Hazardous walking conditions.--K-6 public school
27 students shall be provided transportation if they are
28 subjected to hazardous walking conditions, in accordance with
29 the provisions of ss. 1006.21(3)(b) and 1006.23.

30 (c) Parental consent.--Each parent of a public school
31 student must be notified in writing and give written consent

1 before the student may be transported in a privately owned
2 motor vehicle to a school function, in accordance with the
3 provisions of s. 1006.22(2)(b).

4 Section 92. Section 1002.21, Florida Statutes, is
5 created to read:

6 1002.21 Postsecondary student and parent rights.--

7 (1) STUDENT RECORDS.--Parents have rights regarding
8 the student records of their children, and students 18 years
9 of age and older have rights regarding their student records,
10 including right of access, right of waiver of access, right to
11 challenge and hearing, and right of privacy, in accordance
12 with the provisions of ss. 1002.22, 1005.36, and 1006.52.

13 (2) LEARNING DISABLED STUDENTS.--Impaired and learning
14 disabled students may be eligible for reasonable substitution
15 for admission, graduation, and upper-level division
16 requirements of public postsecondary educational institutions,
17 in accordance with the provisions of s. 1007.264.

18 (3) EXPULSION, SUSPENSION, DISCIPLINE.--Public
19 postsecondary education students may be expelled, suspended,
20 or otherwise disciplined by the president of a public
21 postsecondary educational institution after notice to the
22 student of the charges and a hearing on the charges, in
23 accordance with the provisions of s. 1006.62.

24 (4) RELIGIOUS BELIEFS.--Public postsecondary
25 educational institutions must provide reasonable
26 accommodations for the religious practices and beliefs of
27 individual students in regard to admissions, class attendance,
28 and the scheduling of examinations and work assignments, in
29 accordance with the provisions of s. 1006.53, and must provide
30 and describe in the student handbook a grievance procedure for
31 students to seek redress when they feel they have been

1 unreasonably denied an educational benefit due to their
2 religious beliefs or practices.

3 (5) STUDENT HANDBOOKS.--Each state university and
4 community college shall provide its students with an
5 up-to-date student handbook that includes student rights and
6 responsibilities, appeals processes available to students,
7 contact persons available to help students, student conduct
8 code, and information regarding HIV and AIDS, in accordance
9 with the provisions of s. 1006.50.

10 (6) STUDENT OMBUDSMAN OFFICE.--Each state university
11 and community college shall maintain a student ombudsman
12 office and established procedures for students to appeal to
13 the office regarding decisions about the student's access to
14 courses and credit granted toward the student's degree, in
15 accordance with the provisions of s. 1006.51.

16 Section 93. Section 1002.22, Florida Statutes, is
17 created to read:

18 1002.22 Student records and reports; rights of parents
19 and students; notification; penalty.--

20 (1) PURPOSE.--The purpose of this section is to
21 protect the rights of students and their parents with respect
22 to student records and reports as created, maintained, and
23 used by public educational institutions in the state. The
24 intent of the Legislature is that students and their parents
25 shall have rights of access, rights of challenge, and rights
26 of privacy with respect to such records and reports, and that
27 rules shall be available for the exercise of these rights.

28 (2) DEFINITIONS.--As used in this section:

29 (a) "Chief executive officer" means that person,
30 whether elected or appointed, who is responsible for the
31 management and administration of any public educational body

1 or unit, or the chief executive officer's designee for student
2 records; that is, the district school superintendent, the
3 director of an area technical center, the president of a
4 public postsecondary educational institution, or their
5 designees.

6 (b) "Directory information" includes the student's
7 name, address, telephone number if it is a listed number, date
8 and place of birth, major field of study, participation in
9 officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height
10 of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and
11 awards received, and the most recent previous educational
12 agency or institution attended by the student.

13 (c) "Records" and "reports" mean official records,
14 files, and data directly related to students that are created,
15 maintained, and used by public educational institutions,
16 including all material that is incorporated into each
17 student's cumulative record folder and intended for school use
18 or to be available to parties outside the school or school
19 system for legitimate educational or research purposes.
20 Materials that shall be considered as part of a student's
21 record include, but are not necessarily limited to:
22 identifying data, including a student's social security
23 number; academic work completed; level of achievement records,
24 including grades and standardized achievement test scores;
25 attendance data; scores on standardized intelligence,
26 aptitude, and psychological tests; interest inventory results;
27 health data; family background information; teacher or
28 counselor ratings and observations; verified reports of
29 serious or recurrent behavior patterns; and any other
30 evidence, knowledge, or information recorded in any medium,
31 including, but not limited to, handwriting, typewriting,

1 print, magnetic tapes, film, microfilm, and microfiche, and
2 maintained and used by an educational agency or institution or
3 by a person acting for such agency or institution. However,
4 the terms "records" and "reports" do not include:

5 1. Records of instructional, supervisory, and
6 administrative personnel, and educational personnel ancillary
7 to those persons, that are kept in the sole possession of the
8 maker of the record and are not accessible or revealed to any
9 other person except a substitute for any of such persons. An
10 example of records of this type is instructor's grade books.

11 2. Records of law enforcement units of the institution
12 that are maintained solely for law enforcement purposes and
13 that are not available to persons other than officials of the
14 institution or law enforcement officials of the same
15 jurisdiction in the exercise of that jurisdiction.

16 3. Records made and maintained by the institution in
17 the normal course of business that relate exclusively to a
18 student in his or her capacity as an employee and that are not
19 available for use for any other purpose.

20 4. Records created or maintained by a physician,
21 psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized professional
22 or paraprofessional acting in his or her professional or
23 paraprofessional capacity, or assisting in that capacity, that
24 are created, maintained, or used only in connection with the
25 provision of treatment to the student and that are not
26 available to anyone other than persons providing such
27 treatment. However, such records shall be open to a physician
28 or other appropriate professional of the student's choice.

29 5. Directory information as defined in this section.

30 6. Other information, files, or data that do not
31 permit the personal identification of a student.

1 7. Letters or statements of recommendation or
2 evaluation that were confidential under Florida law and that
3 were received and made a part of the student's educational
4 records prior to July 1, 1977.

5 8. Copies of the student's fingerprints. No public
6 educational institution shall maintain any report or record
7 relative to a student that includes a copy of the student's
8 fingerprints.

9 (d) "Student" means any child or adult who is enrolled
10 or who has been enrolled in any instructional program or
11 activity conducted under the authority and direction of an
12 institution comprising a part of the state system of public
13 education and with respect to whom an educational institution
14 maintains educational records and reports or personally
15 identifiable information, but does not include a person who
16 has not been in attendance as an enrollee at such institution.

17 (3) RIGHTS OF PARENT OR STUDENT.--The parent of any
18 student who attends or has attended any public school, area
19 technical center, or public postsecondary educational
20 institution shall have the following rights with respect to
21 any records or reports created, maintained, and used by any
22 public educational institution in the state. However,
23 whenever a student has attained 18 years of age, or is
24 attending a postsecondary educational institution, the
25 permission or consent required of, and the rights accorded to,
26 the parents of the student shall thereafter be required of and
27 accorded to the student only, unless the student is a
28 dependent student of such parents as defined in 26 U.S.C. s.
29 152 (s. 152 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954). The State
30 Board of Education shall adopt rules whereby parents or
31 students may exercise these rights:

1 (a) Right of access.--
2 1. Such parent or student shall have the right, upon
3 request directed to the appropriate school official, to be
4 provided with a list of the types of records and reports,
5 directly related to students, as maintained by the institution
6 that the student attends or has attended.
7 2. Such parent or student shall have the right, upon
8 request, to be shown any record or report relating to such
9 student maintained by any public educational institution.
10 When the record or report includes information on more than
11 one student, the parent or student shall be entitled to
12 receive, or be informed of, only that part of the record or
13 report that pertains to the student who is the subject of the
14 request. Upon a reasonable request therefor, the institution
15 shall furnish such parent or student with an explanation or
16 interpretation of any such record or report.
17 3. Copies of any list, record, or report requested
18 under the provisions of this paragraph shall be furnished to
19 the parent or student upon request.
20 4. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to
21 be followed by all public educational institutions in granting
22 requests for lists, or for access to reports and records or
23 for copies or explanations thereof under this paragraph.
24 However, access to any report or record requested under the
25 provisions of subparagraph 2. shall be granted within 30 days
26 after receipt of such request by the institution. Fees may be
27 charged for furnishing any copies of reports or records
28 requested under subparagraph 3., but such fees shall not
29 exceed the actual cost to the institution of producing such
30 copies.
31

1 (b) Right of waiver of access to confidential letters
2 or statements.--A parent or student shall have the right to
3 waive the right of access to letters or statements of
4 recommendation or evaluation, except that such waiver shall
5 apply to recommendations or evaluations only if:

6 1. The parent or student is, upon request, notified of
7 the names of all persons submitting confidential letters or
8 statements.

9 2. Such recommendations or evaluations are used solely
10 for the purpose for which they were specifically intended.

11
12 Such waivers may not be required as a condition for admission
13 to, receipt of financial aid from, or receipt of any other
14 services or benefits from, any public agency or public
15 educational institution in this state.

16 (c) Right to challenge and hearing.--A parent or
17 student shall have the right to challenge the content of any
18 record or report to which such person is granted access under
19 paragraph (a), in order to ensure that the record or report is
20 not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the
21 privacy or other rights of the student and to provide an
22 opportunity for the correction, deletion, or expunction of any
23 inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise inappropriate data or
24 material contained therein. Any challenge arising under the
25 provisions of this paragraph may be settled through informal
26 meetings or discussions between the parent or student and
27 appropriate officials of the educational institution. If the
28 parties at such a meeting agree to make corrections, to make
29 deletions, to expunge material, or to add a statement of
30 explanation or rebuttal to the file, such agreement shall be
31 reduced to writing and signed by the parties; and the

1 appropriate school officials shall take the necessary actions
2 to implement the agreement. If the parties cannot reach an
3 agreement, upon the request of either party, a hearing shall
4 be held on such challenge under rules adopted by the State
5 Board of Education. Upon the request of the parent or student,
6 the hearing shall be exempt from the requirements of s.
7 286.011. Such rules shall include at least the following
8 provisions:
9 1. The hearing shall be conducted within a reasonable
10 period of time following the request for the hearing.
11 2. The hearing shall be conducted, and the decision
12 rendered, by an official of the educational institution or
13 other party who does not have a direct interest in the outcome
14 of the hearing.
15 3. The parent or student shall be afforded a full and
16 fair opportunity to present evidence relevant to the issues
17 raised under this paragraph.
18 4. The decision shall be rendered in writing within a
19 reasonable period of time after the conclusion of the hearing.
20 5. The appropriate school officials shall take the
21 necessary actions to implement the decision.
22 (d) Right of privacy.--Every student shall have a
23 right of privacy with respect to the educational records kept
24 on him or her. Personally identifiable records or reports of a
25 student, and any personal information contained therein, are
26 confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1).
27 No state or local educational agency, board, public school,
28 technical center, or public postsecondary educational
29 institution shall permit the release of such records, reports,
30 or information without the written consent of the student's
31 parent, or of the student himself or herself if he or she is

1 qualified as provided in this subsection, to any individual,
2 agency, or organization. However, personally identifiable
3 records or reports of a student may be released to the
4 following persons or organizations without the consent of the
5 student or the student's parent:

6 1. Officials of schools, school systems, technical
7 centers, or public postsecondary educational institutions in
8 which the student seeks or intends to enroll; and a copy of
9 such records or reports shall be furnished to the parent or
10 student upon request.

11 2. Other school officials, including teachers within
12 the educational institution or agency, who have legitimate
13 educational interests in the information contained in the
14 records.

15 3. The United States Secretary of Education, the
16 Director of the National Institute of Education, the Assistant
17 Secretary for Education, the Comptroller General of the United
18 States, or state or local educational authorities who are
19 authorized to receive such information subject to the
20 conditions set forth in applicable federal statutes and
21 regulations of the United States Department of Education, or
22 in applicable state statutes and rules of the State Board of
23 Education.

24 4. Other school officials, in connection with a
25 student's application for or receipt of financial aid.

26 5. Individuals or organizations conducting studies for
27 or on behalf of an institution or a board of education for the
28 purpose of developing, validating, or administering predictive
29 tests, administering student aid programs, or improving
30 instruction, if such studies are conducted in such a manner as
31 will not permit the personal identification of students and

1 their parents by persons other than representatives of such
2 organizations and if such information will be destroyed when
3 no longer needed for the purpose of conducting such studies.

4 6. Accrediting organizations, in order to carry out
5 their accrediting functions.

6 7. School readiness coalitions and the Florida
7 Partnership for School Readiness in order to carry out their
8 assigned duties.

9 8. For use as evidence in student expulsion hearings
10 conducted by a district school board pursuant to the
11 provisions of chapter 120.

12 9. Appropriate parties in connection with an
13 emergency, if knowledge of the information in the student's
14 educational records is necessary to protect the health or
15 safety of the student or other individuals.

16 10. The Auditor General and the Office of Program
17 Policy Analysis and Government Accountability in connection
18 with their official functions; however, except when the
19 collection of personally identifiable information is
20 specifically authorized by law, any data collected by the
21 Auditor General and the Office of Program Policy Analysis and
22 Government Accountability is confidential and exempt from the
23 provisions of s. 119.07(1) and shall be protected in such a
24 way as will not permit the personal identification of students
25 and their parents by other than the Auditor General, the
26 Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government
27 Accountability, and their staff, and such personally
28 identifiable data shall be destroyed when no longer needed for
29 the Auditor General's and the Office of Program Policy
30 Analysis and Government Accountability's official use.

31

1 11.a. A court of competent jurisdiction in compliance
2 with an order of that court or the attorney of record pursuant
3 to a lawfully issued subpoena, upon the condition that the
4 student and the student's parent are notified of the order or
5 subpoena in advance of compliance therewith by the educational
6 institution or agency.

7 b. A person or entity pursuant to a court of competent
8 jurisdiction in compliance with an order of that court or the
9 attorney of record pursuant to a lawfully issued subpoena,
10 upon the condition that the student, or his or her parent if
11 the student is either a minor and not attending a
12 postsecondary educational institution or a dependent of such
13 parent as defined in 26 U.S.C. s. 152 (s. 152 of the Internal
14 Revenue Code of 1954), is notified of the order or subpoena in
15 advance of compliance therewith by the educational institution
16 or agency.

17 12. Credit bureaus, in connection with an agreement
18 for financial aid that the student has executed, provided that
19 such information may be disclosed only to the extent necessary
20 to enforce the terms or conditions of the financial aid
21 agreement. Credit bureaus shall not release any information
22 obtained pursuant to this paragraph to any person.

23 13. Parties to an interagency agreement among the
24 Department of Juvenile Justice, school and law enforcement
25 authorities, and other signatory agencies for the purpose of
26 reducing juvenile crime and especially motor vehicle theft by
27 promoting cooperation and collaboration, and the sharing of
28 appropriate information in a joint effort to improve school
29 safety, to reduce truancy and in-school and out-of-school
30 suspensions, and to support alternatives to in-school and
31 out-of-school suspensions and expulsions that provide

1 structured and well-supervised educational programs
2 supplemented by a coordinated overlay of other appropriate
3 services designed to correct behaviors that lead to truancy,
4 suspensions, and expulsions, and that support students in
5 successfully completing their education. Information provided
6 in furtherance of such interagency agreements is intended
7 solely for use in determining the appropriate programs and
8 services for each juvenile or the juvenile's family, or for
9 coordinating the delivery of such programs and services, and
10 as such is inadmissible in any court proceedings prior to a
11 dispositional hearing unless written consent is provided by a
12 parent or other responsible adult on behalf of the juvenile.

13
14 This paragraph does not prohibit any educational institution
15 from publishing and releasing to the general public directory
16 information relating to a student if the institution elects to
17 do so. However, no educational institution shall release, to
18 any individual, agency, or organization that is not listed in
19 subparagraphs 1.-13., directory information relating to the
20 student body in general or a portion thereof unless it is
21 normally published for the purpose of release to the public in
22 general. Any educational institution making directory
23 information public shall give public notice of the categories
24 of information that it has designated as directory information
25 with respect to all students attending the institution and
26 shall allow a reasonable period of time after such notice has
27 been given for a parent or student to inform the institution
28 in writing that any or all of the information designated
29 should not be released.

30 (4) NOTIFICATION.--Every parent and student entitled
31 to rights relating to student records and reports under the

1 provisions of subsection (3) shall be notified annually, in
2 writing, of such rights and that the institution has a policy
3 of supporting the law; the types of information and data
4 generally entered in the student records as maintained by the
5 institution; and the procedures to be followed in order to
6 exercise such rights. The notification shall be general in
7 form and in a manner to be determined by the State Board of
8 Education and may be incorporated with other printed materials
9 distributed to students, such as being printed on the back of
10 school assignment forms or report cards for students attending
11 kindergarten or grades 1 through 12 in the public school
12 system and being printed in college catalogs or in other
13 program announcement bulletins for students attending
14 postsecondary educational institutions.

15 (5) PENALTY.--In the event that any public school
16 official or employee, district school board official or
17 employee, technical center official or employee, or public
18 postsecondary educational institution official or employee
19 refuses to comply with any of the provisions of this section,
20 the aggrieved parent or student shall have an immediate right
21 to bring an action in the circuit court to enforce the
22 violated right by injunction. Any aggrieved parent or student
23 who brings such an action and whose rights are vindicated may
24 be awarded attorney's fees and court costs.

25 (6) APPLICABILITY TO RECORDS OF DEFUNCT
26 INSTITUTIONS.--The provisions of this section also apply to
27 student records that any nonpublic educational institution
28 that is no longer operating has deposited with the district
29 school superintendent in the county where the nonpublic
30 educational institution was located.

31

1 Section 94. Part III of chapter 1002, Florida
2 Statutes, shall be entitled "Educational Choice" and shall
3 consist of ss. 1002.31-1002.39.

4 Section 95. Section 1002.31, Florida Statutes, is
5 created to read:

6 1002.31 Public school parental choice.--

7 (1) As used in this section, "controlled open
8 enrollment" means a public education delivery system that
9 allows school districts to make student school assignments
10 using parents' indicated preferential school choice as a
11 significant factor.

12 (2) Each district school board may offer controlled
13 open enrollment within the public schools. The controlled open
14 enrollment program shall be offered in addition to the
15 existing choice programs such as magnet schools, alternative
16 schools, special programs, advanced placement, and dual
17 enrollment.

18 (3) Each district school board shall develop a
19 controlled open enrollment plan which describes the
20 implementation of subsection (2).

21 (4) School districts shall adhere to federal
22 desegregation requirements. No controlled open enrollment
23 plan that conflicts with federal desegregation orders shall be
24 implemented.

25 (5) Each school district shall develop a system of
26 priorities for its plan that includes consideration of the
27 following:

28 (a) An application process required to participate in
29 the controlled open enrollment program.

30 (b) A process that allows parents to declare school
31 preferences.

- 1 (c) A process that encourages placement of siblings
2 within the same school.
- 3 (d) A lottery procedure used by the school district to
4 determine student assignment.
- 5 (e) An appeals process for hardship cases.
- 6 (f) The procedures to maintain socioeconomic,
7 demographic, and racial balance.
- 8 (g) The availability of transportation.
- 9 (h) A process that promotes strong parental
10 involvement, including the designation of a parent liaison.
- 11 (i) A strategy that establishes a clearinghouse of
12 information designed to assist parents in making informed
13 choices.
- 14 (6) Plans shall be submitted to the Commissioner of
15 Education. The Commissioner of Education shall develop an
16 annual report on the status of school choice and deliver the
17 report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the
18 Speaker of the House of Representatives at least 90 days prior
19 to the convening of the regular session of the Legislature.
- 20 (7) Notwithstanding any provision of this section, a
21 school district with schools operating on both multiple
22 session schedules and single session schedules shall afford
23 parents of students in multiple session schools preferred
24 access to the controlled open enrollment program of the school
25 district.
- 26 (8) Each district school board shall annually report
27 the number of students applying for and attending the various
28 types of public schools of choice in the district, including
29 schools such as magnet schools and public charter schools,
30 according to rules adopted by the State Board of Education.
31

1 Section 96. Section 1002.32, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1002.32 Developmental research (laboratory) schools.--

4 (1) SHORT TITLE.--This section may be cited as the
5 "Sidney Martin Developmental Research School Act."

6 (2) ESTABLISHMENT.--There is established a category of
7 public schools to be known as developmental research
8 (laboratory) schools (lab schools). Each lab school shall
9 provide sequential instruction and shall be affiliated with
10 the college of education within the state university of
11 closest geographic proximity. A lab school to which a charter
12 has been issued under s. 1002.33(5)(b) must be affiliated with
13 the college of education within the state university that
14 issued the charter, but is not subject to the requirement that
15 the state university be of closest geographic proximity. For
16 the purpose of state funding, Florida Agricultural and
17 Mechanical University, Florida Atlantic University, Florida
18 State University, the University of Florida, and other
19 universities approved by the State Board of Education and the
20 Legislature are authorized to sponsor one or more lab schools.

21 (3) MISSION.--The mission of a lab school shall be the
22 provision of a vehicle for the conduct of research,
23 demonstration, and evaluation regarding management, teaching,
24 and learning. Programs to achieve the mission of a lab school
25 shall embody the goals and standards established pursuant to
26 ss. 1000.03(5) and 1001.23(2) and shall ensure an appropriate
27 education for its students.

28 (a) Each lab school shall emphasize mathematics,
29 science, computer science, and foreign languages. The primary
30 goal of a lab school is to enhance instruction and research in
31 such specialized subjects by using the resources available on

1 a state university campus, while also providing an education
2 in nonspecialized subjects. Each lab school shall provide
3 sequential elementary and secondary instruction where
4 appropriate. A lab school may not provide instruction at grade
5 levels higher than grade 12 without authorization from the
6 State Board of Education. Each developmental research school
7 shall develop and implement a school improvement plan pursuant
8 to s. 1003.02(3).

9 (b) Research, demonstration, and evaluation conducted
10 at a lab school may be generated by the college of education
11 and other colleges within the university with which the school
12 is affiliated.

13 (c) Research, demonstration, and evaluation conducted
14 at a lab school may be generated by the State Board of
15 Education. Such research shall respond to the needs of the
16 education community at large, rather than the specific needs
17 of the affiliated college.

18 (d) Research, demonstration, and evaluation conducted
19 at a lab school may consist of pilot projects to be generated
20 by the affiliated college, the State Board of Education, or
21 the Legislature.

22 (e) The exceptional education programs offered at a
23 lab school shall be determined by the research and evaluation
24 goals and the availability of students for efficiently sized
25 programs. The fact that a lab school offers an exceptional
26 education program in no way lessens the general responsibility
27 of the local school district to provide exceptional education
28 programs.

29 (4) STUDENT ADMISSIONS.--Each lab school may establish
30 a primary research objective related to fundamental issues and
31 problems that occur in the public elementary and secondary

1 schools of the state. A student population reflective of the
2 student population of the public school environment in which
3 the issues and problems are most prevalent shall be promoted
4 and encouraged through the establishment and implementation of
5 an admission process that is designed to result in a
6 representative sample of public school enrollment based on
7 gender, race, socioeconomic status, and academic ability,
8 notwithstanding the provisions of s. 1000.05.

9 (5) STUDENT FEES.--Each lab school may charge a
10 student activity and service fee. Any school that elects to
11 charge such a fee shall provide information regarding the use
12 of the fee as well as an annual report that documents the
13 manner in which the moneys provided by such fee were expended.
14 The annual report prescribed in this subsection shall be
15 distributed to the parents of each student. No additional fees
16 shall be charged.

17 (6) SUPPLEMENTAL-SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS.--Each lab
18 school may accrue supplemental revenue from
19 supplemental-support organizations, which include, but are not
20 limited to, alumni associations, foundations, parent-teacher
21 associations, and booster associations. The governing body of
22 each supplemental-support organization shall recommend the
23 expenditure of moneys collected by the organization for the
24 benefit of the school. Such expenditures shall be contingent
25 upon the recommendations of the school advisory council and
26 review of the director. The director may override any proposed
27 expenditure of the organization that would violate Florida
28 Statutes or breach sound educational management.

29 (7) PERSONNEL.--
30
31

1 (a) Each lab school may employ either a director or a
2 principal, or both, at the discretion of the university. The
3 duties of such personnel shall be as follows:

4 1. Each director shall be the chief executive officer
5 and shall oversee the education, research, and evaluation
6 goals of the school. The director shall be responsible for
7 recommending policy to the advisory board. The director shall
8 be accountable for the financial resources of the school.

9 2. Each principal shall be the chief educational
10 officer and shall oversee the educational program of the
11 school. The principal shall be accountable for the daily
12 operation and administration of the school.

13 (b) Faculty may serve simultaneously as instructional
14 personnel for the lab school and the university with which the
15 school is affiliated. Nothing in this section is intended to
16 affect the collective bargaining rights of lab school
17 employees, except as specifically provided in this section.

18 (c) Lab school faculty members shall meet the
19 certification requirements of ss. 1012.32 and 1012.42.

20 (8) ADVISORY BOARDS.--Each public school in the state
21 shall establish a school advisory council that is reflective
22 of the population served by the school, pursuant to s.
23 1001.452, and is responsible for the development and
24 implementation of the school improvement plan pursuant to s.
25 1003.02(3). Lab schools shall comply with the provisions of s.
26 1001.452 in one of two ways:

27 (a) Each lab school may establish two advisory bodies
28 as follows:

29 1. An advisory body pursuant to the provisions and
30 requirements of s. 1001.452 to be responsible for the
31

1 development and implementation of the school improvement plan,
2 pursuant to s. 1003.02(3).

3 2. An advisory board to provide general oversight and
4 guidance. The dean of the affiliated college of education
5 shall be a standing member of the board, and the president of
6 the university shall appoint four faculty members from the
7 related university, at least two of whom are from the college
8 of education, one layperson who resides in the county in which
9 the school is located, two parents of students who attend the
10 lab school, and one lab school student appointed by the
11 principal to serve on the advisory board. The term of each
12 member shall be for 2 years, and any vacancy shall be filled
13 with a person of the same classification as his or her
14 predecessor for the balance of the unexpired term. The
15 president shall stagger the terms of the initial appointees in
16 a manner that results in the expiration of terms of no more
17 than two members in any year. The president shall call the
18 organizational meeting of the board. The board shall annually
19 elect a chair and a vice chair. There shall be no limitation
20 on successive appointments to the board or successive terms
21 that may be served by a chair or vice chair. The board shall
22 adopt internal organizational procedures or bylaws necessary
23 for efficient operation as provided in chapter 120. Board
24 members shall not receive per diem or travel expenses for the
25 performance of their duties. The board shall:

26 a. Meet at least quarterly.

27 b. Monitor the operations of the school and the
28 distribution of moneys allocated for such operations.

29 c. Establish necessary policy, program, and
30 administration modifications.

31

1 d. Evaluate biennially the performance of the director
2 and principal and recommend corresponding action to the dean
3 of the college of education.

4 e. Annually review evaluations of the school's
5 operation and research findings.

6 (b) Each lab school may establish one advisory body
7 responsible for the development and implementation of the
8 school improvement plan, pursuant to s. 1003.02(3), in
9 addition to general oversight and guidance responsibilities.
10 The advisory body shall reflect the membership composition
11 requirements established in s. 1001.452, but may also include
12 membership by the dean of the college of education and
13 additional members appointed by the president of the
14 university that represent faculty members from the college of
15 education, the university, or other bodies deemed appropriate
16 for the mission of the school.

17 (9) FUNDING.--Funding for a lab school, including a
18 charter lab school, shall be provided as follows:

19 (a) Each lab school shall be allocated its
20 proportional share of operating funds from the Florida
21 Education Finance Program as provided in s. 1011.62 and the
22 General Appropriations Act. The nonvoted ad valorem millage
23 that would otherwise be required for lab schools shall be
24 allocated from state funds. The required local effort funds
25 calculated pursuant to s. 1011.62 shall be allocated from
26 state funds to the schools as a part of the allocation of
27 operating funds pursuant to s. 1011.62. Each eligible lab
28 school shall also receive a proportional share of the sparsity
29 supplement as calculated pursuant to s. 1011.62. In addition,
30 each lab school shall receive its proportional share of all
31 categorical funds, with the exception of s. 1011.68, and new

1 categorical funds enacted after July 1, 1994, for the purpose
2 of elementary or secondary academic program enhancement. The
3 sum of funds available as provided in this paragraph shall be
4 included annually in the Florida Education Finance Program and
5 appropriate categorical programs funded in the General
6 Appropriations Act.

7 (b) There is created a Lab School Educational Facility
8 Trust Fund to be administered by the Commissioner of
9 Education. Allocations from such fund shall be expended solely
10 for the purpose of facility construction, repair, renovation,
11 remodeling, site improvement, or maintenance. The commissioner
12 shall administer the fund in accordance with ss. 1013.60,
13 1013.64, 1013.65, and 1013.66.

14 (c) All operating funds provided under this section
15 shall be deposited in a Lab School Trust Fund and shall be
16 expended for the purposes of this section. The university
17 assigned a lab school shall be the fiscal agent for these
18 funds, and all rules of the university governing the budgeting
19 and expenditure of state funds shall apply to these funds
20 unless otherwise provided by law or rule of the State Board of
21 Education. The State Board of Education shall be the public
22 employer of lab school personnel for collective bargaining
23 purposes.

24 (d) Each lab school shall receive funds for operating
25 purposes in an amount determined as follows: multiply the
26 maximum allowable nonvoted discretionary millage for
27 operations pursuant to s. 1011.71(1) by the value of 95
28 percent of the current year's taxable value for school
29 purposes for the district in which each lab school is located;
30 divide the result by the total full-time equivalent membership
31 of the district; and multiply the result by the full-time

1 equivalent membership of the lab school. The amount thus
2 obtained shall be discretionary operating funds and shall be
3 appropriated from state funds in the General Appropriations
4 Act to the Lab School Trust Fund.

5 (e) Each lab school shall receive funds for capital
6 improvement purposes in an amount determined as follows:
7 multiply the maximum allowable nonvoted discretionary millage
8 for capital improvements pursuant to s. 1011.71(2) by the
9 value of 95 percent of the current year's taxable value for
10 school purposes for the district in which each lab school is
11 located; divide the result by the total full-time equivalent
12 membership of the district; and multiply the result by the
13 full-time equivalent membership of the lab school. The amount
14 thus obtained shall be discretionary capital improvement funds
15 and shall be appropriated from state funds in the General
16 Appropriations Act to the Lab School Educational Facility
17 Trust Fund.

18 (f) In addition to the funds appropriated for capital
19 outlay budget needs, lab schools may receive specific funding
20 as specified in the General Appropriations Act for upgrading,
21 renovating, and remodeling science laboratories.

22 (g) Each lab school is designated a teacher education
23 center and may provide inservice training to school district
24 personnel. The Department of Education shall provide funds to
25 the Lab School Trust Fund for this purpose from appropriations
26 for inservice teacher education.

27 (h) A lab school to which a charter has been issued
28 under s. 1002.33(5)(b) is eligible to receive funding for
29 charter school capital outlay if it meets the eligibility
30 requirements of s. 1013.62. If the lab school receives funds
31 from charter school capital outlay, the school shall receive

1 capital outlay funds otherwise provided in this subsection
2 only to the extent that funds allocated pursuant to s. 1013.62
3 are insufficient to provide capital outlay funds to the lab
4 school at one-fifteenth of the cost per student station.

5 (10) IMPLEMENTATION.--The State Board of Education
6 shall adopt rules necessary to facilitate the implementation
7 of this section.

8 (11) EXCEPTIONS TO LAW.--To encourage innovative
9 practices and facilitate the mission of the lab schools, in
10 addition to the exceptions to law specified in s. 1001.23(2),
11 the following exceptions shall be permitted for lab schools:

12 (a) The methods and requirements of the following
13 statutes shall be held in abeyance: ss. 1001.30; 1001.31;
14 1001.32; 1001.33; 1001.34; 1001.35; 1001.36; 1001.361;
15 1001.362; 1001.363; 1001.37; 1001.371; 1001.372; 1001.38;
16 1001.39; 1001.395; 1001.40; 1001.41; 1001.44; 1001.46;
17 1001.461; 1001.462; 1001.463; 1001.464; 1001.47; 1001.48;
18 1001.49; 1001.50; 1001.51; 1006.12(1); 1006.21(3), (4);
19 1006.23; 1010.07(2); 1010.40; 1010.41; 1010.42; 1010.43;
20 1010.44; 1010.45; 1010.46; 1010.47; 1010.48; 1010.49; 1010.50;
21 1010.51; 1010.52; 1010.53; 1010.54; 1010.55; 1011.02(1)-(3),
22 (5); 1011.04; 1011.20; 1011.21; 1011.22; 1011.23; 1011.71;
23 1011.72; 1011.73; 1011.74; 1013.77; and 316.75.

24 (b) With the exception of s. 1001.42(16), s. 1001.42
25 shall be held in abeyance. Reference to district school boards
26 in s. 1001.42(16) shall mean the president of the university
27 or the president's designee.

28 Section 97. Section 1002.33, Florida Statutes, is
29 created to read:

30 1002.33 Charter schools.--
31

1 (1) AUTHORIZATION.--Charter schools shall be part of
2 the state's program of public education. All charter schools
3 in Florida are public schools. A charter school may be formed
4 by creating a new school or converting an existing public
5 school to charter status. A public school may not use the term
6 charter in its name unless it has been approved under this
7 section.

8 (2) PURPOSE.--The purpose of charter schools shall be
9 to:

10 (a) Provide additional academic choices for parents
11 and students.

12 (b) Increase learning opportunity choices for
13 students.

14 (c) Increase learning opportunities for all students,
15 with special emphasis on expanded learning experiences for
16 students who are identified as academically low achieving.

17 (d) Encourage the use of different and innovative
18 learning methods.

19 (e) Improve student learning.

20 (f) Establish a new form of accountability for
21 schools.

22 (g) Require the measurement of learning outcomes and
23 create innovative measurement tools.

24 (h) Make the school the unit for improvement.

25 (i) Provide rigorous competition within the public
26 school district to stimulate continual improvement in all
27 public schools.

28 (j) Expand the capacity of the public school system.

29 (k) Create new professional opportunities for
30 teachers.

31 (3) APPLICATION FOR CHARTER STATUS.--

1 (a) An application for a new charter school may be
2 made by an individual, teachers, parents, a group of
3 individuals, a municipality, or a legal entity organized under
4 the laws of this state.

5 (b) An application for a conversion charter school
6 shall be made by the district school board, the principal,
7 teachers, parents, and/or the school advisory council at an
8 existing public school that has been in operation for at least
9 2 years prior to the application to convert, including a
10 public school-within-a-school that is designated as a school
11 by the district school board. An application submitted
12 proposing to convert an existing public school to a charter
13 school shall demonstrate the support of at least 50 percent of
14 the teachers employed at the school and 50 percent of the
15 parents voting whose children are enrolled at the school,
16 provided that a majority of the parents eligible to vote
17 participate in the ballot process, according to rules adopted
18 by the State Board of Education. A district school board
19 denying an application for a conversion charter school shall
20 provide notice of denial to the applicants in writing within
21 30 days after the meeting at which the district school board
22 denied the application. The notice must specify the exact
23 reasons for denial and must provide documentation supporting
24 those reasons. A private school, parochial school, or home
25 education program shall not be eligible for charter school
26 status.

27 (4) UNLAWFUL REPRISAL.--

28 (a) No district school board, or district school board
29 employee who has control over personnel actions, shall take
30 unlawful reprisal against another district school board
31 employee because that employee is either directly or

1 indirectly involved with an application to establish a charter
2 school. As used in this subsection, the term "unlawful
3 reprisal" means an action taken by a district school board or
4 a school system employee against an employee who is directly
5 or indirectly involved in a lawful application to establish a
6 charter school, which occurs as a direct result of that
7 involvement, and which results in one or more of the
8 following: disciplinary or corrective action; adverse transfer
9 or reassignment, whether temporary or permanent; suspension,
10 demotion, or dismissal; an unfavorable performance evaluation;
11 a reduction in pay, benefits, or rewards; elimination of the
12 employee's position absent of a reduction in workforce as a
13 result of lack of moneys or work; or other adverse significant
14 changes in duties or responsibilities that are inconsistent
15 with the employee's salary or employment classification. The
16 following procedures shall apply to an alleged unlawful
17 reprisal that occurs as a consequence of an employee's direct
18 or indirect involvement with an application to establish a
19 charter school:

20 1. Within 60 days after the date upon which a reprisal
21 prohibited by this subsection is alleged to have occurred, an
22 employee may file a complaint with the Department of
23 Education.

24 2. Within 3 working days after receiving a complaint
25 under this section, the Department of Education shall
26 acknowledge receipt of the complaint and provide copies of the
27 complaint and any other relevant preliminary information
28 available to each of the other parties named in the complaint,
29 which parties shall each acknowledge receipt of such copies to
30 the complainant.

31

1 3. If the Department of Education determines that the
2 complaint demonstrates reasonable cause to suspect that an
3 unlawful reprisal has occurred, the Department of Education
4 shall conduct an investigation to produce a fact-finding
5 report.

6 4. Within 90 days after receiving the complaint, the
7 Department of Education shall provide the district school
8 superintendent of the complainant's district and the
9 complainant with a fact-finding report that may include
10 recommendations to the parties or a proposed resolution of the
11 complaint. The fact-finding report shall be presumed
12 admissible in any subsequent or related administrative or
13 judicial review.

14 5. If the Department of Education determines that
15 reasonable grounds exist to believe that an unlawful reprisal
16 has occurred, is occurring, or is to be taken, and is unable
17 to conciliate a complaint within 60 days after receipt of the
18 fact-finding report, the Department of Education shall
19 terminate the investigation. Upon termination of any
20 investigation, the Department of Education shall notify the
21 complainant and the district school superintendent of the
22 termination of the investigation, providing a summary of
23 relevant facts found during the investigation and the reasons
24 for terminating the investigation. A written statement under
25 this paragraph is presumed admissible as evidence in any
26 judicial or administrative proceeding.

27 6. The Department of Education shall either contract
28 with the Division of Administrative Hearings under s. 120.65,
29 or otherwise provide for a complaint for which the Department
30 of Education determines reasonable grounds exist to believe
31 that an unlawful reprisal has occurred, is occurring, or is to

1 be taken, and is unable to conciliate, to be heard by a panel
2 of impartial persons. Upon hearing the complaint, the panel
3 shall make findings of fact and conclusions of law for a final
4 decision by the Department of Education.

5
6 It shall be an affirmative defense to any action brought
7 pursuant to this section that the adverse action was
8 predicated upon grounds other than, and would have been taken
9 absent, the employee's exercise of rights protected by this
10 section.

11 (b) In any action brought under this section for which
12 it is determined reasonable grounds exist to believe that an
13 unlawful reprisal has occurred, is occurring, or is to be
14 taken, the relief shall include the following:

15 1. Reinstatement of the employee to the same position
16 held before the unlawful reprisal was commenced, or to an
17 equivalent position, or payment of reasonable front pay as
18 alternative relief.

19 2. Reinstatement of the employee's full fringe
20 benefits and seniority rights, as appropriate.

21 3. Compensation, if appropriate, for lost wages,
22 benefits, or other lost remuneration caused by the unlawful
23 reprisal.

24 4. Payment of reasonable costs, including attorney's
25 fees, to a substantially prevailing employee, or to the
26 prevailing employer if the employee filed a frivolous action
27 in bad faith.

28 5. Issuance of an injunction, if appropriate, by a
29 court of competent jurisdiction.

30 6. Temporary reinstatement to the employee's former
31 position or to an equivalent position, pending the final

1 outcome of the complaint, if it is determined that the action
2 was not made in bad faith or for a wrongful purpose, and did
3 not occur after a district school board's initiation of a
4 personnel action against the employee that includes
5 documentation of the employee's violation of a disciplinary
6 standard or performance deficiency.

7 (5) SPONSOR.--

8 (a) A district school board may sponsor a charter
9 school in the county over which the district school board has
10 jurisdiction.

11 (b) A state university may grant a charter to a lab
12 school created under s. 1002.32 and shall be considered to be
13 the school's sponsor. Such school shall be considered a
14 charter lab school.

15 (c) The sponsor shall monitor and review the charter
16 school in its progress towards the goals established in the
17 charter.

18 (d) The sponsor shall monitor the revenues and
19 expenditures of the charter school.

20 (e) The sponsor may approve a charter for a charter
21 school before the applicant has secured space, equipment, or
22 personnel, if the applicant indicates approval is necessary
23 for it to raise working capital.

24 (f) The sponsor's policies shall not apply to a
25 charter school.

26 (g) A sponsor shall ensure that the charter is
27 innovative and consistent with the state education goals
28 established by s. 1000.03(5).

29 (6) APPLICATION PROCESS AND REVIEW.--

30 (a) A district school board shall receive and review
31 all applications for a charter school. A district school board

1 shall receive and consider charter school applications
2 received on or before October 1 of each calendar year for
3 charter schools to be opened at the beginning of the school
4 district's next school year, or to be opened at a time agreed
5 to by the applicant and the district school board. A district
6 school board may receive applications later than this date if
7 it chooses. A sponsor may not charge an applicant for a
8 charter any fee for the processing or consideration of an
9 application, and a sponsor may not base its consideration or
10 approval of an application upon the promise of future payment
11 of any kind.

12 1. In order to facilitate an accurate budget
13 projection process, a district school board shall be held
14 harmless for FTE students who are not included in the FTE
15 projection due to approval of charter school applications
16 after the FTE projection deadline. In a further effort to
17 facilitate an accurate budget projection, within 15 calendar
18 days after receipt of a charter school application, a district
19 school board or other sponsor shall report to the Department
20 of Education the name of the applicant entity, the proposed
21 charter school location, and its projected FTE.

22 2. A district school board shall by a majority vote
23 approve or deny an application no later than 60 calendar days
24 after the application is received, unless the district school
25 board and the applicant mutually agree to temporarily postpone
26 the vote to a specific date, at which time the district school
27 board shall by a majority vote approve or deny the
28 application. If the district school board fails to act on the
29 application, an applicant may appeal to the State Board of
30 Education as provided in paragraph (b). If an application is
31 denied, the district school board shall, within 10 calendar

1 days, articulate in writing the specific reasons based upon
2 good cause supporting its denial of the charter application.

3 3. For budget projection purposes, the district school
4 board or other sponsor shall report to the Department of
5 Education the approval or denial of a charter application
6 within 10 calendar days after such approval or denial. In the
7 event of approval, the report to the Department of Education
8 shall include the final projected FTE for the approved charter
9 school.

10 4. Upon approval of a charter application, the initial
11 startup shall commence with the beginning of the public school
12 calendar for the district in which the charter is granted
13 unless the district school board allows a waiver of this
14 provision for good cause.

15 (b) An applicant may appeal any denial of that
16 applicant's application or failure to act on an application to
17 the State Board of Education no later than 30 calendar days
18 after receipt of the district school board's decision or
19 failure to act and shall notify the district school board of
20 its appeal. Any response of the district school board shall
21 be submitted to the State Board of Education within 30
22 calendar days after notification of the appeal. The State
23 Board of Education shall by majority vote accept or reject the
24 decision of the district school board no later than 60
25 calendar days after an appeal is filed in accordance with
26 State Board of Education rule. The State Board of Education
27 may reject an appeal submission for failure to comply with
28 procedural rules governing the appeals process. The rejection
29 shall describe the submission errors. The appellant may have
30 up to 15 calendar days from notice of rejection to resubmit an
31 appeal that meets requirements of State Board of Education

1 rule. An application for appeal submitted subsequent to such
2 rejection shall be considered timely if the original appeal
3 was filed within 30 calendar days after receipt of notice of
4 the specific reasons for the district school board's denial of
5 the charter application. The State Board of Education shall
6 remand the application to the district school board with its
7 written decision that the district school board approve or
8 deny the application. The district school board shall
9 implement the decision of the State Board of Education. The
10 decision of the State Board of Education is not subject to the
11 provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act, chapter 120.

12 (c) The district school board shall act upon the
13 recommendation of the State Board of Education within 30
14 calendar days after it is received. The district school board
15 may fail to act in accordance with the recommendation of the
16 State Board of Education only for good cause. Good cause for
17 failing to act in accordance with the State Board of
18 Education's recommendation arises only if the district school
19 board determines by competent substantial evidence that
20 approving the State Board of Education's recommendation would
21 be contrary to law or contrary to the best interests of the
22 students or the community. The district school board shall
23 articulate in written findings the specific reasons based upon
24 good cause supporting its failure to act in accordance with
25 the State Board of Education's recommendation. The district
26 school board's action on the State Board of Education's
27 recommendation is a final action subject to judicial review.

28 (d) The Department of Education may provide technical
29 assistance to an applicant upon written request.

30 (e) In considering charter applications for a lab
31 school, a state university shall consult with the district

1 school board of the county in which the lab school is located.
2 The decision of a state university may be appealed pursuant to
3 the procedure established in this subsection.

4 (f) The terms and conditions for the operation of a
5 charter school shall be set forth by the sponsor and the
6 applicant in a written contractual agreement, called a
7 charter. The sponsor shall not impose unreasonable rules or
8 regulations that violate the intent of giving charter schools
9 greater flexibility to meet educational goals. The applicant
10 and sponsor shall have 6 months in which to mutually agree to
11 the provisions of the charter. The Department of Education
12 shall provide mediation services for any dispute regarding
13 this section subsequent to the approval of a charter
14 application and for any dispute relating to the approved
15 charter, except disputes regarding charter school application
16 denials. If the Commissioner of Education determines that the
17 dispute cannot be settled through mediation, the dispute may
18 be appealed to an administrative law judge appointed by the
19 Division of Administrative Hearings. The administrative law
20 judge may rule on issues of equitable treatment of the charter
21 school as a public school, whether proposed provisions of the
22 charter violate the intended flexibility granted charter
23 schools by statute, or on any other matter regarding this
24 section except a charter school application denial, and shall
25 award the prevailing party reasonable attorney's fees and
26 costs incurred to be paid by the losing party. The costs of
27 the administrative hearing shall be paid by the party whom the
28 administrative law judge rules against.

29 (7) CHARTER.--The major issues involving the operation
30 of a charter school shall be considered in advance and written
31 into the charter. The charter shall be signed by the governing

1 body of the charter school and the sponsor, following a public
2 hearing to ensure community input.

3 (a) The charter shall address, and criteria for
4 approval of the charter shall be based on:

5 1. The school's mission, the students to be served,
6 and the ages and grades to be included.

7 2. The focus of the curriculum, the instructional
8 methods to be used, any distinctive instructional techniques
9 to be employed, and identification and acquisition of
10 appropriate technologies needed to improve educational and
11 administrative performance which include a means for promoting
12 safe, ethical, and appropriate uses of technology which comply
13 with legal and professional standards.

14 3. The current incoming baseline standard of student
15 academic achievement, the outcomes to be achieved, and the
16 method of measurement that will be used. The criteria listed
17 in this subparagraph shall include a detailed description for
18 each of the following:

19 a. How the baseline student academic achievement
20 levels and prior rates of academic progress will be
21 established.

22 b. How these baseline rates will be compared to rates
23 of academic progress achieved by these same students while
24 attending the charter school.

25 c. To the extent possible, how these rates of progress
26 will be evaluated and compared with rates of progress of other
27 closely comparable student populations.

28
29 The district school board is required to provide academic
30 student performance data to charter schools for each of their
31 students coming from the district school system, as well as

1 rates of academic progress of comparable student populations
2 in the district school system.

3 4. The methods used to identify the educational
4 strengths and needs of students and how well educational goals
5 and performance standards are met by students attending the
6 charter school. Included in the methods is a means for the
7 charter school to ensure accountability to its constituents by
8 analyzing student performance data and by evaluating the
9 effectiveness and efficiency of its major educational
10 programs. Students in charter schools shall, at a minimum,
11 participate in the statewide assessment program created under
12 s. 1008.22.

13 5. In secondary charter schools, a method for
14 determining that a student has satisfied the requirements for
15 graduation in s. 1003.43.

16 6. A method for resolving conflicts between the
17 governing body of the charter school and the sponsor.

18 7. The admissions procedures and dismissal procedures,
19 including the school's code of student conduct.

20 8. The ways by which the school will achieve a
21 racial/ethnic balance reflective of the community it serves or
22 within the racial/ethnic range of other public schools in the
23 same school district.

24 9. The financial and administrative management of the
25 school, including a reasonable demonstration of the
26 professional experience or competence of those individuals or
27 organizations applying to operate the charter school or those
28 hired or retained to perform such professional services and
29 the description of clearly delineated responsibilities and the
30 policies and practices needed to effectively manage the
31 charter school. A description of internal audit procedures and

1 establishment of controls to ensure that financial resources
2 are properly managed must be included. Both public sector and
3 private sector professional experience shall be equally valid
4 in such a consideration.

5 10. A description of procedures that identify various
6 risks and provide for a comprehensive approach to reduce the
7 impact of losses; plans to ensure the safety and security of
8 students and staff; plans to identify, minimize, and protect
9 others from violent or disruptive student behavior; and the
10 manner in which the school will be insured, including whether
11 or not the school will be required to have liability
12 insurance, and, if so, the terms and conditions thereof and
13 the amounts of coverage.

14 11. The term of the charter which shall provide for
15 cancellation of the charter if insufficient progress has been
16 made in attaining the student achievement objectives of the
17 charter and if it is not likely that such objectives can be
18 achieved before expiration of the charter. The initial term of
19 a charter shall be for 3, 4, or 5 years. In order to
20 facilitate access to long-term financial resources for charter
21 school construction, charter schools that are operated by a
22 municipality or other public entity as provided by law are
23 eligible for up to a 15-year charter, subject to approval by
24 the district school board. A charter lab school is eligible
25 for a charter for a term of up to 15 years. In addition, to
26 facilitate access to long-term financial resources for charter
27 school construction, charter schools that are operated by a
28 private, not-for-profit, s. 501(c)(3) status corporation are
29 eligible for up to a 10-year charter, subject to approval by
30 the district school board. Such long-term charters remain
31 subject to annual review and may be terminated during the term

1 of the charter, but only for specific good cause according to
2 the provisions set forth in subsection (8).

3 12. The facilities to be used and their location.

4 13. The qualifications to be required of the teachers
5 and the potential strategies used to recruit, hire, train, and
6 retain qualified staff to achieve best value.

7 14. The governance structure of the school, including
8 the status of the charter school as a public or private
9 employer as required in paragraph (12)(i).

10 15. A timetable for implementing the charter which
11 addresses the implementation of each element thereof and the
12 date by which the charter shall be awarded in order to meet
13 this timetable.

14 16. In the case of an existing public school being
15 converted to charter status, alternative arrangements for
16 current students who choose not to attend the charter school
17 and for current teachers who choose not to teach in the
18 charter school after conversion in accordance with the
19 existing collective bargaining agreement or district school
20 board rule in the absence of a collective bargaining
21 agreement. However, alternative arrangements shall not be
22 required for current teachers who choose not to teach in a
23 charter lab school, except as authorized by the employment
24 policies of the state university which grants the charter to
25 the lab school.

26 (b) A charter may be renewed every 5 school years,
27 provided that a program review demonstrates that the criteria
28 in paragraph (a) have been successfully accomplished and that
29 none of the grounds for nonrenewal established by paragraph
30 (8)(a) have been documented. In order to facilitate long-term
31 financing for charter school construction, charter schools

1 operating for a minimum of 2 years and demonstrating exemplary
2 academic programming and fiscal management are eligible for a
3 15-year charter renewal. Such long-term charter is subject to
4 annual review and may be terminated during the term of the
5 charter.

6 (c) A charter may be modified during its initial term
7 or any renewal term upon the recommendation of the sponsor or
8 the charter school governing board and the approval of both
9 parties to the agreement.

10 (8) CAUSES FOR NONRENEWAL OR TERMINATION OF CHARTER.--

11 (a) At the end of the term of a charter, the sponsor
12 may choose not to renew the charter for any of the following
13 grounds:

14 1. Failure to meet the requirements for student
15 performance stated in the charter.

16 2. Failure to meet generally accepted standards of
17 fiscal management.

18 3. Violation of law.

19 4. Other good cause shown.

20 (b) During the term of a charter, the sponsor may
21 terminate the charter for any of the grounds listed in
22 paragraph (a).

23 (c) At least 90 days prior to renewing or terminating
24 a charter, the sponsor shall notify the governing body of the
25 school of the proposed action in writing. The notice shall
26 state in reasonable detail the grounds for the proposed action
27 and stipulate that the school's governing body may, within 14
28 calendar days after receiving the notice, request an informal
29 hearing before the sponsor. The sponsor shall conduct the
30 informal hearing within 30 calendar days after receiving a
31 written request. The charter school's governing body may,

1 within 14 calendar days after receiving the sponsor's decision
2 to terminate or refuse to renew the charter, appeal the
3 decision pursuant to the procedure established in subsection
4 (6).

5 (d) A charter may be terminated immediately if the
6 sponsor determines that good cause has been shown or if the
7 health, safety, or welfare of the students is threatened. The
8 school district in which the charter school is located shall
9 assume operation of the school under these circumstances. The
10 charter school's governing board may, within 14 days after
11 receiving the sponsor's decision to terminate the charter,
12 appeal the decision pursuant to the procedure established in
13 subsection (6).

14 (e) When a charter is not renewed or is terminated,
15 the school shall be dissolved under the provisions of law
16 under which the school was organized, and any unencumbered
17 public funds from the charter school shall revert to the
18 district school board. In the event a charter school is
19 dissolved or is otherwise terminated, all district school
20 board property and improvements, furnishings, and equipment
21 purchased with public funds shall automatically revert to full
22 ownership by the district school board, subject to complete
23 satisfaction of any lawful liens or encumbrances. Any
24 unencumbered public funds from the charter school, district
25 school board property and improvements, furnishings, and
26 equipment purchased with public funds, or financial or other
27 records pertaining to the charter school, in the possession of
28 any person, entity, or holding company, other than the charter
29 school, shall be held in trust upon the district school
30 board's request, until any appeal status is resolved.

31

1 (f) If a charter is not renewed or is terminated, the
2 charter school is responsible for all debts of the charter
3 school. The district may not assume the debt from any contract
4 for services made between the governing body of the school and
5 a third party, except for a debt that is previously detailed
6 and agreed upon in writing by both the district and the
7 governing body of the school and that may not reasonably be
8 assumed to have been satisfied by the district.

9 (g) If a charter is not renewed or is terminated, a
10 student who attended the school may apply to, and shall be
11 enrolled in, another public school. Normal application
12 deadlines shall be disregarded under such circumstances.

13 (9) CHARTER SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS.--

14 (a) A charter school shall be nonsectarian in its
15 programs, admission policies, employment practices, and
16 operations.

17 (b) A charter school shall admit students as provided
18 in subsection (10).

19 (c) A charter school shall be accountable to its
20 sponsor for performance as provided in subsection (7).

21 (d) A charter school shall not charge tuition or
22 registration fees, except those fees normally charged by other
23 public schools. However, a charter lab school may charge a
24 student activity and service fee as authorized by s.
25 1002.32(5).

26 (e) A charter school shall meet all applicable state
27 and local health, safety, and civil rights requirements.

28 (f) A charter school shall not violate the
29 antidiscrimination provisions of s. 1000.05.

30 (g) A charter school shall provide for an annual
31 financial audit in accordance with s. 218.39.

1 (h) No organization shall hold more than 15 charters
2 statewide.

3 (i) In order to provide financial information that is
4 comparable to that reported for other public schools, charter
5 schools are to maintain all financial records which constitute
6 their accounting system:

7 1. In accordance with the accounts and codes
8 prescribed in the most recent issuance of the publication
9 titled "Financial and Program Cost Accounting and Reporting
10 for Florida Schools"; or

11 2. At the discretion of the charter school governing
12 board, a charter school may elect to follow generally accepted
13 accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, but
14 must reformat this information for reporting according to this
15 paragraph.

16
17 Charter schools are to provide annual financial report and
18 program cost report information in the state-required formats
19 for inclusion in district reporting in compliance with s.
20 1011.60(1). Charter schools that are operated by a
21 municipality or are a component unit of a parent nonprofit
22 organization may use the accounting system of the municipality
23 or the parent, but must reformat this information for
24 reporting according to this paragraph.

25 (j) The governing board of the charter school shall
26 annually adopt and maintain an operating budget.

27 (k) The governing body of the charter school shall
28 exercise continuing oversight over charter school operations
29 and make annual progress reports to its sponsor, which upon
30 verification shall be forwarded to the Commissioner of
31 Education at the same time as other annual school

1 accountability reports. The report shall contain at least the
2 following information:
3 1. The charter school's progress towards achieving the
4 goals outlined in its charter.
5 2. The information required in the annual school
6 report pursuant to s. 1008.345.
7 3. Financial records of the charter school, including
8 revenues and expenditures.
9 4. Salary and benefit levels of charter school
10 employees.
11 (l) A charter school shall not levy taxes or issue
12 bonds secured by tax revenues.
13 (m) A charter school shall provide instruction for at
14 least the number of days required by law for other public
15 schools, and may provide instruction for additional days.
16 (10) ELIGIBLE STUDENTS.--
17 (a) A charter school shall be open to any student
18 covered in an interdistrict agreement or residing in the
19 school district in which the charter school is located;
20 however, in the case of a charter lab school, the charter lab
21 school shall be open to any student eligible to attend the lab
22 school as provided in s. 1002.32 or who resides in the school
23 district in which the charter lab school is located. Any
24 eligible student shall be allowed interdistrict transfer to
25 attend a charter school when based on good cause.
26 (b) The charter school shall enroll an eligible
27 student who submits a timely application, unless the number of
28 applications exceeds the capacity of a program, class, grade
29 level, or building. In such case, all applicants shall have an
30 equal chance of being admitted through a random selection
31 process.

1 (c) When a public school converts to charter status,
2 enrollment preference shall be given to students who would
3 have otherwise attended that public school.

4 (d) A charter school may give enrollment preference to
5 the following student populations:

6 1. Students who are siblings of a student enrolled in
7 the charter school.

8 2. Students who are the children of a member of the
9 governing board of the charter school.

10 3. Students who are the children of an employee of the
11 charter school.

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

14 1. Students within specific age groups or grade
15 levels.

16 2. Students considered at risk of dropping out of
17 school or academic failure. Such students shall include
18 exceptional education students.

19 3. Students enrolling in a charter
20 school-in-the-workplace or charter school-in-a-municipality
21 established pursuant to subsection (16).

22 4. Students residing within a reasonable distance of
23 the charter school, as described in paragraph (21)(c). Such
24 students shall be subject to a random lottery and to the
25 racial/ethnic balance provisions described in subparagraph
26 (7)(a)8. or any federal provisions that require a school to
27 achieve a racial/ethnic balance reflective of the community it
28 serves or within the racial/ethnic range of other public
29 schools in the same school district.

30 5. Students who meet reasonable academic, artistic, or
31 other eligibility standards established by the charter school

1 and included in the charter school application and charter or,
2 in the case of existing charter schools, standards that are
3 consistent with the school's mission and purpose. Such
4 standards shall be in accordance with current state law and
5 practice in public schools and may not discriminate against
6 otherwise qualified individuals.

7 6. Students articulating from one charter school to
8 another pursuant to an articulation agreement between the
9 charter schools that has been approved by the sponsor.

10 (f) Students with handicapping conditions and students
11 served in English for Speakers of Other Languages programs
12 shall have an equal opportunity of being selected for
13 enrollment in a charter school.

14 (g) A student may withdraw from a charter school at
15 any time and enroll in another public school as determined by
16 district school board rule.

17 (h) The capacity of the charter school shall be
18 determined annually by the governing board, in conjunction
19 with the sponsor, of the charter school in consideration of
20 the factors identified in this subsection.

21 (11) PARTICIPATION IN INTERSCHOLASTIC EXTRACURRICULAR
22 ACTIVITIES.--A charter school student is eligible to
23 participate in an interscholastic extracurricular activity at
24 the public school to which the student would be otherwise
25 assigned to attend pursuant to s. 1006.15(3)(d).

26 (12) EMPLOYEES OF CHARTER SCHOOLS.--

27 (a) A charter school shall select its own employees. A
28 charter school may contract with its sponsor for the services
29 of personnel employed by the sponsor.

30 (b) Charter school employees shall have the option to
31 bargain collectively. Employees may collectively bargain as a

1 separate unit or as part of the existing district collective
2 bargaining unit as determined by the structure of the charter
3 school.

4 (c) The employees of a conversion charter school shall
5 remain public employees for all purposes, unless such
6 employees choose not to do so.

7 (d) The teachers at a charter school may choose to be
8 part of a professional group that subcontracts with the
9 charter school to operate the instructional program under the
10 auspices of a partnership or cooperative that they
11 collectively own. Under this arrangement, the teachers would
12 not be public employees.

13 (e) Employees of a school district may take leave to
14 accept employment in a charter school upon the approval of the
15 district school board. While employed by the charter school
16 and on leave that is approved by the district school board,
17 the employee may retain seniority accrued in that school
18 district and may continue to be covered by the benefit
19 programs of that school district, if the charter school and
20 the district school board agree to this arrangement and its
21 financing. School districts shall not require resignations of
22 teachers desiring to teach in a charter school. This paragraph
23 shall not prohibit a district school board from approving
24 alternative leave arrangements consistent with chapter 1012.

25 (f) Teachers employed by or under contract to a
26 charter school shall be certified as required by chapter 1012.
27 A charter school governing board may employ or contract with
28 skilled selected noncertified personnel to provide
29 instructional services or to assist instructional staff
30 members as education paraprofessionals in the same manner as
31 defined in chapter 1012, and as provided by State Board of

1 Education rule for charter school governing boards. A charter
2 school may not knowingly employ an individual to provide
3 instructional services or to serve as an education
4 paraprofessional if the individual's certification or
5 licensure as an educator is suspended or revoked by this or
6 any other state. A charter school may not knowingly employ an
7 individual who has resigned from a school district in lieu of
8 disciplinary action with respect to child welfare or safety,
9 or who has been dismissed for just cause by any school
10 district with respect to child welfare or safety. The
11 qualifications of teachers shall be disclosed to parents.

12 (g) A charter school shall employ or contract with
13 employees who have been fingerprinted as provided in s.
14 1012.32. Members of the governing board of the charter school
15 shall also be fingerprinted in a manner similar to that
16 provided in s. 1012.32.

17 (h) For the purposes of tort liability, the governing
18 body and employees of a charter school shall be governed by s.
19 768.28.

20 (i) A charter school shall organize as, or be operated
21 by, a nonprofit organization. A charter school may be operated
22 by a municipality or other public entity as provided for by
23 law. As such, the charter school may be either a private or a
24 public employer. As a public employer, a charter school may
25 participate in the Florida Retirement System upon application
26 and approval as a "covered group" under s. 121.021(34). If a
27 charter school participates in the Florida Retirement System,
28 the charter school employees shall be compulsory members of
29 the Florida Retirement System. As either a private or a public
30 employer, a charter school may contract for services with an
31 individual or group of individuals who are organized as a

1 partnership or a cooperative. Individuals or groups of
2 individuals who contract their services to the charter school
3 are not public employees.

4 (13) NUMBER OF SCHOOLS.--

5 (a) The number of newly created charter schools is
6 limited to no more than 28 in each school district that has
7 100,000 or more students, no more than 20 in each school
8 district that has 50,000 to 99,999 students, and no more than
9 12 in each school district with fewer than 50,000 students.

10 (b) An existing public school which converts to a
11 charter school shall not be counted towards the limit
12 established by paragraph (a).

13 (c) Notwithstanding any limit established by this
14 subsection, a district school board or a charter school
15 applicant shall have the right to request an increase of the
16 limit on the number of charter schools authorized to be
17 established within the district from the State Board of
18 Education.

19 (d) Whenever a municipality has submitted charter
20 applications for the establishment of a charter school feeder
21 pattern (elementary, middle, and senior high schools), and
22 upon approval of each individual charter application by the
23 district school board, such applications shall then be
24 designated as one charter school for all purposes listed
25 pursuant to this section.

26 (14) CHARTER SCHOOL COOPERATIVES.--Charter schools may
27 enter into cooperative agreements to form charter school
28 cooperative organizations that may provide the following
29 services: charter school planning and development, direct
30 instructional services, and contracts with charter school
31 governing boards to provide personnel administrative services,

1 payroll services, human resource management, evaluation and
2 assessment services, teacher preparation, and professional
3 development.

4 (15) CHARTER SCHOOL FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS;
5 INDEMNIFICATION OF THE STATE AND SCHOOL DISTRICT; CREDIT OR
6 TAXING POWER NOT TO BE PLEDGED.--Any arrangement entered into
7 to borrow or otherwise secure funds for a charter school
8 authorized in this section from a source other than the state
9 or a school district shall indemnify the state and the school
10 district from any and all liability, including, but not
11 limited to, financial responsibility for the payment of the
12 principal or interest. Any loans, bonds, or other financial
13 agreements are not obligations of the state or the school
14 district but are obligations of the charter school authority
15 and are payable solely from the sources of funds pledged by
16 such agreement. The credit or taxing power of the state or the
17 school district shall not be pledged and no debts shall be
18 payable out of any moneys except those of the legal entity in
19 possession of a valid charter approved by a district school
20 board pursuant to this section.

21 (16) CHARTER SCHOOLS-IN-THE-WORKPLACE; CHARTER
22 SCHOOLS-IN-A-MUNICIPALITY.--

23 (a) In order to increase business partnerships in
24 education, to reduce school and classroom overcrowding
25 throughout the state, and to offset the high costs for
26 educational facilities construction, the Legislature intends
27 to encourage the formation of business partnership schools or
28 satellite learning centers and municipal-operated schools
29 through charter school status.

30 (b) A charter school-in-the-workplace may be
31 established when a business partner provides the school

1 facility to be used; enrolls students based upon a random
2 lottery that involves all of the children of employees of that
3 business or corporation who are seeking enrollment, as
4 provided for in subsection (10); and enrolls students
5 according to the racial/ethnic balance provisions described in
6 subparagraph (7)(a)8. Any portion of a facility used for a
7 public charter school shall be exempt from ad valorem taxes,
8 as provided for in s. 1013.54, for the duration of its use as
9 a public school.

10 (c) A charter school-in-a-municipality designation may
11 be granted to a municipality that possesses a charter; enrolls
12 students based upon a random lottery that involves all of the
13 children of the residents of that municipality who are seeking
14 enrollment, as provided for in subsection (10); and enrolls
15 students according to the racial/ethnic balance provisions
16 described in subparagraph (7)(a)8. Any portion of the land and
17 facility used for a public charter school shall be exempt from
18 ad valorem taxes, as provided for in s. 1013.54, for the
19 duration of its use as a public school.

20 (d) As used in this subsection, the terms "business
21 partner" or "municipality" may include more than one business
22 or municipality to form a charter school-in-the-workplace or
23 charter school-in-a-municipality.

24 (17) EXEMPTION FROM STATUTES.--

25 (a) A charter school shall operate in accordance with
26 its charter and shall be exempt from all statutes in chapters
27 1000-1013. However, a charter school shall be in compliance
28 with the following statutes in chapters 1000-1013:

29 1. Those statutes specifically applying to charter
30 schools, including this section.

31

1 2. Those statutes pertaining to the student assessment
2 program and school grading system.

3 3. Those statutes pertaining to the provision of
4 services to students with disabilities.

5 4. Those statutes pertaining to civil rights,
6 including s. 1000.05, relating to discrimination.

7 5. Those statutes pertaining to student health,
8 safety, and welfare.

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

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

13 2. Chapter 119, relating to public records.

14 (18) FUNDING.--Students enrolled in a charter school,
15 regardless of the sponsorship, shall be funded as if they are
16 in a basic program or a special program, the same as students
17 enrolled in other public schools in the school district.

18 Funding for a charter lab school shall be as provided in s.
19 1002.32.

20 (a) Each charter school shall report its student
21 enrollment to the district school board as required in s.
22 1011.62, and in accordance with the definitions in s. 1011.61.
23 The district school board shall include each charter school's
24 enrollment in the district's report of student enrollment. All
25 charter schools submitting student record information required
26 by the Department of Education shall comply with the
27 Department of Education's guidelines for electronic data
28 formats for such data, and all districts shall accept
29 electronic data that complies with the Department of
30 Education's electronic format.

31

1 (b) The basis for the agreement for funding students
2 enrolled in a charter school shall be the sum of the school
3 district's operating funds from the Florida Education Finance
4 Program as provided in s. 1011.62 and the General
5 Appropriations Act, including gross state and local funds,
6 discretionary lottery funds, and funds from the school
7 district's current operating discretionary millage levy;
8 divided by total funded weighted full-time equivalent students
9 in the school district; multiplied by the weighted full-time
10 equivalent students for the charter school. Charter schools
11 whose students or programs meet the eligibility criteria in
12 law shall be entitled to their proportionate share of
13 categorical program funds included in the total funds
14 available in the Florida Education Finance Program by the
15 Legislature, including transportation. Total funding for each
16 charter school shall be recalculated during the year to
17 reflect the revised calculations under the Florida Education
18 Finance Program by the state and the actual weighted full-time
19 equivalent students reported by the charter school during the
20 full-time equivalent student survey periods designated by the
21 Commissioner of Education.

22 (c) If the district school board is providing programs
23 or services to students funded by federal funds, any eligible
24 students enrolled in charter schools in the school district
25 shall be provided federal funds for the same level of service
26 provided students in the schools operated by the district
27 school board. Pursuant to provisions of 20 U.S.C. 8061 s.
28 10306, all charter schools shall receive all federal funding
29 for which the school is otherwise eligible, including Title I
30 funding, not later than 5 months after the charter school
31

1 first opens and within 5 months after any subsequent expansion
2 of enrollment.

3 (d) District school boards shall make every effort to
4 ensure that charter schools receive timely and efficient
5 reimbursement, including processing paperwork required to
6 access special state and federal funding for which they may be
7 eligible. The district school board may distribute funds to a
8 charter school for up to 3 months based on the projected
9 full-time equivalent student membership of the charter school.
10 Thereafter, the results of full-time equivalent student
11 membership surveys shall be used in adjusting the amount of
12 funds distributed monthly to the charter school for the
13 remainder of the fiscal year. The payment shall be issued no
14 later than 10 working days after the district school board
15 receives a distribution of state or federal funds. If a
16 warrant for payment is not issued within 30 working days after
17 receipt of funding by the district school board, the school
18 district shall pay to the charter school, in addition to the
19 amount of the scheduled disbursement, interest at a rate of 1
20 percent per month calculated on a daily basis on the unpaid
21 balance from the expiration of the 30-day period until such
22 time as the warrant is issued.

23 (19) FACILITIES.--

24 (a) A charter school shall utilize facilities which
25 comply with the State Uniform Building Code for Public
26 Educational Facilities Construction adopted pursuant to s.
27 1013.37 or with applicable state minimum building codes
28 pursuant to chapter 553 and state minimum fire protection
29 codes pursuant to s. 633.025, as adopted by the authority in
30 whose jurisdiction the facility is located.

31

1 (b) Any facility, or portion thereof, used to house a
2 charter school whose charter has been approved by the sponsor
3 and the governing board, pursuant to subsection (7), shall be
4 exempt from ad valorem taxes pursuant to s. 196.1983.

5 (c) Charter school facilities shall utilize facilities
6 which comply with the Florida Building Code, pursuant to
7 chapter 553, and the Florida Fire Prevention Code, pursuant to
8 chapter 633.

9 (d) If a district school board facility or property is
10 available because it is surplus, marked for disposal, or
11 otherwise unused, it shall be provided for a charter school's
12 use on the same basis as it is made available to other public
13 schools in the district. A charter school receiving property
14 from the school district may not sell or dispose of such
15 property without written permission of the school district.
16 Similarly, for an existing public school converting to charter
17 status, no rental or leasing fee for the existing facility or
18 for the property normally inventoried to the conversion school
19 may be charged by the district school board to the parents and
20 teachers organizing the charter school. The charter organizers
21 shall agree to reasonable maintenance provisions in order to
22 maintain the facility in a manner similar to district school
23 board standards. The Public Education Capital Outlay
24 maintenance funds or any other maintenance funds generated by
25 the facility operated as a conversion school shall remain with
26 the conversion school.

27 (20) CAPITAL OUTLAY FUNDING.--Charter schools are
28 eligible for capital outlay funds pursuant to s. 1013.62.

29 (21) SERVICES.--

30 (a) A sponsor shall provide certain administrative and
31 educational services to charter schools. These services shall

1 include contract management services, full-time equivalent and
2 data reporting services, exceptional student education
3 administration services, test administration services,
4 processing of teacher certificate data services, and
5 information services. Any administrative fee charged by the
6 sponsor for the provision of services shall be limited to 5
7 percent of the available funds defined in paragraph (18)(b).

8 (b) If goods and services are made available to the
9 charter school through the contract with the school district,
10 they shall be provided to the charter school at a rate no
11 greater than the district's actual cost. To maximize the use
12 of state funds, school districts shall allow charter schools
13 to participate in the sponsor's bulk purchasing program if
14 applicable.

15 (c) Transportation of charter school students shall be
16 provided by the charter school consistent with the
17 requirements of part I.e. of chapter 1006. The governing body
18 of the charter school may provide transportation through an
19 agreement or contract with the district school board, a
20 private provider, or parents. The charter school and the
21 sponsor shall cooperate in making arrangements that ensure
22 that transportation is not a barrier to equal access for all
23 students residing within a reasonable distance of the charter
24 school as determined in its charter.

25 (22) PUBLIC INFORMATION ON CHARTER SCHOOLS.--The
26 Department of Education shall provide information to the
27 public, directly and through sponsors, both on how to form and
28 operate a charter school and on how to enroll in charter
29 schools once they are created. This information shall include
30 a standard application format which shall include the
31

1 information specified in subsection (7). This application
2 format may be used by chartering entities.

3 (23) CHARTER SCHOOL REVIEW PANEL AND LEGISLATIVE
4 REVIEW.--

5 (a) The Department of Education shall regularly
6 convene a Charter School Review Panel in order to review
7 issues, practices, and policies regarding charter schools. The
8 composition of the review panel shall include individuals with
9 experience in finance, administration, law, education, and
10 school governance, and individuals familiar with charter
11 school construction and operation. The panel shall include two
12 appointees each from the Commissioner of Education, the
13 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
14 Representatives. The Governor shall appoint three members of
15 the panel and shall designate the chair. Each member of the
16 panel shall serve a 1-year term, unless renewed by the office
17 making the appointment. The panel shall make recommendations
18 to the Legislature, to the Department of Education, to charter
19 schools, and to school districts for improving charter school
20 operations and oversight and for ensuring best business
21 practices at and fair business relationships with charter
22 schools.

23 (b) The Legislature shall review the operation of
24 charter schools during the 2005 Regular Session of the
25 Legislature.

26 (24) ANALYSIS OF CHARTER SCHOOL PERFORMANCE.--Upon
27 receipt of the annual report required by paragraph (9)(k), the
28 Department of Education shall provide to the State Board of
29 Education, the Commissioner of Education, the President of the
30 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives an
31 analysis and comparison of the overall performance of charter

1 school students, to include all students whose scores are
2 counted as part of the statewide assessment program, versus
3 comparable public school students in the district as
4 determined by the statewide assessment program currently
5 administered in the school district, and other assessments
6 administered pursuant to s. 1008.22(3).

7 (25) CONVERSION CHARTER SCHOOL PILOT PROGRAM.--

8 (a) The conversion charter school pilot program is
9 hereby established with the intent to provide incentives for
10 local school districts to approve conversion charter schools.

11 (b) The conversion charter school pilot program shall
12 be a statewide pilot program in which 10 schools shall be
13 selected based on a competitive application process in
14 accordance with this section.

15 (c) The purpose of the pilot program is to produce
16 significant improvements in student achievement and school
17 management, to encourage and measure the use of innovative
18 learning methods, and to make the school the unit for
19 improvement.

20 (d) Each school principal or a majority of the parents
21 of students attending the school, a majority of the school's
22 teachers, or a majority of the members of the school advisory
23 council may apply to the school district to participate in
24 this pilot program on forms which shall be provided by the
25 Department of Education. The forms shall include
26 acknowledgment by the school principal of applicable
27 provisions of this section and s. 1013.62. For purposes of
28 this paragraph, "a majority of the parents of students
29 attending the school" means more than 50 percent of the
30 parents voting whose children are enrolled at the school,
31 provided that a majority of the parents eligible to vote

1 participate in the ballot process; and "a majority of the
2 school's teachers" means more than 50 percent of the teachers
3 employed at the school, according to procedures established by
4 rule of the State Board of Education pursuant to subsections
5 (3) and (4).

6 (e) A person or group who has applied to participate
7 in the pilot program created by this section, pursuant to
8 paragraph (d), shall not be subject to an unlawful reprisal,
9 as defined by paragraph (4)(a), as a consequence of such
10 application. The procedures established by subsections (3) and
11 (4) shall apply to any alleged unlawful reprisal which occurs
12 as a consequence of such application.

13 (f) A district school board shall receive and review
14 all applications by school principals, parents, teachers, or
15 school advisory council members to participate in the pilot
16 project; shall select the best applications; and shall submit
17 these applications, together with the district school board's
18 letter of endorsement and commitment of support and
19 cooperation toward the success of program implementation, for
20 review by the statewide selection panel established pursuant
21 to paragraph (g).

22 (g) A conversion charter school pilot program
23 statewide selection panel is established. The panel shall be
24 comprised of the following nine members who are not elected
25 public officials:

26 1. Three members shall be appointed by the Governor.

27 2. Two members shall be appointed by the Commissioner
28 of Education.

29 3. Two members shall be appointed by the President of
30 the Senate.

31

1 4. Two members shall be appointed by the Speaker of
2 the House of Representatives.

3
4 The panel shall review the conversion charter school pilot
5 program applications submitted by the district school boards
6 and shall select the 10 applications which the panel deems
7 best comply with the purpose of the program pursuant to
8 paragraph (c).

9 (h) Each district school board in which there is a
10 school selected by the statewide panel for participation in
11 the pilot program shall receive a grant as provided in the
12 General Appropriations Act:

13 1. One hundred thousand dollars for planning and
14 development for each conversion charter school selected; and

15 2.a. Eighty thousand dollars for each conversion
16 charter school selected with 500 or fewer students;

17 b. One hundred thousand dollars for each conversion
18 charter school selected with more than 500 but fewer than
19 1,001 students; or

20 c. One hundred twenty thousand dollars for each
21 conversion charter school selected with more than 1,000
22 students.

23
24 The Commissioner of Education may reduce the district's FEFP
25 funding entitlement by the amount of the grant awarded under
26 this subsection if he or she determines that the district has
27 failed to comply with its letter of endorsement and commitment
28 of support and cooperation submitted under paragraph (f).

29 (i) Each conversion charter school selected for
30 participation in the pilot program shall make annual progress
31 reports to the district school board and the Commissioner of

1 Education detailing the school's progress in achieving the
2 purpose of the program as described in paragraph (c).

3 (26) RULEMAKING.--The Department of Education, after
4 consultation with school districts and charter school
5 directors, shall recommend that the State Board of Education
6 adopt rules to implement specific subsections of this section.
7 Such rules shall require minimum paperwork and shall not limit
8 charter school flexibility authorized by statute.

9 Section 98. Section 1002.34, Florida Statutes, is
10 created to read:

11 1002.34 Charter technical career centers.--

12 (1) AUTHORIZATION.--The Legislature finds that the
13 establishment of charter technical career centers can assist
14 in promoting advances and innovations in workforce preparation
15 and economic development. A charter technical career center
16 may provide a learning environment that better serves the
17 needs of a specific population group or a group of
18 occupations, thus promoting diversity and choices within the
19 public education and public postsecondary technical education
20 community in this state. Therefore, the creation of such
21 centers is authorized as part of the state's program of public
22 education. A charter technical career center may be formed by
23 creating a new school or converting an existing school
24 district or community college program to charter technical
25 status.

26 (2) PURPOSE.--The purpose of a charter technical
27 career center is to:

28 (a) Develop a competitive workforce to support local
29 business and industry and economic development.

30 (b) Create a training and education model that is
31 reflective of marketplace realities.

1 (c) Offer a continuum of career educational
2 opportunities using a school-to-work, tech-prep, technical,
3 academy, and magnet school model.

4 (d) Provide career pathways for lifelong learning and
5 career mobility.

6 (e) Enhance career and technical training.

7 (3) DEFINITIONS.--As used in this section, the term:

8 (a) "Charter technical career center" or "center"
9 means a public school or a public technical center operated
10 under a charter granted by a district school board or
11 community college board of trustees or a consortium, including
12 one or more district school boards and community college
13 boards of trustees, that includes the district in which the
14 facility is located, that is nonsectarian in its programs,
15 admission policies, employment practices, and operations, and
16 is managed by a board of directors.

17 (b) "Sponsor" means a district school board, a
18 community college board of trustees, or a consortium of one or
19 more of each.

20 (4) CHARTER.--A sponsor may designate centers as
21 provided in this section. An application to establish a
22 center may be submitted by a sponsor or another organization
23 that is determined, by rule of the State Board of Education,
24 to be appropriate. However, an independent school is not
25 eligible for status as a center. The charter must be signed
26 by the governing body of the center and the sponsor, and must
27 be approved by the district school board and community college
28 board of trustees in whose geographic region the facility is
29 located. If a charter technical career center is established
30 by the conversion to charter status of a public technical
31 center formerly governed by a district school board, the

1 charter status of that center takes precedence in any question
2 of governance. The governance of the center or of any program
3 within the center remains with its board of directors unless
4 the board agrees to a change in governance or its charter is
5 revoked as provided in subsection (15). Such a conversion
6 charter technical career center is not affected by a change in
7 the governance of public technical centers or of programs
8 within other centers that are or have been governed by
9 district school boards. A charter technical career center, or
10 any program within such a center, that was governed by a
11 district school board and transferred to a community college
12 prior to the effective date of this act is not affected by
13 this provision. An applicant who wishes to establish a center
14 must submit to the district school board or community college
15 board of trustees, or a consortium of one or more of each, an
16 application that includes:
17 (a) The name of the proposed center.
18 (b) The proposed structure of the center, including a
19 list of proposed members of the board of directors or a
20 description of the qualifications for and method of their
21 appointment or election.
22 (c) The workforce development goals of the center, the
23 curriculum to be offered, and the outcomes and the methods of
24 assessing the extent to which the outcomes are met.
25 (d) The admissions policy and criteria for evaluating
26 the admission of students.
27 (e) A description of the staff responsibilities and
28 the proposed qualifications of the teaching staff.
29 (f) A description of the procedures to be implemented
30 to ensure significant involvement of representatives of
31 business and industry in the operation of the center.

1 (g) A method for determining whether a student has
2 satisfied the requirements for graduation specified in s.
3 1003.43 and for completion of a postsecondary certificate or
4 degree.

5 (h) A method for granting secondary and postsecondary
6 diplomas, certificates, and degrees.

7 (i) A description of and address for the physical
8 facility in which the center will be located.

9 (j) A method of resolving conflicts between the
10 governing body of the center and the sponsor and between
11 consortium members, if applicable.

12 (k) A method for reporting student data as required by
13 law and rule.

14 (l) Other information required by the district school
15 board or community college board of trustees.

16
17 Students at a center must meet the same testing and academic
18 performance standards as those established by law and rule for
19 students at public schools and public technical centers. The
20 students must also meet any additional assessment indicators
21 that are included within the charter approved by the district
22 school board or community college board of trustees.

23 (5) APPLICATION.--An application to establish a center
24 must be submitted by February 1 of the year preceding the
25 school year in which the center will begin operation. The
26 sponsor must review the application and make a final decision
27 on whether to approve the application and grant the charter by
28 March 1, and may condition the granting of a charter on the
29 center's taking certain actions or maintaining certain
30 conditions. Such actions and conditions must be provided to
31 the applicant in writing. The district school board or

1 community college board of trustees is not required to issue a
2 charter to any person.

3 (6) SPONSOR.--A district school board or community
4 college board of trustees or a consortium of one or more of
5 each may sponsor a center in the county in which the board has
6 jurisdiction.

7 (a) A sponsor must review all applications for centers
8 received through at least February 1 of each calendar year for
9 centers to be opened at the beginning of the sponsor's next
10 school year. A sponsor may receive applications later than
11 this date if it so chooses. To facilitate an accurate budget
12 projection process, a sponsor shall be held harmless for FTE
13 students who are not included in the FTE projection due to
14 approval of applications after the FTE projection deadline. A
15 sponsor must, by a majority vote, approve or deny an
16 application no later than 60 days after the application is
17 received. If an application is denied, the sponsor must,
18 within 10 days, notify the applicant in writing of the
19 specific reasons for denial, which must be based upon good
20 cause. Upon approval of a charter application, the initial
21 startup must be consistent with the beginning of the public
22 school or community college calendar for the district in which
23 the charter is granted, unless the sponsor allows a waiver of
24 this provision for good cause.

25 (b) An applicant may appeal any denial of its
26 application to the State Board of Education within 30 days
27 after the sponsor's denial and shall notify the sponsor of its
28 appeal. Any response of the sponsor must be submitted to the
29 state board within 30 days after notification of the appeal.
30 The State Board of Education must, by majority vote, accept or
31 reject the decision of the sponsor no later than 60 days after

1 an appeal is filed, pursuant to State Board of Education rule.
2 The State Board of Education may reject an appeal for failure
3 to comply with procedural rules governing the appeals process,
4 and the rejection must describe the submission errors. The
5 appellant may have up to 15 days after notice of rejection to
6 resubmit an appeal. An application for appeal submitted after
7 a rejection is timely if the original appeal was filed within
8 30 days after the sponsor's denial. The State Board of
9 Education shall remand the application to the sponsor with a
10 written recommendation that the sponsor approve or deny the
11 application, consistent with the state board's decision. The
12 decision of the State Board of Education is not subject to the
13 provisions of chapter 120.

14 (c) The sponsor must act upon the recommendation of
15 the State Board of Education within 30 days after it is
16 received, unless the sponsor determines by competent
17 substantial evidence that approving the state board's
18 recommendation would be contrary to law or the best interests
19 of the students or the community. The sponsor must notify the
20 applicant in writing concerning the specific reasons for its
21 failure to follow the state board's recommendation. The
22 sponsor's action on the state board's recommendation is a
23 final action, subject to judicial review.

24 (d) The Department of Education may provide technical
25 assistance to an applicant upon written request.

26 (e) The terms and conditions for the operation of a
27 center must be agreed to by the sponsor and the applicant in a
28 written contract. The sponsor may not impose unreasonable
29 requirements that violate the intent of giving centers greater
30 flexibility to meet educational goals. The applicant and
31

1 sponsor must reach an agreement on the provisions of the
2 contract or the application is deemed denied.
3 (f) The sponsor shall monitor and review the center's
4 progress towards charter goals and shall monitor the center's
5 revenues and expenditures.
6 (7) LEGAL ENTITY.--A center must organize as a
7 nonprofit organization and adopt a name and corporate seal. A
8 center is a body corporate and politic, with all powers to
9 implement its charter program. The center may:
10 (a) Be a private or a public employer.
11 (b) Sue and be sued, but only to the same extent and
12 upon the same conditions that a public entity can be sued.
13 (c) Acquire real property by purchase, lease, lease
14 with an option to purchase, or gift, to use as a center
15 facility.
16 (d) Receive and disburse funds.
17 (e) Enter into contracts or leases for services,
18 equipment, or supplies.
19 (f) Incur temporary debts in anticipation of the
20 receipt of funds.
21 (g) Solicit and accept gifts or grants for career
22 center purposes.
23 (h) Take any other action that is not inconsistent
24 with this section and rules adopted under this section.
25 (8) ELIGIBLE STUDENTS.--A center must be open to all
26 students as space is available and may not discriminate in
27 admissions policies or practices on the basis of an
28 individual's physical disability or proficiency in English or
29 on any other basis that would be unlawful if practiced by a
30 public school or a community college. A center may establish
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1 reasonable criteria by which to evaluate prospective students,
2 which criteria must be outlined in the charter.
3 (9) FACILITIES.--A center may be located in any
4 suitable location, including part of an existing public school
5 or community college building, space provided on a public
6 worksite, or a public building. A center's facilities must
7 comply with the State Uniform Building Code for Public
8 Educational Facilities Construction adopted pursuant to s.
9 1013.37, or with applicable state minimum building codes
10 pursuant to chapter 553, and state minimum fire protection
11 codes pursuant to s. 633.025, adopted by the authority in
12 whose jurisdiction the facility is located. If K-12 public
13 school funds are used for construction, the facility must
14 remain on the local school district's Florida Inventory of
15 School Houses (FISH) school building inventory of the district
16 school board and must revert to the district school board if
17 the consortium dissolves and the program is discontinued. If
18 community college public school funds are used for
19 construction, the facility must remain on the local community
20 college's facilities inventory and must revert to the local
21 community college board of trustees if the consortium
22 dissolves and the program is discontinued. The additional
23 student capacity created by the addition of the center to the
24 local school district's FISH may not be calculated in the
25 permanent student capacity for the purpose of determining need
26 or eligibility for state capital outlay funds while the
27 facility is used as a center. If the construction of the
28 center is funded jointly by K-12 public school funds and
29 community college funds, the sponsoring entities must agree,
30 before granting the charter, on the appropriate owner and
31 terms of transfer of the facility if the charter is dissolved.

1 (10) EXEMPTION FROM STATUTES.--

2 (a) A center must operate pursuant to its charter and
3 is exempt from all statutes of the Florida School Code except
4 provisions pertaining to civil rights and to student health,
5 safety, and welfare, or as otherwise required by law.

6 (b) A center must comply with the Florida K-20
7 Education Code with respect to providing services to students
8 with disabilities.

9 (c) A center must comply with the antidiscrimination
10 provisions of s. 1000.05.

11 (11) FUNDING.--

12 (a) Each district school board and community college
13 that sponsors a charter technical career center shall pay
14 directly to the center an amount stated in the charter. State
15 funding shall be generated for the center for its student
16 enrollment and program outcomes as provided in law. A center
17 is eligible for funding from the Florida Workforce Development
18 Education Fund, the Florida Education Finance Program, and the
19 Community College Program Fund, depending upon the programs
20 conducted by the center.

21 (b) A center may receive other state and federal aid,
22 grants, and revenue through the district school board or
23 community college board of trustees.

24 (c) A center may receive gifts and grants from private
25 sources.

26 (d) A center may not levy taxes or issue bonds, but it
27 may charge a student tuition fee consistent with authority
28 granted in its charter and permitted by law.

29 (e) A center shall provide for an annual financial
30 audit in accordance with s. 218.39.

31

1 (f) A center must provide instruction for at least the
2 number of days required by law for other public schools or
3 community colleges, as appropriate, and may provide
4 instruction for additional days.

5 (12) EMPLOYEES OF A CENTER.--

6 (a) A center may select its own employees.

7 (b) A center may contract for services with an
8 individual, partnership, or a cooperative. Such persons
9 contracted with are not public employees.

10 (c) If a center contracts with a public educational
11 agency for services, the terms of employment must follow
12 existing state law and rule and local policies and procedures.

13 (d) The employees of a center may bargain
14 collectively, as a separate unit or as part of the existing
15 district collective bargaining unit, as determined by the
16 structure of the center.

17 (e) As a public employer, a center may participate in:

18 1. The Florida Retirement System upon application and
19 approval as a "covered group" under s. 121.021(34). If a
20 center participates in the Florida Retirement System, its
21 employees are compulsory members of the Florida Retirement
22 System.

23 2. The State Community College System Optional
24 Retirement Program pursuant to s. 1012.875(2), if the charter
25 is granted by a community college that participates in the
26 optional retirement program and meets the eligibility criteria
27 of s. 121.051(2)(c).

28 (f) Teachers who are considered qualified by the
29 career center are exempt from state certification
30 requirements.

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1 (g) A public school or community college teacher or
2 administrator may take a leave of absence to accept employment
3 in a charter technical career center upon the approval of the
4 school district or community college.

5 (h) An employee who is on a leave of absence under
6 this section may retain seniority accrued in that school
7 district or community college and may continue to be covered
8 by the benefit programs of that district or community college
9 if the center and the district school board or community
10 college board of trustees agree to this arrangement and its
11 financing.

12 (13) BOARD OF DIRECTORS AUTHORITY.--The board of
13 directors of a center may decide matters relating to the
14 operation of the school, including budgeting, curriculum, and
15 operating procedures, subject to the center's charter.

16 (14) ACCOUNTABILITY.--Each center must submit a report
17 to the participating district school board or community
18 college board of trustees by August 1 of each year. The
19 report must be in such form as the sponsor prescribes and must
20 include:

21 (a) A discussion of progress made toward the
22 achievement of the goals outlined in the center's charter.

23 (b) A financial statement setting forth by appropriate
24 categories the revenue and expenditures for the previous
25 school year.

26 (15) TERMS OF THE CHARTER.--The term of an initial
27 charter may not exceed 5 years. Thereafter, the sponsor may
28 renew a charter for a period up to 5 years. The sponsor may
29 refuse to renew a charter or may revoke a charter if the
30 center has not fulfilled a condition imposed under the charter
31 or if the center has violated any provision of the charter.

1 The sponsor may place the center on probationary status to
2 allow the implementation of a remedial plan, after which, if
3 the plan is unsuccessful, the charter may be summarily
4 revoked. The sponsor shall develop procedures and guidelines
5 for the revocation and renewal of a center's charter. The
6 sponsor must give written notice of its intent not to renew
7 the charter at least 12 months before the charter expires. If
8 the sponsor revokes a charter before the scheduled expiration
9 date, the sponsor must provide written notice to the governing
10 board of the center at least 60 days before the date of
11 termination, stating the grounds for the proposed revocation.
12 The governing board of the center may request in writing an
13 informal hearing before the sponsor within 14 days after
14 receiving the notice of revocation. A revocation takes effect
15 at the conclusion of a school year, unless the sponsor
16 determines that earlier revocation is necessary to protect the
17 health, safety, and welfare of students. The sponsor shall
18 monitor and review the center in its progress towards the
19 goals established in the charter and shall monitor the
20 revenues and expenditures of the center.

21 (16) TRANSPORTATION.--The center may provide
22 transportation, pursuant to chapter 1006, through a contract
23 with the district school board or the community college board
24 of trustees, a private provider, or parents of students. The
25 center must ensure that transportation is not a barrier to
26 equal access for all students in grades K-12 residing within a
27 reasonable distance of the facility.

28 (17) IMMUNITY.--For the purposes of tort liability,
29 the governing body and employees of a center are governed by
30 s. 768.28.

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1 (18) RULES.--The State Board of Education shall adopt
2 rules, pursuant to chapter 120, relating to the implementation
3 of charter technical career centers.

4 (19) EVALUATION; REPORT.--The Commissioner of
5 Education shall provide for an annual comparative evaluation
6 of charter technical career centers and public technical
7 centers. The evaluation may be conducted in cooperation with
8 the sponsor, through private contracts, or by department
9 staff. At a minimum, the comparative evaluation must address
10 the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of the
11 students served, the types and costs of services provided, and
12 the outcomes achieved. By December 30 of each year, the
13 Commissioner of Education shall submit to the Governor, the
14 President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
15 Representatives, and the Senate and House committees that have
16 responsibility for secondary and postsecondary career and
17 technical education a report of the comparative evaluation
18 completed for the previous school year.

19 Section 99. Section 1002.35, Florida Statutes, is
20 created to read:

21 1002.35 New World School of the Arts.--

22 (1) The New World School of the Arts is created as a
23 center of excellence for the performing and visual arts, to
24 serve all of the State of Florida. The school shall offer a
25 program of academic and artistic studies in the visual and
26 performing arts which shall be available to talented high
27 school and college students.

28 (2)(a) For purposes of governance, the New World
29 School of the Arts is assigned to Miami-Dade Community
30 College, the Dade County School District, and one or more
31 universities designated by the State Board of Education. The

1 State Board of Education shall assign to the New World School
2 of the Arts a university partner or partners. In this
3 selection, the State Board of Education shall consider the
4 accreditation status of the core programs. Florida
5 International University, in its capacity as the provider of
6 university services to Dade County, shall be a partner to
7 serve the New World School of the Arts, upon meeting the
8 accreditation criteria. The respective boards shall appoint
9 members to an executive board for administration of the
10 school. The executive board may include community members and
11 shall reflect proportionately the participating institutions.
12 Miami-Dade Community College shall serve as fiscal agent for
13 the school.

14 (b) The New World School of the Arts Foundation is
15 created for the purpose of providing auxiliary financial
16 support for the school's programs, including, but not limited
17 to, the promotion and sponsorship of special events and
18 scholarships. Foundation membership shall be determined by the
19 executive board.

20 (c) The school may affiliate with other public or
21 private educational or arts institutions. The school shall
22 serve as a professional school for all qualified students
23 within appropriations and limitations established by the
24 Legislature and the respective educational institutions.

25 (3) The school shall submit annually a formula-driven
26 budget request to the commissioner and the Legislature. This
27 formula shall be developed in consultation with the Department
28 of Education and staff of the Legislature. However, the actual
29 funding for the school shall be determined by the Legislature
30 in the General Appropriations Act.

31

1 (4) The State Board of Education shall utilize
2 resources, programs, and faculty from the various state
3 universities in planning and providing the curriculum and
4 courses at the New World School of the Arts, drawing on
5 program strengths at each state university.

6 Section 100. Section 1002.36, Florida Statutes, is
7 created to read:

8 1002.36 Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.--

9 (1) RESPONSIBILITIES.--The Florida School for the Deaf
10 and the Blind is a state-supported residential school for
11 hearing-impaired and visually impaired students in preschool
12 through 12th grade. The school is a part of the state system
13 of public education and shall be funded through the Department
14 of Education. The school shall provide educational programs
15 and support services appropriate to meet the education and
16 related evaluation and counseling needs of hearing-impaired
17 and visually impaired students in the state who meet
18 enrollment criteria. Education services may be provided on an
19 outreach basis for sensory-impaired children ages 0 through 5
20 years and their parents. Graduates of the Florida School for
21 the Deaf and the Blind shall be eligible for the William L.
22 Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant Program as provided in
23 s. 1009.89.

24 (2) MISSION.--The mission of the Florida School for
25 the Deaf and the Blind is to utilize all available talent,
26 energy, and resources to provide free appropriate public
27 education for eligible sensory-impaired students of Florida.
28 As a school of academic excellence, the school shall strive to
29 provide students an opportunity to maximize their individual
30 potential in a caring, safe, unique learning environment to
31 prepare them to be literate, employable, and independent

1 lifelong learners. The school shall encourage input from
2 students, staff, parents, and the community. As a diverse
3 organization, the school shall foster respect and
4 understanding for each individual.

5 (3) AUDITS.--The Auditor General shall audit the
6 Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind as provided in
7 chapter 11.

8 (4) BOARD OF TRUSTEES.--

9 (a) There is hereby created a Board of Trustees for
10 the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind which shall
11 consist of seven members. Of these seven members, one
12 appointee shall be a blind person and one appointee shall be a
13 deaf person. Each member shall have been a resident of the
14 state for a period of at least 10 years. Their terms of office
15 shall be 4 years. The appointment of the trustees shall be by
16 the Governor with the confirmation of the Senate. The Governor
17 may remove any member for cause and shall fill all vacancies
18 that occur.

19 (b) The board of trustees shall elect a chair
20 annually. The trustees shall be reimbursed for travel expenses
21 as provided in s. 112.061, the accounts of which shall be paid
22 by the Treasurer upon itemized vouchers duly approved by the
23 chair.

24 (c) The board of trustees has authority to adopt rules
25 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement provisions
26 of law relating to operation of the Florida School for the
27 Deaf and the Blind. Such rules shall be submitted to the State
28 Board of Education for approval or disapproval. If any rule is
29 not disapproved by the State Board of Education within 60 days
30 of its receipt by the State Board of Education, the rule shall
31 be filed immediately with the Department of State. The board

1 of trustees shall act at all times in conjunction with the
2 rules of the State Board of Education.

3 (d) The board of trustees is a body corporate and
4 shall have a corporate seal. Title to any gift, donation, or
5 bequest received by the board of trustees pursuant to
6 subsection (5) shall vest in the board of trustees. Title to
7 all other property and other assets of the Florida School for
8 the Deaf and the Blind shall vest in the State Board of
9 Education, but the board of trustees shall have complete
10 jurisdiction over the management of the school and is invested
11 with full power and authority to appoint a president, faculty,
12 teachers, and other employees and remove the same as in its
13 judgment may be best and fix their compensation; to procure
14 professional services, such as medical, mental health,
15 architectural, engineering, and legal services; to determine
16 eligibility of students and procedure for admission; to
17 provide for the students of the school necessary bedding,
18 clothing, food, and medical attendance and such other things
19 as may be proper for the health and comfort of the students
20 without cost to their parents, except that the board of
21 trustees may set tuition and other fees for nonresidents; to
22 provide for the proper keeping of accounts and records and for
23 budgeting of funds; to enter into contracts; to sue and be
24 sued; to secure public liability insurance; and to do and
25 perform every other matter or thing requisite to the proper
26 management, maintenance, support, and control of the school at
27 the highest efficiency economically possible, the board of
28 trustees taking into consideration the purposes of the
29 establishment.

30 (e)1. The board of trustees is authorized to receive
31 gifts, donations, and bequests of money or property, real or

1 personal, tangible or intangible, from any person, firm,
2 corporation, or other legal entity. However, the board of
3 trustees may not obligate the state to any expenditure or
4 policy that is not specifically authorized by law.

5 2. If the bill of sale, will, trust indenture, deed,
6 or other legal conveyance specifies terms and conditions
7 concerning the use of such money or property, the board of
8 trustees shall observe such terms and conditions.

9 3. The board of trustees may deposit outside the State
10 Treasury such moneys as are received as gifts, donations, or
11 bequests and may disburse and expend such moneys, upon its own
12 warrant, for the use and benefit of the Florida School for the
13 Deaf and the Blind and its students, as the board of trustees
14 deems to be in the best interest of the school and its
15 students. Such money or property shall not constitute or be
16 considered a part of any legislative appropriation, and such
17 money shall not be used to compensate any person for engaging
18 in lobbying activities before the House of Representatives or
19 Senate or any committee thereof.

20 4. The board of trustees may sell or convey by bill of
21 sale, deed, or other legal instrument any property, real or
22 personal, received as a gift, donation, or bequest, upon such
23 terms and conditions as the board of trustees deems to be in
24 the best interest of the school and its students.

25 5. The board of trustees may invest such moneys in
26 securities enumerated under s. 215.47, and in The Common Fund,
27 an Investment Management Fund exclusively for nonprofit
28 educational institutions.

29 (f) The board of trustees shall:
30
31

1 1. Prepare and submit legislative budget requests,
2 including fixed capital outlay requests, in accordance with
3 chapter 216 and s. 1013.60.

4 2. Administer and maintain personnel programs for all
5 employees of the board of trustees and the Florida School for
6 the Deaf and the Blind who shall be state employees, including
7 the personnel classification and pay plan established in
8 accordance with ss. 110.205(2)(d) and 216.251(2)(a)2. for
9 academic and academic administrative personnel, the provisions
10 of chapter 110, and the provisions of law that grant authority
11 to the Department of Management Services over such programs
12 for state employees.

13 3. Adopt a master plan which specifies the mission and
14 objectives of the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.
15 The plan shall include, but not be limited to, procedures for
16 systematically measuring the school's progress toward meeting
17 its objectives, analyzing changes in the student population,
18 and modifying school programs and services to respond to such
19 changes. The plan shall be for a period of 5 years and shall
20 be reviewed for needed modifications every 2 years. The board
21 of trustees shall submit the initial plan and subsequent
22 modifications to the Speaker of the House of Representatives
23 and the President of the Senate.

24 4. Seek the advice of the Division of Public Schools
25 within the Department of Education.

26 (g) The Board of Trustees for the Florida School for
27 the Deaf and the Blind, located in St. Johns County, shall
28 designate a portion of the school as "The Verle Allyn Pope
29 Complex for the Deaf," in tribute to the late Senator Verle
30 Allyn Pope.

31

1 (5) STUDENT AND EMPLOYEE PERSONNEL RECORDS.--The Board
2 of Trustees for the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind
3 shall provide for the content and custody of student and
4 employee personnel records. Student records shall be subject
5 to the provisions of s. 1002.22. Employee personnel records
6 shall be subject to the provisions of s. 1012.31.

7 (6) USE OF OUT-OF-STATE EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES,
8 FINANCING.--

9 (a) The Board of Trustees for the Florida School for
10 the Deaf and the Blind may expend funds for the purpose of
11 sending children under the age of 20 years, who are deaf as
12 well as blind, and for whom there are no facilities for
13 education in this state, to any school, institution, or other
14 place outside the state that provides a qualified program of
15 education for such children. Such funds may be spent for room,
16 board, tuition, transportation, and other items that are
17 necessarily relevant to the education of such children.

18 (b) In interpreting and carrying out the provisions of
19 this act, the words "deaf-blind children," wherever used, will
20 be construed to include any child whose combination of
21 disabilities of deafness and blindness would prevent him or
22 her from profiting satisfactorily from educational programs
23 provided for the blind child or the deaf child.

24 (c) The Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind may
25 determine if such children should be sent to such out-of-state
26 places, and the board of trustees may adopt rules necessary to
27 carry out the purposes and intents of this section.

28 (7) LEGAL SERVICES.--The Board of Trustees for the
29 Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind may provide legal
30 services for officers and employees of the board of trustees
31 who are charged with civil or criminal actions arising out of

1 and in the course of the performance of assigned duties and
2 responsibilities. The board of trustees may provide for
3 reimbursement of reasonable expenses for legal services for
4 officers and employees of said board of trustees who are
5 charged with civil or criminal actions arising out of and in
6 the course of the performance of assigned duties and
7 responsibilities upon successful defense by the officer or
8 employee. However, in any case in which the officer or
9 employee pleads guilty or nolo contendere or is found guilty
10 of any such action, the officer or employee shall reimburse
11 the board of trustees for any legal services that the board of
12 trustees may have supplied pursuant to this section. The
13 board of trustees may also reimburse an officer or employee
14 thereof for any judgment that may be entered against him or
15 her in a civil action arising out of and in the course of the
16 performance of his or her assigned duties and
17 responsibilities. Each expenditure by the board of trustees
18 for legal defense of an officer or employee, or for
19 reimbursement pursuant to this section, shall be made at a
20 public meeting with notice pursuant to s. 120.525(1). The
21 providing of such legal services or reimbursement under the
22 conditions described in this subsection is declared to be a
23 school purpose for which school funds may be expended.

24 (8) PERSONNEL SCREENING.--

25 (a) The Board of Trustees of the Florida School for
26 the Deaf and the Blind shall, because of the special trust or
27 responsibility of employees of the school, require all
28 employees and applicants for employment to undergo personnel
29 screening and security background investigations as provided
30 in chapter 435, using the level 2 standards for screening set
31 forth in that chapter, as a condition of employment and

1 continued employment. The cost of a personnel screening and
2 security background investigation for an employee of the
3 school shall be paid by the school. The cost of such a
4 screening and investigation for an applicant for employment
5 may be paid by the school.

6 (b) As a prerequisite for initial and continuing
7 employment at the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind:

8 1. The applicant or employee shall submit to the
9 Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind a complete set of
10 fingerprints taken by an authorized law enforcement agency or
11 an employee of the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind
12 who is trained to take fingerprints. The Florida School for
13 the Deaf and the Blind shall submit the fingerprints to the
14 Department of Law Enforcement for state processing and the
15 Federal Bureau of Investigation for federal processing.

16 2.a. The applicant or employee shall attest to the
17 minimum standards for good moral character as contained in
18 chapter 435, using the level 2 standards set forth in that
19 chapter under penalty of perjury.

20 b. New personnel shall be on a probationary status
21 pending a determination of compliance with such minimum
22 standards for good moral character. This paragraph is in
23 addition to any probationary status provided for by Florida
24 law or Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind rules or
25 collective bargaining contracts.

26 3. The Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind shall
27 review the record of the applicant or employee with respect to
28 the crimes contained in s. 435.04 and shall notify the
29 applicant or employee of its findings. When disposition
30 information is missing on a criminal record, it shall be the
31 responsibility of the applicant or employee, upon request of

1 the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, to obtain and
2 supply within 30 days the missing disposition information to
3 the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind. Failure to
4 supply missing information within 30 days or to show
5 reasonable efforts to obtain such information shall result in
6 automatic disqualification of an applicant and automatic
7 termination of an employee.

8 4. After an initial personnel screening and security
9 background investigation, written notification shall be given
10 to the affected employee within a reasonable time prior to any
11 subsequent screening and investigation.

12 (c) The Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind may
13 grant exemptions from disqualification as provided in s.
14 435.07.

15 (d) The Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind may
16 not use the criminal records, private investigator findings,
17 or information reference checks obtained by the school
18 pursuant to this section for any purpose other than
19 determining if a person meets the minimum standards for good
20 moral character for personnel employed by the school. The
21 criminal records, private investigator findings, and
22 information from reference checks obtained by the Florida
23 School for the Deaf and the Blind for determining the moral
24 character of employees of the school are confidential and
25 exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art.
26 I of the State Constitution.

27 (e) It is a misdemeanor of the first degree,
28 punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083, for any
29 person willfully, knowingly, or intentionally to:

30 1. Fail, by false statement, misrepresentation,
31 impersonation, or other fraudulent means, to disclose in any

1 application for voluntary or paid employment a material fact
2 used in making a determination as to such person's
3 qualifications for a position of special trust.

4 2. Use the criminal records, private investigator
5 findings, or information from reference checks obtained under
6 this section or information obtained from such records or
7 findings for purposes other than screening for employment or
8 release such information or records to persons for purposes
9 other than screening for employment.

10 (9) CAMPUS POLICE.--

11 (a) The Board of Trustees for the Florida School for
12 the Deaf and the Blind is permitted and empowered to employ
13 police officers for the school, who must be designated Florida
14 School for the Deaf and the Blind campus police.

15 (b) Each Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind
16 campus police officer is a law enforcement officer of the
17 state and a conservator of the peace who has the authority to
18 arrest, in accordance with the laws of this state, any person
19 for a violation of state law or applicable county or municipal
20 ordinance if that violation occurs on or in any property or
21 facilities of the school. A campus police officer may also
22 arrest a person off campus for a violation committed on campus
23 after a hot pursuit of that person which began on campus. A
24 campus police officer shall have full authority to bear arms
25 in the performance of the officer's duties and carry out a
26 search pursuant to a search warrant on the campus. Florida
27 School for the Deaf and the Blind campus police, upon request
28 of the sheriff or local police authority, may serve subpoenas
29 or other legal process and may make arrests of persons against
30 whom arrest warrants have been issued or against whom charges

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1 have been made for violations of federal or state laws or
2 county or municipal ordinances.

3 (c) The campus police shall promptly deliver all
4 persons arrested and charged with felonies to the sheriff of
5 the county within which the school is located and all persons
6 arrested and charged with misdemeanors to the applicable
7 authority as provided by law, but otherwise to the sheriff of
8 the county in which the school is located.

9 (d) The campus police must meet the minimum standards
10 established by the Criminal Justice Standards and Training
11 Commission of the Department of Law Enforcement and chapter
12 943 for law enforcement officers. Each campus police officer
13 must, before entering into the performance of the officer's
14 duties, take the oath of office established by the board of
15 trustees. The board of trustees may obtain and approve a bond
16 on each campus police officer, conditioned upon the officer's
17 faithful performance of the officer's duties, which bond must
18 be payable to the Governor. The board of trustees may
19 determine the amount of the bond. In determining the amount of
20 the bond, the board may consider the amount of money or
21 property likely to be in the custody of the officer at any one
22 time. The board of trustees must provide a uniform set of
23 identifying credentials to each campus police officer it
24 employs.

25 (e) In performance of any of the powers, duties, and
26 functions authorized by law, campus police have the same
27 rights, protections, and immunities afforded other law
28 enforcement officers.

29 (f) The board of trustees shall adopt rules,
30 including, without limitation, rules for the appointment,
31 employment, and removal of campus police in accordance with

1 the State Career Service System and shall establish in writing
2 a policy manual, that includes, without limitation, procedures
3 for managing routine law enforcement situations and emergency
4 law enforcement situations. The board of trustees shall
5 furnish a copy of the policy manual to each of the campus
6 police officers it employs. A campus police officer appointed
7 by the board of trustees must have completed the training
8 required by the school in the special needs and proper
9 procedures for dealing with students served by the school.

10 (10) REPORT OF CAMPUS CRIME STATISTICS.--

11 (a) The school shall prepare an annual report of
12 statistics of crimes committed on its campus and shall submit
13 the report to the board of trustees and the Commissioner of
14 Education. The data for these reports may be taken from the
15 annual report of the Department of Law Enforcement. The board
16 of trustees shall prescribe the form for submission of these
17 reports.

18 (b) The school shall prepare annually a report of
19 statistics of crimes committed on its campus for the preceding
20 3 years. The school shall give students and prospective
21 students notice that this report is available upon request.

22 Section 101. Section 1002.37, Florida Statutes, is
23 created to read:

24 1002.37 The Florida Virtual School.--

25 (1)(a) The Florida Virtual School is established for
26 the development and delivery of on-line and distance learning
27 education and shall be administratively housed within the
28 Commissioner of Education's Office of Technology and
29 Information Services. The Commissioner of Education shall
30 monitor the school's performance and report its performance to
31 the State Board of Education and the Legislature.

1 (b) The mission of the Florida Virtual School is to
2 provide students with technology-based educational
3 opportunities to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to
4 succeed. The school shall serve any student in the state who
5 meets the profile for success in this educational delivery
6 context and shall give priority to:

7 1. Students who need expanded access to courses in
8 order to meet their educational goals, such as home education
9 students and students in inner-city and rural high schools who
10 do not have access to higher-level courses.

11 2. Students seeking accelerated access in order to
12 obtain a high school diploma at least one semester early.

13 (c) To ensure students are informed of the
14 opportunities offered by the Florida Virtual School, the
15 commissioner shall provide the board of trustees of the
16 Florida Virtual School access to the records of public school
17 students in a format prescribed by the board of trustees.

18
19 The board of trustees of the Florida Virtual School shall
20 identify appropriate performance measures and standards based
21 on student achievement that reflect the school's statutory
22 mission and priorities, and shall implement an accountability
23 system for the school that includes assessment of its
24 effectiveness and efficiency in providing quality services
25 that encourage high student achievement, seamless
26 articulation, and maximum access.

27 (2) The Florida Virtual School shall be governed by a
28 board of trustees comprised of seven members appointed by the
29 Governor to 4-year staggered terms. The board of trustees
30 shall be a public agency entitled to sovereign immunity
31 pursuant to s. 768.28, and board members shall be public

1 officers who shall bear fiduciary responsibility for the
2 Florida Virtual School. The board of trustees shall have the
3 following powers and duties:

4 (a)1. The board of trustees shall meet at least 4
5 times each year, upon the call of the chair, or at the request
6 of a majority of the membership.

7 2. The fiscal year for the Florida Virtual School
8 shall be the state fiscal year as provided in s.
9 216.011(1)(o).

10 (b) The board of trustees shall be responsible for the
11 Florida Virtual School's development of a state-of-the-art
12 technology-based education delivery system that is
13 cost-effective, educationally sound, marketable, and capable
14 of sustaining a self-sufficient delivery system through the
15 Florida Education Finance Program, by fiscal year 2003-2004.
16 The school shall collect and report data for all students
17 served and credit awarded. This data shall be segregated by
18 private, public, and home education students by program.
19 Information shall also be collected that reflects any other
20 school in which a virtual school student is enrolled.

21 (c) The board of trustees shall aggressively seek
22 avenues to generate revenue to support its future endeavors,
23 and shall enter into agreements with distance learning
24 providers. The board of trustees may acquire, enjoy, use, and
25 dispose of patents, copyrights, and trademarks and any
26 licenses and other rights or interests thereunder or therein.
27 Ownership of all such patents, copyrights, trademarks,
28 licenses, and rights or interests thereunder or therein shall
29 vest in the state, with the board of trustees having full
30 right of use and full right to retain the revenues derived
31 therefrom. Any funds realized from patents, copyrights,

1 trademarks, or licenses shall be used to support the school's
2 marketing and research and development activities in order to
3 improve courseware and services to its students.

4 (d) The board of trustees shall annually prepare and
5 submit to the State Board of Education a legislative budget
6 request, including funding requests for computers for public
7 school students who do not have access to public school
8 computers, in accordance with chapter 216 and s. 1013.60. The
9 legislative budget request of the Florida Virtual School shall
10 be prepared using the same format, procedures, and timelines
11 required for the submission of the legislative budget of the
12 Department of Education. Nothing in this section shall be
13 construed to guarantee a computer to any individual student.

14 (e) In accordance with law and rules of the State
15 Board of Education, the board of trustees shall administer and
16 maintain personnel programs for all employees of the board of
17 trustees and the Florida Virtual School. The board of trustees
18 may adopt rules, policies, and procedures related to the
19 appointment, employment, and removal of personnel.

20 1. The board of trustees shall determine the
21 compensation, including salaries and fringe benefits, and
22 other conditions of employment for such personnel.

23 2. The board of trustees may establish and maintain a
24 personnel loan or exchange program by which persons employed
25 by the board of trustees for the Florida Virtual School as
26 academic administrative and instructional staff may be loaned
27 to, or exchanged with persons employed in like capacities by,
28 public agencies either within or without this state, or by
29 private industry. With respect to public agency employees, the
30 program authorized by this subparagraph shall be consistent
31 with the requirements of part II of chapter 112. The salary

1 and benefits of board of trustees personnel participating in
2 the loan or exchange program shall be continued during the
3 period of time they participate in a loan or exchange program,
4 and such personnel shall be deemed to have no break in
5 creditable or continuous service or employment during such
6 time. The salary and benefits of persons participating in the
7 personnel loan or exchange program who are employed by public
8 agencies or private industry shall be paid by the originating
9 employers of those participants, and such personnel shall be
10 deemed to have no break in creditable or continuous service or
11 employment during such time.

12 3. The employment of all Florida Virtual School
13 academic administrative and instructional personnel shall be
14 subject to rejection for cause by the board of trustees, and
15 shall be subject to policies of the board of trustees relative
16 to certification, tenure, leaves of absence, sabbaticals,
17 remuneration, and such other conditions of employment as the
18 board of trustees deems necessary and proper, not inconsistent
19 with law.

20 4. Each person employed by the board of trustees in an
21 academic administrative or instructional capacity with the
22 Florida Virtual School shall be entitled to a contract as
23 provided by rules of the board of trustees.

24 5. All employees except temporary, seasonal, and
25 student employees may be state employees for the purpose of
26 being eligible to participate in the Florida Retirement System
27 and receive benefits. The classification and pay plan,
28 including terminal leave and other benefits, and any
29 amendments thereto, shall be subject to review and approval by
30 the Department of Management Services and the Executive Office
31 of the Governor prior to adoption. In the event that the board

1 of trustees assumes responsibility for governance pursuant to
2 this section before approval is obtained, employees shall be
3 compensated pursuant to the system in effect for the employees
4 of the fiscal agent.

5 (f) The board of trustees shall establish priorities
6 for admission of students in accordance with paragraph (1)(b).

7 (g) The board of trustees shall establish and
8 distribute to all school districts and high schools in the
9 state procedures for enrollment of students in courses offered
10 by the Florida Virtual School. Such procedures shall be
11 designed to minimize paperwork and fairly resolve the issue of
12 double funding students taking courses online.

13 (h) The board of trustees shall annually submit to the
14 State Board of Education both forecasted and actual
15 enrollments for the Florida Virtual School, according to
16 procedures established by the State Board of Education. At a
17 minimum, such procedures must include the number of public,
18 private, and home education students served by district.

19 (i) The board of trustees shall provide for the
20 content and custody of student and employee personnel records.
21 Student records shall be subject to the provisions of s.
22 1002.22. Employee records shall be subject to the provisions
23 of s. 1012.31.

24 (j) The financial records and accounts of the Florida
25 Virtual School shall be maintained under the direction of the
26 board of trustees and under rules adopted by the State Board
27 of Education for the uniform system of financial records and
28 accounts for the schools of the state.

29
30 The Governor shall designate the initial chair of the board of
31 trustees to serve a term of 4 years. Members of the board of

1 trustees shall serve without compensation, but may be
2 reimbursed for per diem and travel expenses pursuant to s.
3 112.061. The board of trustees shall be a body corporate with
4 all the powers of a body corporate and such authority as is
5 needed for the proper operation and improvement of the Florida
6 Virtual School. The board of trustees is specifically
7 authorized to adopt rules, policies, and procedures,
8 consistent with law and rules of the State Board of Education
9 related to governance, personnel, budget and finance,
10 administration, programs, curriculum and instruction, travel
11 and purchasing, technology, students, contracts and grants,
12 and property as necessary for optimal, efficient operation of
13 the Florida Virtual School. Tangible personal property owned
14 by the board of trustees shall be subject to the provisions of
15 chapter 273.

16 (3)(a) Until fiscal year 2003-2004, the Commissioner
17 of Education shall include the Florida Virtual School as a
18 grant-in-aid appropriation in the department's legislative
19 budget request to the State Board of Education, the Governor,
20 and the Legislature, subject to any guidelines imposed in the
21 General Appropriations Act.

22 (b) The Orange County District School Board shall be
23 the temporary fiscal agent of the Florida Virtual School.

24 (4) Under no circumstance may the credit of the state
25 be pledged on behalf of the Florida Virtual School.

26 (5) The board of trustees shall annually submit to the
27 Governor, the Legislature, the Commissioner of Education, and
28 the State Board of Education a complete and detailed report
29 setting forth:

30 (a) The operations and accomplishments of the Florida
31 Virtual School.

1 (b) The marketing and operational plan for the Florida
2 Virtual School, including recommendations regarding methods
3 for improving the delivery of education through the Internet
4 and other distance learning technology.

5 (c) The assets and liabilities of the Florida Virtual
6 School at the end of the fiscal year.

7 (d) A copy of an annual financial and compliance audit
8 of the accounts and records of the Florida Virtual School,
9 conducted by an independent certified public accountant and
10 performed in accordance with rules adopted by the Auditor
11 General.

12 (e) Recommendations regarding the unit cost of
13 providing services to students. In order to most effectively
14 develop public policy regarding any future funding of the
15 Florida Virtual School, it is imperative that the cost of the
16 program is accurately identified. The identified cost of the
17 program must be based on reliable data.

18 (f) Recommendations regarding an accountability
19 mechanism to assess the effectiveness of the services provided
20 by the Florida Virtual School.

21 (6) The State Board of Education may adopt rules it
22 deems necessary to implement reporting requirements for the
23 Florida Virtual School.

24 Section 102. Section 1002.38, Florida Statutes, is
25 created to read:

26 1002.38 Opportunity Scholarship Program.--

27 (1) FINDINGS AND INTENT.--The purpose of this section
28 is to provide enhanced opportunity for students in this state
29 to gain the knowledge and skills necessary for postsecondary
30 education, a technical education, or the world of work. The
31 Legislature recognizes that the voters of the State of

1 Florida, in the November 1998 general election, amended s. 1,
2 Art. IX of the Florida Constitution so as to make education a
3 paramount duty of the state. The Legislature finds that the
4 State Constitution requires the state to provide a uniform,
5 safe, secure, efficient, and high-quality system which allows
6 the opportunity to obtain a high-quality education. The
7 Legislature further finds that a student should not be
8 compelled, against the wishes of the student's parent, to
9 remain in a school found by the state to be failing for 2
10 years in a 4-year period. The Legislature shall make available
11 opportunity scholarships in order to give parents the
12 opportunity for their children to attend a public school that
13 is performing satisfactorily or to attend an eligible private
14 school when the parent chooses to apply the equivalent of the
15 public education funds generated by his or her child to the
16 cost of tuition in the eligible private school as provided in
17 paragraph (6)(a). Eligibility of a private school shall
18 include the control and accountability requirements that,
19 coupled with the exercise of parental choice, are reasonably
20 necessary to secure the educational public purpose, as
21 delineated in subsection (4).

22 (2) OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY.--A public
23 school student's parent may request and receive from the state
24 an opportunity scholarship for the student to enroll in and
25 attend a private school in accordance with the provisions of
26 this section if:

27 (a)1. By assigned school attendance area or by special
28 assignment, the student has spent the prior school year in
29 attendance at a public school that has been designated
30 pursuant to s. 1008.34 as performance grade category "F,"
31 failing to make adequate progress, and that has had two school

1 years in a 4-year period of such low performance, and the
2 student's attendance occurred during a school year in which
3 such designation was in effect;

4 2. The student has been in attendance elsewhere in the
5 public school system and has been assigned to such school for
6 the next school year; or

7 3. The student is entering kindergarten or first grade
8 and has been notified that the student has been assigned to
9 such school for the next school year.

10 (b) The parent has obtained acceptance for admission
11 of the student to a private school eligible for the program
12 pursuant to subsection (4), and has notified the Department of
13 Education and the school district of the request for an
14 opportunity scholarship no later than July 1 of the first year
15 in which the student intends to use the scholarship.

16
17 The provisions of this section shall not apply to a student
18 who is enrolled in a school operating for the purpose of
19 providing educational services to youth in Department of
20 Juvenile Justice commitment programs. For purposes of
21 continuity of educational choice, the opportunity scholarship
22 shall remain in force until the student returns to a public
23 school or, if the student chooses to attend a private school
24 the highest grade of which is grade 8, until the student
25 matriculates to high school and the public high school to
26 which the student is assigned is an accredited school with a
27 performance grade category designation of "C" or better.
28 However, at any time upon reasonable notice to the Department
29 of Education and the school district, the student's parent may
30 remove the student from the private school and place the
31

1 student in a public school, as provided in subparagraph
2 (3)(a)2.

3 (3) SCHOOL DISTRICT OBLIGATIONS.--

4 (a) A school district shall, for each student enrolled
5 in or assigned to a school that has been designated as
6 performance grade category "F" for 2 school years in a 4-year
7 period:

8 1. Timely notify the parent of the student as soon as
9 such designation is made of all options available pursuant to
10 this section.

11 2. Offer that student's parent an opportunity to
12 enroll the student in the public school within the district
13 that has been designated by the state pursuant to s. 1008.34
14 as a school performing higher than that in which the student
15 is currently enrolled or to which the student has been
16 assigned, but not less than performance grade category "C."
17 The parent is not required to accept this offer in lieu of
18 requesting a state opportunity scholarship to a private
19 school. The opportunity to continue attending the higher
20 performing public school shall remain in force until the
21 student graduates from high school.

22 (b) The parent of a student enrolled in or assigned to
23 a school that has been designated performance grade category
24 "F" for 2 school years in a 4-year period may choose as an
25 alternative to enroll the student in and transport the student
26 to a higher-performing public school that has available space
27 in an adjacent school district, and that school district shall
28 accept the student and report the student for purposes of the
29 district's funding pursuant to the Florida Education Finance
30 Program.

31

1 (c) For students in the school district who are
2 participating in the state Opportunity Scholarship Program,
3 the school district shall provide locations and times to take
4 all statewide assessments required pursuant to s. 1008.22.

5 (d) Students with disabilities who are eligible to
6 receive services from the school district under federal or
7 state law, and who participate in this program, remain
8 eligible to receive services from the school district as
9 provided by federal or state law.

10 (e) If for any reason a qualified private school is
11 not available for the student or if the parent chooses to
12 request that the student be enrolled in the higher performing
13 public school, rather than choosing to request the state
14 opportunity scholarship, transportation costs to the higher
15 performing public school shall be the responsibility of the
16 school district. The district may utilize state categorical
17 transportation funds or state-appropriated public school
18 choice incentive funds for this purpose.

19 (4) PRIVATE SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY.--To be eligible to
20 participate in the Opportunity Scholarship Program, a private
21 school must be a Florida private school, may be sectarian or
22 nonsectarian, and must:

23 (a) Demonstrate fiscal soundness by being in operation
24 for 1 school year or provide the Department of Education with
25 a statement by a certified public accountant confirming that
26 the private school desiring to participate is insured and the
27 owner or owners have sufficient capital or credit to operate
28 the school for the upcoming year serving the number of
29 students anticipated with expected revenues from tuition and
30 other sources that may be reasonably expected. In lieu of such
31 a statement, a surety bond or letter of credit for the amount

1 equal to the opportunity scholarship funds for any quarter may
2 be filed with the department.

3 (b) Notify the Department of Education and the school
4 district in whose service area the school is located of its
5 intent to participate in the program under this section by May
6 1 of the school year preceding the school year in which it
7 intends to participate. The notice shall specify the grade
8 levels and services that the private school has available for
9 the Opportunity Scholarship Program.

10 (c) Comply with the antidiscrimination provisions of
11 42 U.S.C. s. 2000d.

12 (d) Meet state and local health and safety laws and
13 codes.

14 (e) Accept scholarship students on an entirely random
15 and religious-neutral basis without regard to the student's
16 past academic history; however, the private school may give
17 preference in accepting applications to siblings of students
18 who have already been accepted on a random and
19 religious-neutral basis.

20 (f) Be subject to the instruction, curriculum, and
21 attendance criteria adopted by an appropriate nonpublic school
22 accrediting body and be academically accountable to the parent
23 for meeting the educational needs of the student. The private
24 school must furnish a school profile which includes student
25 performance.

26 (g) Employ or contract with teachers who hold a
27 baccalaureate or higher degree, or have at least 3 years of
28 teaching experience in public or private schools, or have
29 special skills, knowledge, or expertise that qualifies them to
30 provide instruction in subjects taught.

31

- 1 (h) Comply with all state statutes relating to private
2 schools.
- 3 (i) Accept as full tuition and fees the amount
4 provided by the state for each student.
- 5 (j) Agree not to compel any student attending the
6 private school on an opportunity scholarship to profess a
7 specific ideological belief, to pray, or to worship.
- 8 (k) Adhere to the tenets of its published disciplinary
9 procedures prior to the expulsion of any opportunity
10 scholarship student.
- 11 (5) OBLIGATION OF PROGRAM PARTICIPATION.--
- 12 (a) Any student participating in the Opportunity
13 Scholarship Program must remain in attendance throughout the
14 school year, unless excused by the school for illness or other
15 good cause, and must comply fully with the school's code of
16 conduct.
- 17 (b) The parent of each student participating in the
18 Opportunity Scholarship Program must comply fully with the
19 private school's parental involvement requirements, unless
20 excused by the school for illness or other good cause.
- 21 (c) The parent shall ensure that the student
22 participating in the Opportunity Scholarship Program takes all
23 statewide assessments required pursuant to s. 1008.22.
- 24 (d) A participant who fails to comply with this
25 subsection shall forfeit the opportunity scholarship.
- 26 (6) OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING AND PAYMENT.--
- 27 (a) The maximum opportunity scholarship granted for an
28 eligible student shall be a calculated amount equivalent to
29 the base student allocation in the Florida Education Finance
30 Program multiplied by the appropriate cost factor for the
31 educational program that would have been provided for the

1 student in the district school to which he or she was
2 assigned, multiplied by the district cost differential. In
3 addition, the calculated amount shall include the per-student
4 share of instructional materials funds, technology funds, and
5 other categorical funds as provided for this purpose in the
6 General Appropriations Act.

7 (b) The amount of the opportunity scholarship shall be
8 the calculated amount or the amount of the private school's
9 tuition and fees, whichever is less. Fees eligible shall
10 include textbook fees, lab fees, and other fees related to
11 instruction, including transportation.

12 (c) The school district shall report all students who
13 are attending a private school under this program. The
14 students attending private schools on opportunity scholarships
15 shall be reported separately from those students reported for
16 purposes of the Florida Education Finance Program.

17 (d) The public or private school that provides
18 services to students with disabilities shall receive the
19 weighted funding for such services at the appropriate funding
20 level consistent with the provisions of s. 1011.62(1)(e).

21 (e) For purposes of calculating the opportunity
22 scholarship, a student will be eligible for the amount of the
23 appropriate basic cost factor if:

24 1. The student currently participates in a Group I
25 program funded at the basic cost factor and is not
26 subsequently identified as having a disability; or

27 2. The student currently participates in a Group II
28 program and the parent has chosen a private school that does
29 not provide the additional services funded by the Group II
30 program.

31

1 (f) Following annual notification on July 1 of the
2 number of participants, the Department of Education shall
3 transfer from each school district's appropriated funds the
4 calculated amount from the Florida Education Finance Program
5 and authorized categorical accounts to a separate account for
6 the Opportunity Scholarship Program for quarterly disbursement
7 to the parents of participating students.

8 (g) Upon proper documentation reviewed and approved by
9 the Department of Education, the Comptroller shall make
10 opportunity scholarship payments in four equal amounts no
11 later than September 1, November 1, February 1, and April 1 of
12 each academic year in which the opportunity scholarship is in
13 force. The initial payment shall be made after Department of
14 Education verification of admission acceptance, and subsequent
15 payments shall be made upon verification of continued
16 enrollment and attendance at the private school. Payment must
17 be by individual warrant made payable to the student's parent
18 and mailed by the Department of Education to the private
19 school of the parent's choice, and the parent shall
20 restrictively endorse the warrant to the private school.

21 (7) LIABILITY.--No liability shall arise on the part
22 of the state based on any grant or use of an opportunity
23 scholarship.

24 (8) RULES.--The State Board of Education may adopt
25 rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the
26 provisions of this section. Rules shall include penalties for
27 noncompliance with subsections (3) and (5). However, the
28 inclusion of eligible private schools within options available
29 to Florida public school students does not expand the
30 regulatory authority of the state, its officers, or any school
31 district to impose any additional regulation of private

1 schools beyond those reasonably necessary to enforce
2 requirements expressly set forth in this section.

3 Section 103. Section 1002.39, Florida Statutes, is
4 created to read:

5 1002.39 The John M. McKay Scholarships for Students
6 with Disabilities Program.--There is established a program
7 that is separate and distinct from the Opportunity Scholarship
8 Program and is named the John M. McKay Scholarships for
9 Students with Disabilities Program, pursuant to this section.

10 (1) THE JOHN M. MCKAY SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS WITH
11 DISABILITIES PROGRAM.--The John M. McKay Scholarships for
12 Students with Disabilities Program is established to provide
13 the option to attend a public school other than the one to
14 which assigned, or to provide a scholarship to a private
15 school of choice, for students with disabilities for whom an
16 individual education plan has been written in accordance with
17 rules of the State Board of Education. Students with
18 disabilities include K-12 students who are mentally
19 handicapped, speech and language impaired, deaf or hard of
20 hearing, visually impaired, dual sensory impaired, physically
21 impaired, emotionally handicapped, specific learning disabled,
22 hospitalized or homebound, or autistic.

23 (2) SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY.--The parent of a public
24 school student with a disability who is dissatisfied with the
25 student's progress may request and receive from the state a
26 John M. McKay Scholarship for the child to enroll in and
27 attend a private school in accordance with this section if:

28 (a) By assigned school attendance area or by special
29 assignment, the student has spent the prior school year in
30 attendance at a Florida public school. Prior school year in
31 attendance means that the student was enrolled and reported by

1 a school district for funding during the preceding October and
2 February Florida Education Finance Program surveys in
3 kindergarten through grade 12.

4 (b) The parent has obtained acceptance for admission
5 of the student to a private school that is eligible for the
6 program under subsection (4) and has notified, in writing, the
7 school district of the request for a scholarship at least 60
8 days prior to the date of the first scholarship payment.

9
10 This section does not apply to a student who is enrolled in a
11 school operating for the purpose of providing educational
12 services to youth in Department of Juvenile Justice commitment
13 programs. For purposes of continuity of educational choice,
14 the scholarship shall remain in force until the student
15 returns to a public school or graduates from high school.
16 However, at any time, the student's parent may remove the
17 student from the private school and place the student in
18 another private school that is eligible for the program under
19 subsection (4) or in a public school as provided in subsection
20 (3).

21 (3) SCHOOL DISTRICT AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
22 OBLIGATIONS.--

23 (a) A school district shall timely notify the parent
24 of the student of all options available pursuant to this
25 section and offer that student's parent an opportunity to
26 enroll the student in another public school within the
27 district. The parent is not required to accept this offer in
28 lieu of requesting a John M. McKay Scholarship to a private
29 school. However, if the parent chooses the public school
30 option, the student may continue attending a public school
31 chosen by the parent until the student graduates from high

1 school. If the parent chooses a public school consistent with
2 the district school board's choice plan under s. 1002.31, the
3 school district shall provide transportation to the public
4 school selected by the parent. The parent is responsible to
5 provide transportation to a public school chosen that is not
6 consistent with the district school board's choice plan under
7 s. 1002.31.

8 (b) For a student with disabilities who does not have
9 a matrix of services under s. 1011.62(1)(e), the school
10 district must complete a matrix that assigns the student to
11 one of the levels of service as they existed prior to the
12 2000-2001 school year. The school district must complete the
13 matrix of services for any student who is participating in the
14 John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities
15 Program and must notify the Department of Education of the
16 student's matrix level within 30 days after receiving
17 notification by the student's parent of intent to participate
18 in the scholarship program. The Department of Education shall
19 notify the private school of the amount of the scholarship
20 within 10 days after receiving the school district's
21 notification of the student's matrix level. Within 10 school
22 days after it receives notification of a parent's intent to
23 apply for a McKay Scholarship, a district school board must
24 notify the student's parent if the matrix has not been
25 completed and provide the parent with the date for completion
26 of the matrix required in this paragraph.

27 (c) If the parent chooses the private school option
28 and the student is accepted by the private school pending the
29 availability of a space for the student, the parent of the
30 student must notify the school district 60 days prior to the
31 first scholarship payment and before entering the private

1 school in order to be eligible for the scholarship when a
2 space becomes available for the student in the private school.

3 (d) The parent of a student may choose, as an
4 alternative, to enroll the student in and transport the
5 student to a public school in an adjacent school district
6 which has available space and has a program with the services
7 agreed to in the student's individual education plan already
8 in place, and that school district shall accept the student
9 and report the student for purposes of the district's funding
10 pursuant to the Florida Education Finance Program.

11 (e) For a student in the district who participates in
12 the John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities
13 Program whose parent requests that the student take the
14 statewide assessments under s. 1008.22, the district shall
15 provide locations and times to take all statewide assessments.

16 (f) A school district must notify the Department of
17 Education within 10 days after it receives notification of a
18 parent's intent to apply for a scholarship for a student with
19 a disability. A school district must provide the student's
20 parent with the student's matrix level within 10 school days
21 after its completion.

22 (4) PRIVATE SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY.--To be eligible to
23 participate in the John M. McKay Scholarships for Students
24 with Disabilities Program, a private school must be a Florida
25 private school, may be sectarian or nonsectarian, and must:

26 (a) Demonstrate fiscal soundness by being in operation
27 for 1 school year or provide the Department of Education with
28 a statement by a certified public accountant confirming that
29 the private school desiring to participate is insured and the
30 owner or owners have sufficient capital or credit to operate
31 the school for the upcoming year serving the number of

1 students anticipated with expected revenues from tuition and
2 other sources that may be reasonably expected. In lieu of such
3 a statement, a surety bond or letter of credit for the amount
4 equal to the scholarship funds for any quarter may be filed
5 with the department.

6 (b) Notify the Department of Education of its intent
7 to participate in the program under this section by May 1 of
8 the school year preceding the school year in which it intends
9 to participate. The notice must specify the grade levels and
10 services that the private school has available for students
11 with disabilities who are participating in the scholarship
12 program.

13 (c) Comply with the antidiscrimination provisions of
14 42 U.S.C. s. 2000d.

15 (d) Meet state and local health and safety laws and
16 codes.

17 (e) Be academically accountable to the parent for
18 meeting the educational needs of the student.

19 (f) Employ or contract with teachers who hold
20 baccalaureate or higher degrees, or have at least 3 years of
21 teaching experience in public or private schools, or have
22 special skills, knowledge, or expertise that qualifies them to
23 provide instruction in subjects taught.

24 (g) Comply with all state laws relating to general
25 regulation of private schools.

26 (h) Adhere to the tenets of its published disciplinary
27 procedures prior to the expulsion of a scholarship student.

28 (5) OBLIGATION OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS.--

29 (a) A parent who applies for a John M. McKay
30 Scholarship is exercising his or her parental option to place
31 his or her child in a private school. The parent must select

1 the private school and apply for the admission of his or her
2 child.

3 (b) The parent must have requested the scholarship at
4 least 60 days prior to the date of the first scholarship
5 payment.

6 (c) Any student participating in the scholarship
7 program must remain in attendance throughout the school year,
8 unless excused by the school for illness or other good cause,
9 and must comply fully with the school's code of conduct.

10 (d) The parent of each student participating in the
11 scholarship program must comply fully with the private
12 school's parental involvement requirements, unless excused by
13 the school for illness or other good cause.

14 (e) If the parent requests that the student
15 participating in the scholarship program take all statewide
16 assessments required pursuant to s. 1008.22, the parent is
17 responsible for transporting the student to the assessment
18 site designated by the school district.

19 (f) Upon receipt of a scholarship warrant, the parent
20 to whom the warrant is made must restrictively endorse the
21 warrant to the private school for deposit into the account of
22 the private school.

23 (g) A participant who fails to comply with this
24 subsection forfeits the scholarship.

25 (6) SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING AND PAYMENT.--

26 (a)1. The maximum scholarship granted for an eligible
27 student with disabilities shall be a calculated amount
28 equivalent to the base student allocation in the Florida
29 Education Finance Program multiplied by the appropriate cost
30 factor for the educational program that would have been
31 provided for the student in the district school to which he or

1 she was assigned, multiplied by the district cost
2 differential.

3 2. In addition, a share of the guaranteed allocation
4 for exceptional students shall be determined and added to the
5 calculated amount. The calculation shall be based on the
6 methodology and the data used to calculate the guaranteed
7 allocation for exceptional students for each district in
8 chapter 2000-166, Laws of Florida. Except as provided in
9 subparagraph 3., the calculation shall be based on the
10 student's grade, matrix level of services, and the difference
11 between the 2000-2001 basic program and the appropriate level
12 of services cost factor, multiplied by the 2000-2001 base
13 student allocation and the 2000-2001 district cost
14 differential for the sending district. Also, the calculated
15 amount shall include the per-student share of supplemental
16 academic instruction funds, instructional materials funds,
17 technology funds, and other categorical funds as provided for
18 such purposes in the General Appropriations Act.

19 3. Until the school district completes the matrix
20 required by paragraph (3)(b), the calculation shall be based
21 on the matrix that assigns the student to support level I of
22 service as it existed prior to the 2000-2001 school year.
23 When the school district completes the matrix, the amount of
24 the payment shall be adjusted as needed.

25 (b) The amount of the John M. McKay Scholarship shall
26 be the calculated amount or the amount of the private school's
27 tuition and fees, whichever is less. The amount of any
28 assessment fee required by the participating private school
29 may be paid from the total amount of the scholarship.

30 (c) If the participating private school requires
31 partial payment of tuition prior to the start of the academic

1 year to reserve space for students admitted to the school,
2 that partial payment may be paid by the Department of
3 Education prior to the first quarterly payment of the year in
4 which the John M. McKay Scholarship is awarded, up to a
5 maximum of \$1,000, and deducted from subsequent scholarship
6 payments. If a student decides not to attend the participating
7 private school, the partial reservation payment must be
8 returned to the Department of Education by the participating
9 private school. There is a limit of one reservation payment
10 per student per year.

11 (d) The school district shall report all students who
12 are attending a private school under this program. The
13 students with disabilities attending private schools on John
14 M. McKay Scholarships shall be reported separately from other
15 students reported for purposes of the Florida Education
16 Finance Program.

17 (e) Following notification on July 1, September 1,
18 December 1, or February 1 of the number of program
19 participants, the Department of Education shall transfer, from
20 General Revenue funds only, the amount calculated under
21 paragraph (b) from the school district's total funding
22 entitlement under the Florida Education Finance Program and
23 from authorized categorical accounts to a separate account for
24 the scholarship program for quarterly disbursement to the
25 parents of participating students. When a student enters the
26 scholarship program, the Department of Education must receive
27 all documentation required for the student's participation,
28 including the private school's and student's fee schedules, at
29 least 30 days before the first quarterly scholarship payment
30 is made for the student. The Department of Education may not
31 make any retroactive payments.

1 (f) Upon proper documentation reviewed and approved by
2 the Department of Education, the Comptroller shall make
3 scholarship payments in four equal amounts no later than
4 September 1, November 1, February 1, and April 15 of each
5 academic year in which the scholarship is in force. The
6 initial payment shall be made after Department of Education
7 verification of admission acceptance, and subsequent payments
8 shall be made upon verification of continued enrollment and
9 attendance at the private school. Payment must be by
10 individual warrant made payable to the student's parent and
11 mailed by the Department of Education to the private school of
12 the parent's choice, and the parent shall restrictively
13 endorse the warrant to the private school for deposit into the
14 account of the private school.

15 (7) LIABILITY.--No liability shall arise on the part
16 of the state based on the award or use of a John M. McKay
17 Scholarship.

18 (8) RULES.--The State Board of Education may adopt
19 rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to administer this
20 section. However, the inclusion of eligible private schools
21 within options available to Florida public school students
22 does not expand the regulatory authority of the state, its
23 officers, or any school district to impose any additional
24 regulation of private schools beyond those reasonably
25 necessary to enforce requirements expressly set forth in this
26 section.

27 Section 104. Part IV of chapter 1002, Florida
28 Statutes, shall be entitled "Home Education, Private Schools,
29 Other Education Options" and shall consist of ss.
30 1002.41-1002.43.

31

1 Section 105. Section 1002.41, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1002.41 Home education programs.--

4 (1) A "home education program" is defined in s.
5 1002.01. The parent is not required to hold a valid regular
6 Florida teaching certificate.

7 (a) The parent shall notify the district school
8 superintendent of the county in which the parent resides of
9 her or his intent to establish and maintain a home education
10 program. The notice shall be in writing, signed by the parent,
11 and shall include the names, addresses, and birthdates of all
12 children who shall be enrolled as students in the home
13 education program. The notice shall be filed in the district
14 school superintendent's office within 30 days of the
15 establishment of the home education program. A written notice
16 of termination of the home education program shall be filed in
17 the district school superintendent's office within 30 days
18 after said termination.

19 (b) The parent shall maintain a portfolio of records
20 and materials. The portfolio shall consist of the following:

21 1. A log of educational activities that is made
22 contemporaneously with the instruction and that designates by
23 title any reading materials used.

24 2. Samples of any writings, worksheets, workbooks, or
25 creative materials used or developed by the student.

26
27 The portfolio shall be preserved by the parent for 2 years and
28 shall be made available for inspection by the district school
29 superintendent, or the district school superintendent's agent,
30 upon 15 days' written notice. Nothing in this section shall
31

1 require the district school superintendent to inspect the
2 portfolio.

3 (c) The parent shall provide for an annual educational
4 evaluation in which is documented the student's demonstration
5 of educational progress at a level commensurate with her or
6 his ability. The parent shall select the method of evaluation
7 and shall file a copy of the evaluation annually with the
8 district school superintendent's office in the county in which
9 the student resides. The annual educational evaluation shall
10 consist of one of the following:

11 1. A teacher selected by the parent shall evaluate the
12 student's educational progress upon review of the portfolio
13 and discussion with the student. Such teacher shall hold a
14 valid regular Florida certificate to teach academic subjects
15 at the elementary or secondary level;

16 2. The student shall take any nationally normed
17 student achievement test administered by a certified teacher;

18 3. The student shall take a state student assessment
19 test used by the school district and administered by a
20 certified teacher, at a location and under testing conditions
21 approved by the school district;

22 4. The student shall be evaluated by an individual
23 holding a valid, active license pursuant to the provisions of
24 s. 490.003(7) or (8); or

25 5. The student shall be evaluated with any other valid
26 measurement tool as mutually agreed upon by the district
27 school superintendent of the district in which the student
28 resides and the student's parent.

29 (2) The district school superintendent shall review
30 and accept the results of the annual educational evaluation of
31 the student in a home education program. If the student does

1 not demonstrate educational progress at a level commensurate
2 with her or his ability, the district school superintendent
3 shall notify the parent, in writing, that such progress has
4 not been achieved. The parent shall have 1 year from the date
5 of receipt of the written notification to provide remedial
6 instruction to the student. At the end of the 1-year
7 probationary period, the student shall be reevaluated as
8 specified in paragraph (1)(c). Continuation in a home
9 education program shall be contingent upon the student
10 demonstrating educational progress commensurate with her or
11 his ability at the end of the probationary period.

12 (3) A home education program shall be excluded from
13 meeting the requirements of a school day.

14 (4) Home education students may participate in
15 interscholastic extracurricular student activities in
16 accordance with the provisions of s. 1006.15.

17 (5) Home education students may participate in the
18 Bright Futures Scholarship Program in accordance with the
19 provisions of ss. 1009.53-1009.539.

20 (6) Home education students may participate in dual
21 enrollment programs in accordance with the provisions of s.
22 1007.27(4) and 1007.271(10).

23 (7) Home education students are eligible for admission
24 to community colleges in accordance with the provisions of s.
25 1007.263.

26 (8) Home education students are eligible for admission
27 to state universities in accordance with the provisions of s.
28 1007.261.

29 (9) Home education program students may receive
30 testing and evaluation services at diagnostic and resource
31 centers, in accordance with the provisions of s. 1006.03.

1 Section 106. Section 1002.42, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1002.42 Private schools.--

4 (1) DEFINITION.--A "private school" is defined in s.
5 1002.01.

6 (2) ANNUAL PRIVATE SCHOOL SURVEY.--

7 (a) The Department of Education shall organize,
8 maintain, and annually update a database of educational
9 institutions within the state coming within the provisions of
10 this section. There shall be included in the database of each
11 institution the name, address, and telephone number of the
12 institution; the type of institution; the names of
13 administrative officers; the enrollment by grade or special
14 group (e.g., career and technical education and exceptional
15 child education); the number of graduates; the number of
16 instructional and administrative personnel; the number of days
17 the school is in session; and such data as may be needed to
18 meet the provisions of this section and s. 1003.23(2).

19 (b) For the purpose of organizing, maintaining, and
20 updating this database, each private school shall annually
21 execute and file a database survey form on a date designated
22 by the Department of Education which shall include a notarized
23 statement ascertaining that the owner of the private school
24 has complied with the provisions of paragraph (c). For the
25 purpose of this section, "owner" means any individual who is
26 the chief administrative officer of a private school.

27 (c)1. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (h),
28 each person who is an owner or who establishes, purchases, or
29 otherwise becomes an owner of a private school shall, within 5
30 days of assuming ownership of a school, file with the
31 Department of Law Enforcement a complete set of fingerprints

1 for state processing and checking for criminal background. The
2 fingerprints shall be taken by an authorized law enforcement
3 officer or an employee of the school who is trained to take
4 fingerprints. The costs of fingerprinting, criminal records
5 checking, and processing shall be borne by the applicant or
6 private school. The result of the criminal records checking
7 by the Department of Law Enforcement shall be forwarded to the
8 owner of the private school and shall be made available for
9 public inspection in the private school office as soon as it
10 is received.

11 2. It shall be unlawful for a person who has been
12 convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude to own or
13 operate a private school.

14 3. An owner of a private school may require school
15 employees to file a complete set of fingerprints with the
16 Department of Law Enforcement for processing and criminal
17 records checking. Findings from such processing and checking
18 shall be reported to the owner for use in employment
19 decisions.

20 4. Owners or employees of private schools who have
21 been fingerprinted pursuant to this paragraph, s. 1012.32, or
22 s. 402.3055 shall not be required to be refingerprinted if
23 they have not been unemployed or unassociated with a private
24 school or child care facility for more than 90 days.

25 5. Persons holding a valid Florida teaching
26 certificate who have been fingerprinted pursuant to s. 1012.35
27 shall not be required to comply with the provisions of this
28 paragraph.

29 (d) The data inquiries to be included and answered in
30 the survey required in paragraph (b) shall be limited to
31 matters set forth in paragraph (a). The department shall

1 furnish annually to each school sufficient copies of this
2 form.

3 (e) To ensure completeness and accuracy of the
4 database, each existing private educational institution
5 falling within the provisions of this section shall notify the
6 Department of Education of any change in the name of the
7 institution, the address, or the chief administrative officer.
8 Each new institution shall notify the department of its
9 establishment.

10 (f) Annually, the department shall make accessible to
11 the public data on private education in this state. Such data
12 shall include that collected pursuant to paragraph (a) and
13 from other sources.

14 (g) The failure of any institution to submit the
15 annual database survey form and notarized statement of
16 compliance with the provisions of paragraph (c), as required
17 by this section, shall be judged a misdemeanor and, upon
18 conviction, proper authorities of such institution shall be
19 subject to a fine not exceeding \$500. Submission of data for
20 a nonexistent school or an institution providing no
21 instruction or training, the purpose of which is to defraud
22 the public, is unlawful and the person or persons responsible
23 commit a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as
24 provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. Persons found to be in
25 violation of subparagraph (c)2. commit a misdemeanor of the
26 first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s.
27 775.083.

28 (h) It is the intent of the Legislature not to
29 regulate, control, approve, or accredit private educational
30 institutions, but to create a database where current
31 information may be obtained relative to the educational

1 institutions in this state coming within the provisions of
2 this section as a service to the public, to governmental
3 agencies, and to other interested parties. It is not the
4 intent of the Legislature to regulate, control, or monitor,
5 expressly or implicitly, churches, their ministries, or
6 religious instruction, freedoms, or rites. It is the intent
7 of the Legislature that the annual submission of the database
8 survey by a school shall not be used by that school to imply
9 approval or accreditation by the Department of Education.

10 (3) RETENTION OF RECORDS.--

11 (a) As used in this subsection:

12 1. "Defunct private school" means any private school
13 that has terminated the operation of an education or training
14 program, or that has no students in attendance, or that has
15 dissolved as a business entity.

16 2. "Student records" means those records, files,
17 documents, and other materials that contain information
18 directly related to students that are maintained by a private
19 school or by a person acting for such institution and that are
20 accessible to other professional personnel to facilitate the
21 instruction, guidance, and educational progress of students.
22 Information contained in student records shall be classified
23 as follows:

24 a. Permanent information, which includes verified
25 information of clear educational importance, containing the
26 following: student's full name and any known changes thereto
27 due to marriage or adoption; authenticated birthdate, place of
28 birth, race, and sex; last known address of student; names of
29 student's parents; name and location of last school attended;
30 number of days present and absent; date enrolled; date

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1 withdrawn; courses taken and record of achievement; and date
2 of graduation or program achievement.

3 b. Temporary information, which includes verified
4 information subject to change, containing, but not limited to,
5 the following: health information, standardized test scores,
6 honors and activities, personal attributes, work experience,
7 teacher and counselor comments, and special reports.

8 (b) All private schools that become defunct shall
9 transfer all permanent information contained in student
10 records to the district school superintendent of the public
11 school district in which the private school was located; or,
12 if the private school is a member of a private school system
13 or association, such school may transfer such records to the
14 principal office of such system or association, which shall
15 constitute full compliance with this subsection. In the event
16 that such private school system or association becomes
17 defunct, it shall transfer all the permanent information
18 contained in its files to the district school superintendent
19 of the public school district in which the private school was
20 located.

21 (c) All private schools that become defunct shall
22 notify the Department of Education Office of Private Schools
23 and Home Education Programs of the date of transfer of student
24 records, the location of storage, the custodian of such
25 records, and the number of records to be stored. The
26 department shall act as a clearinghouse and maintain a
27 registry of such transfers of student records.

28 (d) It is not the intent of the Legislature to limit
29 or restrict the use or possession of any student records while
30 a school is operational, but to facilitate access to academic
31

1 records by former students seeking to continue their education
2 or training after a private school has become defunct.

3 (4) ATTENDANCE RECORDS AND REPORTS.--All officials,
4 teachers, and other employees in parochial, religious,
5 denominational, and private schools shall keep and prepare
6 records in accordance with the provisions of s. 1003.23(2).

7 (5) SCHOOL-ENTRY HEALTH EXAMINATIONS.--The governing
8 authority of each private school shall require students to
9 present a certification of a school-entry health examination
10 in accordance with the provisions of s. 1003.22(1) and (2).

11 (6) IMMUNIZATIONS.--The governing authority of each
12 private school shall require students to present a
13 certification of immunization in accordance with the
14 provisions of s. 1003.22(3)-(11).

15 (7) ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS.--Attendance of a student
16 at a private, parochial, religious, or denominational school
17 satisfies the attendance requirements of ss. 1003.01(14) and
18 1003.21(1).

19 (8) ATHLETIC COMPETITION.--A private school may
20 participate in athletic competition with a public high school
21 in accordance with the provisions of s. 1006.20(1).

22 (9) RECEIPT OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS.--The Department
23 of Education may disseminate educational materials and sell
24 copies for educational use to private schools pursuant to s.
25 1006.39.

26 (10) INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS.--District school boards
27 may dispose of instructional materials when they become
28 unserviceable or surplus or are no longer on state contract by
29 giving them to a private school in accordance with the
30 provisions of s. 1006.41.

31

1 (11) DIAGNOSTIC AND RESOURCE CENTERS.--Diagnostic and
2 resource centers may provide testing and evaluation services
3 to private school students in accordance with the provisions
4 of s. 1006.03(3).

5 (12) EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION SERVICES.--District school
6 boards may provide instruction for an appropriate program of
7 special instruction, facilities, and services for exceptional
8 students through contractual arrangements with approved
9 private schools in accordance with the provisions of s.
10 1003.57.

11 (13) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM.--An organization
12 of private schools that has no fewer than 10 member schools in
13 this state may develop a professional development system to be
14 filed with the Department of Education in accordance with the
15 provisions of s. 1012.98(7).

16 (14) BUS DRIVER TRAINING.--Private school bus drivers
17 may participate in a district school board's bus driver
18 training program, if the district school board makes the
19 program available pursuant to s. 1006.26.

20 (15) POOL PURCHASE OF SCHOOL BUSES.--

21 (a) Florida private schools that demonstrate a
22 racially nondiscriminatory student admission policy may
23 purchase school buses from the state pool purchase program as
24 authorized in s. 1006.27(1), if the private school meets the
25 following conditions:

26 1. Students in one or more grades, kindergarten
27 through grade 12, are provided an education program by the
28 school and the school has submitted the information required
29 pursuant to this section and the most recent school survey
30 required in subsection (2).

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1 2. All conditions of the contracts for purchasing
2 school buses between the Department of Education and the
3 companies involved, including bus specifications, ordering
4 deadlines, delivery period and procedures, and payment
5 requirements, shall be met.

6 3. Purchase orders shall be made out to the
7 appropriate company or companies involved and shall be
8 accompanied by a certified check in the amount of 25 percent
9 of the total cost of the bus or buses as a good faith deposit
10 that the bus or buses will be purchased.

11 4. The remainder of the total cost shall be paid upon
12 delivery of the bus or buses to the representative of the
13 private school receiving the bus or buses, or shall be paid
14 when the company informs the purchaser that the buses are
15 ready for delivery if the purchaser has specified that buses
16 are to be picked up at the company's location. If the chassis
17 and the body are purchased from different companies, the
18 remainder of the chassis' total cost shall be payable upon
19 delivery of the chassis to the body manufacturer.

20 5. If the private school does not meet the obligation
21 stated in subparagraph 4. within 30 calendar days after notice
22 that the bus is ready for delivery or that the chassis has
23 been delivered to the body manufacturer, the selling company
24 may retain 15 percent of the amount being held by the company
25 as a good faith deposit, and all obligations to the private
26 school may be canceled. When the 15 percent is retained, the
27 company shall return 10 percent of the good faith deposit to
28 the nonpublic school within 15 days of cancellation of the
29 companies' objection.

30 (b) Any bus purchased under this section may not be
31 sold, if still titled as a motor vehicle, within 5 calendar

1 years of the date of the initial Florida title being issued,
2 unless the following conditions are met:

3 1. The bus or buses may be sold only to a Florida
4 public school district or Florida private school. Any such
5 sale during the first 5 years shall be documented to the
6 Department of Education within 15 days after the sale.

7 2. The bus or buses shall be advertised by the private
8 school in one major newspaper located in each of the five
9 regions of the state for 3 consecutive days and a copy of the
10 advertisement and the name of each newspaper shall be sent to
11 the Department of Education before the first day of
12 advertising the bus or buses for sale.

13 3. The bus may not be sold at a profit. The bus shall
14 be depreciated at a rate of 10 percent per calendar year, with
15 the first year starting on the date of issue of the initial
16 title in this state.

17 4. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law and
18 rule regarding purchase of used school buses, the bus may be
19 sold to a public school district if the conditions of
20 subparagraph 3. are met.

21 5. Any public school district or private school
22 purchasing a bus under the conditions of this subsection must
23 accept the obligations of this subsection, and such shall be
24 entered in the sales contract.

25 (c) Any private school, including the owner or
26 corporation purchasing a bus or buses under the conditions of
27 this section, that does not comply with all the conditions of
28 this section shall not be eligible for future purchases of a
29 school bus under this section.

30 (d) Any private school interested in purchasing a bus
31 under this section shall notify, in writing, the Department of

1 Education. The Department of Education shall send the school
2 the appropriate forms, instructions, and price quotations.

3 (e) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this
4 section, no school bus manufacturer, distributor, or dealer
5 shall be required to violate any dealer contract or franchise
6 agreement entered into before the effective date of this
7 section regarding the sale of its buses.

8 (f) The State Board of Education may adopt rules
9 pursuant to ss. 120.536 and 120.54 necessary to implement this
10 section, maintain the integrity of the school bus pool
11 purchase program, and ensure the best and lowest price for
12 purchasing school buses by the public school districts.

13 Section 107. Section 1002.43, Florida Statutes, is
14 created to read:

15 1002.43 Private tutoring programs.--

16 (1) Regular attendance as defined in s. 1003.01(14)
17 may be achieved by attendance in a private tutoring program if
18 the person tutoring the student meets the following
19 requirements:

20 (a) Holds a valid Florida certificate to teach the
21 subjects or grades in which instruction is given.

22 (b) Keeps all records and makes all reports required
23 by the state and district school board and makes regular
24 reports on the attendance of students in accordance with the
25 provisions of s. 1003.23(2).

26 (c) Requires students to be in actual attendance for
27 the minimum length of time prescribed by s. 1011.60(2).

28 (2) Private tutors shall keep and prepare records in
29 accordance with the provisions of s. 1003.23(2).

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1 Section 108. Chapter 1003, Florida Statutes, shall be
2 entitled "Public K-12 Education" and shall consist of ss.
3 1003.01-1003.63.

4 Section 109. Part I of chapter 1003, Florida Statutes,
5 shall be entitled "General Provisions" and shall consist of
6 ss. 1003.01-1003.03.

7 Section 110. Section 1003.01, Florida Statutes, is
8 created to read:

9 1003.01 Definitions.--As used in this chapter, the
10 term:

11 (1) "District school board" means the members who are
12 elected by the voters of a school district created and
13 existing pursuant to s. 4, Art. IX of the State Constitution
14 to operate and control public K-12 education within the school
15 district.

16 (2) "School" means an organization of students for
17 instructional purposes on an elementary, middle or junior high
18 school, secondary or high school, or other public school level
19 authorized under rules of the State Board of Education.

20 (3)(a) "Exceptional student" means any student who has
21 been determined eligible for a special program in accordance
22 with rules of the State Board of Education. The term includes
23 students who are gifted and students with disabilities who are
24 mentally handicapped, speech and language impaired, deaf or
25 hard of hearing, visually impaired, dual sensory impaired,
26 physically impaired, emotionally handicapped, specific
27 learning disabled, hospital and homebound, autistic,
28 developmentally delayed children, ages birth through 5 years,
29 or children, ages birth through 2 years, with established
30 conditions that are identified in State Board of Education
31 rules pursuant to s. 1003.21(1)(e).

1 (b) "Special education services" means specially
2 designed instruction and such related services as are
3 necessary for an exceptional student to benefit from
4 education. Such services may include: transportation;
5 diagnostic and evaluation services; social services; physical
6 and occupational therapy; job placement; orientation and
7 mobility training; braillists, typists, and readers for the
8 blind; interpreters and auditory amplification; rehabilitation
9 counseling; transition services; mental health services;
10 guidance and career counseling; specified materials, assistive
11 technology devices, and other specialized equipment; and other
12 such services as approved by rules of the state board.

13 (4) "Career and technical education" means education
14 that provides instruction for the following purposes:

15 (a) At the elementary, middle, and secondary school
16 levels, exploratory courses designed to give students initial
17 exposure to a broad range of occupations to assist them in
18 preparing their academic and occupational plans, and practical
19 arts courses that provide generic skills that may apply to
20 many occupations but are not designed to prepare students for
21 entry into a specific occupation. Career and technical
22 education provided before high school completion must be
23 designed to enhance both occupational and academic skills
24 through integration with academic instruction.

25 (b) At the secondary school level, job-preparatory
26 instruction in the competencies that prepare students for
27 effective entry into an occupation, including diversified
28 cooperative education, work experience, and job-entry programs
29 that coordinate directed study and on-the-job training.

30
31

1 (c) At the postsecondary education level, courses of
2 study that provide competencies needed for entry into specific
3 occupations or for advancement within an occupation.

4 (5)(a) "Suspension," also referred to as out-of-school
5 suspension, means the temporary removal of a student from all
6 classes of instruction on public school grounds and all other
7 school-sponsored activities, except as authorized by the
8 principal or the principal's designee, for a period not to
9 exceed 10 school days and remanding of the student to the
10 custody of the student's parent with specific homework
11 assignments for the student to complete.

12 (b) "In-school suspension" means the temporary removal
13 of a student from the student's regular school program and
14 placement in an alternative program, such as that provided in
15 s. 1003.53, under the supervision of district school board
16 personnel, for a period not to exceed 10 school days.

17 (6) "Expulsion" means the removal of the right and
18 obligation of a student to attend a public school under
19 conditions set by the district school board, and for a period
20 of time not to exceed the remainder of the term or school year
21 and 1 additional year of attendance. Expulsions may be imposed
22 with or without continuing educational services and shall be
23 reported accordingly.

24 (7) "Corporal punishment" means the moderate use of
25 physical force or physical contact by a teacher or principal
26 as may be necessary to maintain discipline or to enforce
27 school rule. However, the term "corporal punishment" does not
28 include the use of such reasonable force by a teacher or
29 principal as may be necessary for self-protection or to
30 protect other students from disruptive students.

31

1 (8) "Habitual truant" means a student who has 15
2 unexcused absences within 90 calendar days with or without the
3 knowledge or consent of the student's parent, is subject to
4 compulsory school attendance under s. 1003.21(1) and (2)(a),
5 and is not exempt under s. 1003.21(3) or s. 1003.24, or by
6 meeting the criteria for any other exemption specified by law
7 or rules of the State Board of Education. Such a student must
8 have been the subject of the activities specified in ss.
9 1003.26 and 1003.27(3), without resultant successful
10 remediation of the truancy problem before being dealt with as
11 a child in need of services according to the provisions of
12 chapter 984.

13 (9) "Dropout" means a student who meets any one or
14 more of the following criteria:

15 (a) The student has voluntarily removed himself or
16 herself from the school system before graduation for reasons
17 that include, but are not limited to, marriage, or the student
18 has withdrawn from school because he or she has failed the
19 statewide student assessment test and thereby does not receive
20 any of the certificates of completion;

21 (b) The student has not met the relevant attendance
22 requirements of the school district pursuant to State Board of
23 Education rules, or the student was expected to attend a
24 school but did not enter as expected for unknown reasons, or
25 the student's whereabouts are unknown;

26 (c) The student has withdrawn from school, but has not
27 transferred to another public or private school or enrolled in
28 any career and technical, adult, home education, or
29 alternative educational program;

30 (d) The student has withdrawn from school due to
31 hardship, unless such withdrawal has been granted under the

1 provisions of s. 322.091, court action, expulsion, medical
2 reasons, or pregnancy; or

3 (e) The student is not eligible to attend school
4 because of reaching the maximum age for an exceptional student
5 program in accordance with the district's policy.

6
7 The State Board of Education may adopt rules to implement the
8 provisions of this subsection.

9 (10) "Alternative measures for students with special
10 needs" or "special programs" means measures designed to meet
11 the special needs of a student that cannot be met by regular
12 school curricula.

13 (11)(a) "Juvenile justice education programs or
14 schools" means programs or schools operating for the purpose
15 of providing educational services to youth in Department of
16 Juvenile Justice programs, for a school year comprised of 250
17 days of instruction distributed over 12 months. At the request
18 of the provider, a district school board may decrease the
19 minimum number of days of instruction by up to 10 days for
20 teacher planning for residential programs and up to 20 days
21 for teacher planning for nonresidential programs, subject to
22 the approval of the Department of Juvenile Justice and the
23 Department of Education.

24 (b) "Juvenile justice provider" means the Department
25 of Juvenile Justice or a private, public, or other
26 governmental organization under contract with the Department
27 of Juvenile Justice that provides treatment, care and custody,
28 or educational programs for youth in juvenile justice
29 intervention, detention, or commitment programs.

30 (12) "Homeless child" means:
31

- 1 (a) One who lacks a fixed, regular nighttime
2 residence;
- 3 (b) One who has a primary nighttime residence that is:
- 4 1. A supervised publicly or privately operated shelter
5 designed to provide temporary living accommodations, including
6 welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing
7 for the mentally ill;
- 8 2. An institution that provides a temporary residence
9 for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or
- 10 3. A public or private place not designed for, or
11 ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human
12 beings; or
- 13 (c) One who temporarily resides with an adult other
14 than his or her parent because the parent is suffering
15 financial hardship.
- 16
- 17 A child who is imprisoned, detained, or in the custody of the
18 state pursuant to a state or federal law is not a homeless
19 child.
- 20 (13) "Regular school attendance" means the actual
21 attendance of a student during the school day as defined by
22 law and rules of the State Board of Education. Regular
23 attendance within the intent of s. 1003.21 may be achieved by
24 attendance in:
- 25 (a) A public school supported by public funds;
- 26 (b) A parochial, religious, or denominational school;
- 27 (c) A private school supported in whole or in part by
28 tuition charges or by endowments or gifts;
- 29 (d) A home education program that meets the
30 requirements of chapter 1002; or
- 31

1 (e) A private tutoring program that meets the
2 requirements of chapter 1002.

3 Section 111. Section 1003.02, Florida Statutes, is
4 created to read:

5 1003.02 District school board operation and control of
6 public K-12 education within the school district.--As provided
7 in part II of chapter 1001, district school boards are
8 constitutionally and statutorily charged with the operation
9 and control of public K-12 education within their school
10 district. The district school boards must establish, organize,
11 and operate their public K-12 schools and educational
12 programs, employees, and facilities. Their responsibilities
13 include staff development, public K-12 school student
14 education including education for exceptional students and
15 students in juvenile justice programs, special programs, adult
16 education programs, and career and technical education
17 programs. Additionally, district school boards must:

18 (1) Provide for the proper accounting for all students
19 of school age, for the attendance and control of students at
20 school, and for proper attention to health, safety, and other
21 matters relating to the welfare of students in the following
22 fields:

23 (a) Admission, classification, promotion, and
24 graduation of students.--Adopt rules for admitting,
25 classifying, promoting, and graduating students to or from the
26 various schools of the district.

27 (b) Enforcement of attendance laws.--Provide for the
28 enforcement of all laws and rules relating to the attendance
29 of students at school.

30 (c) Control of students.--
31

- 1 1. Adopt rules for the control, attendance,
2 discipline, in-school suspension, suspension, and expulsion of
3 students and decide all cases recommended for expulsion.
- 4 2. Maintain a code of student conduct as provided in
5 chapter 1006.
- 6 (d) Courses of study and instructional materials.--
- 7 1. Provide adequate instructional materials for all
8 students as follows and in accordance with the requirements of
9 chapter 1006, in the core courses of mathematics, language
10 arts, social studies, science, reading, and literature, except
11 for instruction for which the school advisory council approves
12 the use of a program that does not include a textbook as a
13 major tool of instruction.
- 14 2. Adopt courses of study for use in the schools of
15 the district.
- 16 3. Provide for proper requisitioning, distribution,
17 accounting, storage, care, and use of all instructional
18 materials as may be needed, and ensure that instructional
19 materials used in the district are consistent with the
20 district goals and objectives and the curriculum frameworks
21 approved by the State Board of Education, as well as with the
22 state and school district performance standards required by
23 law and state board rule.
- 24 (e) Transportation.--Make provision for the
25 transportation of students to the public schools or school
26 activities they are required or expected to attend,
27 efficiently and economically, in accordance with the
28 requirements of chapter 1006.
- 29 (f) Facilities and school plant.--
- 30 1. Approve and adopt a districtwide school facilities
31 program, in accordance with the requirements of chapter 1013.

- 1 2. Approve plans for locating, planning, constructing,
2 sanitating, insuring, maintaining, protecting, and condemning
3 school property as prescribed in chapter 1013.
- 4 3. Approve and adopt a districtwide school building
5 program.
- 6 4. Select and purchase school sites, playgrounds, and
7 recreational areas located at centers at which schools are to
8 be constructed, of adequate size to meet the needs of
9 projected students to be accommodated.
- 10 5. Approve the proposed purchase of any site,
11 playground, or recreational area for which school district
12 funds are to be used.
- 13 6. Expand existing sites.
- 14 7. Rent buildings when necessary.
- 15 8. Enter into leases or lease-purchase arrangements,
16 in accordance with the requirements and conditions provided in
17 s. 1013.15(2).
- 18 9. Provide for the proper supervision of construction.
- 19 10. Make or contract for additions, alterations, and
20 repairs on buildings and other school properties.
- 21 11. Ensure that all plans and specifications for
22 buildings provide adequately for the safety and well-being of
23 students, as well as for economy of construction.
- 24 12. Provide adequately for the proper maintenance and
25 upkeep of school plants.
- 26 13. Carry insurance on every school building in all
27 school plants including contents, boilers, and machinery,
28 except buildings of three classrooms or less which are of
29 frame construction and located in a tenth class public
30 protection zone as defined by the Florida Inspection and
31 Rating Bureau, and on all school buses and other property

1 under the control of the district school board or title to
2 which is vested in the district school board, except as
3 exceptions may be authorized under rules of the State Board of
4 Education.

5 14. Condemn and prohibit the use for public school
6 purposes of any building under the control of the district
7 school board.

8 (g) School operation.--

9 1. Provide for the operation of all public schools as
10 free schools for a term of at least 180 days or the equivalent
11 on an hourly basis as specified by rules of the State Board of
12 Education; determine district school funds necessary in
13 addition to state funds to operate all schools for the minimum
14 term; and arrange for the levying of district school taxes
15 necessary to provide the amount needed from district sources.

16 2. Prepare, adopt, and timely submit to the Department
17 of Education, as required by law and by rules of the State
18 Board of Education, the annual school budget, so as to promote
19 the improvement of the district school system.

20 (h) Records and reports.--

21 1. Keep all necessary records and make all needed and
22 required reports, as required by law or by rules of the State
23 Board of Education.

24 2. At regular intervals require reports to be made by
25 principals or teachers in all public schools to the parents of
26 the students enrolled and in attendance at their schools,
27 apprising them of the academic and other progress being made
28 by the student and giving other useful information.

29 (2) Require that all laws, all rules of the State
30 Board of Education, and all rules of the district school board
31 are properly enforced.

1 (3) Maintain a system of school improvement and
2 education accountability as required by law and State Board of
3 Education rule, including but not limited to the requirements
4 of chapter 1008.

5 (4) For any school within the district that is not in
6 compliance with the small school size requirements of chapter
7 1013, in order to reduce the anonymity of students in large
8 schools, adopt policies that encourage subdivision of the
9 school into schools-within-a-school, which shall operate
10 within existing resources. A "school-within-a-school" means an
11 operational program that uses flexible scheduling, team
12 planning, and curricular and instructional innovation to
13 organize groups of students with groups of teachers as smaller
14 units, so as to functionally operate as a smaller school.
15 Examples of this include, but are not limited to:

16 (a) An organizational arrangement assigning both
17 students and teachers to smaller units in which the students
18 take some or all of their coursework with their fellow grouped
19 students and from the teachers assigned to the smaller unit. A
20 unit may be grouped together for 1 year or on a vertical,
21 multiyear basis.

22 (b) An organizational arrangement similar to that
23 described in paragraph (a) with additional variations in
24 instruction and curriculum. The smaller unit usually seeks to
25 maintain a program different from that of the larger school,
26 or of other smaller units. It may be vertically organized, but
27 is dependent upon the school principal for its existence,
28 budget, and staff.

29 (c) A separate and autonomous smaller unit formally
30 authorized by the district school board or district school
31 superintendent. The smaller unit plans and runs its own

1 program, has its own staff and students, and receives its own
2 separate budget. The smaller unit must negotiate the use of
3 common space with the larger school and defer to the building
4 principal on matters of safety and building operation.

5 Section 112. Section 1003.03, Florida Statutes, is
6 created to read:

7 1003.03 Maximum class size goals.--It is the goal of
8 the Legislature and each district school board that each
9 elementary school in the school district beginning with
10 kindergarten through grade three class sizes not exceed 20
11 students, with a ratio of one full-time equivalent teacher per
12 20 students; except that only in the case of "D" and "F"
13 schools as identified by the commissioner, the goal in
14 kindergarten through grade three shall be a ratio of one
15 full-time equivalent teacher per 15 students. For purposes of
16 any funding in the General Appropriations Act to meet these
17 goals, the district school board shall give priority to
18 identified "D" and "F" schools in the school district. Second
19 priority for the use of any funds designated for meeting these
20 goals shall be for kindergarten through grade one. Third
21 priority for the use of any funds designated for meeting these
22 goals shall be for grades two and three.

23 Section 113. Section 1003.04, Florida Statutes, is
24 created to read:

25 1003.04 Student conduct and parental involvement
26 goals.--

27 (1) It is the goal of the Legislature and each
28 district school board that each public K-12 student remain in
29 attendance throughout the school year, unless excused by the
30 school for illness or other good cause, and comply fully with
31 the school's code of conduct.

1 (2) It is the goal of the Legislature and each
2 district school board that the parent of each public K-12
3 student comply with the school's reasonable and
4 time-acceptable parental involvement requests.

5 Section 114. Part II of chapter 1003, Florida
6 Statutes, shall be entitled "School Attendance" and shall
7 consist of ss. 1003.21-1003.29.

8 Section 115. Section 1003.21, Florida Statutes, is
9 created to read:

10 1003.21 School attendance.--

11 (1)(a)1. All children who have attained the age of 6
12 years or who will have attained the age of 6 years by February
13 1 of any school year or who are older than 6 years of age but
14 who have not attained the age of 16 years, except as otherwise
15 provided, are required to attend school regularly during the
16 entire school term.

17 2. Children who will have attained the age of 5 years
18 on or before September 1 of the school year are eligible for
19 admission to public kindergartens during that school year
20 under rules adopted by the district school board.

21 (b) Any child who has attained the age of 6 years on
22 or before September 1 of the school year and who has been
23 enrolled in a public school or who has attained the age of 6
24 years on or before September 1 and has satisfactorily
25 completed the requirements for kindergarten in a private
26 school from which the district school board accepts transfer
27 of academic credit, or who otherwise meets the criteria for
28 admission or transfer in a manner similar to that applicable
29 to other grades, shall progress according to the district's
30 student progression plan. However, nothing in this section
31 shall authorize the state or any school district to oversee or

1 exercise control over the curricula or academic programs of
2 private schools or home education programs.

3 (c) A student who attains the age of 16 years during
4 the school year is not subject to compulsory school attendance
5 beyond the date upon which he or she attains that age if the
6 student files a formal declaration of intent to terminate
7 school enrollment with the district school board. The
8 declaration must acknowledge that terminating school
9 enrollment is likely to reduce the student's earning potential
10 and must be signed by the student and the student's parent.
11 The school district must notify the student's parent of
12 receipt of the student's declaration of intent to terminate
13 school enrollment.

14 (d) Students who become or have become married and
15 students who are pregnant shall not be prohibited from
16 attending school. These students and students who are parents
17 shall receive the same educational instruction or its
18 equivalent as other students, but may voluntarily be assigned
19 to a class or program suited to their special needs.
20 Consistent with s. 1003.54, pregnant or parenting teens may
21 participate in a teenage parent program. Pregnant students may
22 attend alternative education programs or adult education
23 programs, provided that the curriculum allows the student to
24 continue to work toward a high school diploma.

25 (e) Consistent with rules adopted by the State Board
26 of Education, children with disabilities who have attained the
27 age of 3 years shall be eligible for admission to public
28 special education programs and for related services under
29 rules adopted by the district school board. Exceptional
30 children who are deaf or hard of hearing, visually impaired,
31 dual sensory impaired, severely physically handicapped,

1 trainable mentally handicapped, or profoundly handicapped, or
2 who have established conditions, or exhibit developmental
3 delays, below age 3 may be eligible for special programs; or,
4 if enrolled in other school readiness programs, they may be
5 eligible for supplemental instruction. Rules for the
6 identification of established conditions for children birth
7 through 2 years of age and developmental delays for children
8 birth through 5 years of age must be adopted by the State
9 Board of Education.

10 (f) Homeless children, as defined in s. 1003.01, must
11 have access to a free public education and must be admitted to
12 school in the school district in which they or their families
13 live. School districts shall assist homeless children to meet
14 the requirements of subsection (4) and s. 1003.22, as well as
15 local requirements for documentation.

16 (2)(a) The State Board of Education may adopt rules
17 under which students not meeting the entrance age may be
18 transferred from another state if their parents have been
19 legal residents of that state.

20 (b) Each district school board, in accordance with
21 rules of the State Board of Education, shall adopt a policy
22 that authorizes a parent to request and be granted permission
23 for absence of a student from school for religious instruction
24 or religious holidays.

25 (3) The district school superintendent may authorize
26 certificates of exemptions from school attendance requirements
27 in certain situations. Students within the compulsory
28 attendance age limits who hold valid certificates of exemption
29 that have been issued by the superintendent shall be exempt
30 from attending school. A certificate of exemption shall cease
31

1 to be valid at the end of the school year in which it is
2 issued.

3 (4) Before admitting a child to kindergarten, the
4 principal shall require evidence that the child has attained
5 the age at which he or she should be admitted in accordance
6 with the provisions of subparagraph (1)(a)2. The district
7 school superintendent may require evidence of the age of any
8 child whom he or she believes to be within the limits of
9 compulsory attendance as provided for by law. If the first
10 prescribed evidence is not available, the next evidence
11 obtainable in the order set forth below shall be accepted:

12 (a) A duly attested transcript of the child's birth
13 record filed according to law with a public officer charged
14 with the duty of recording births;

15 (b) A duly attested transcript of a certificate of
16 baptism showing the date of birth and place of baptism of the
17 child, accompanied by an affidavit sworn to by the parent;

18 (c) An insurance policy on the child's life that has
19 been in force for at least 2 years;

20 (d) A bona fide contemporary religious record of the
21 child's birth accompanied by an affidavit sworn to by the
22 parent;

23 (e) A passport or certificate of arrival in the United
24 States showing the age of the child;

25 (f) A transcript of record of age shown in the child's
26 school record of at least 4 years prior to application,
27 stating date of birth; or

28 (g) If none of these evidences can be produced, an
29 affidavit of age sworn to by the parent, accompanied by a
30 certificate of age signed by a public health officer or by a
31 public school physician, or, if neither of these is available

1 in the county, by a licensed practicing physician designated
2 by the district school board, which certificate states that
3 the health officer or physician has examined the child and
4 believes that the age as stated in the affidavit is
5 substantially correct. A homeless child, as defined in s.
6 1003.01, shall be given temporary exemption from this section
7 for 30 school days.

8 Section 116. Section 1003.22, Florida Statutes, is
9 created to read:

10 1003.22 School-entry health examinations; immunization
11 against communicable diseases; exemptions; duties of
12 Department of Health.--

13 (1) Each district school board and the governing
14 authority of each private school shall require that each child
15 who is entitled to admittance to kindergarten, or is entitled
16 to any other initial entrance into a public or private school
17 in this state, present a certification of a school-entry
18 health examination performed within 1 year prior to enrollment
19 in school. Each district school board, and the governing
20 authority of each private school, may establish a policy that
21 permits a student up to 30 school days to present a
22 certification of a school-entry health examination. A homeless
23 child, as defined in s. 1003.01, shall be given a temporary
24 exemption for 30 school days. Any district school board that
25 establishes such a policy shall include provisions in its
26 local school health services plan to assist students in
27 obtaining the health examinations. However, any child shall be
28 exempt from the requirement of a health examination upon
29 written request of the parent of the child stating objections
30 to the examination on religious grounds.

31

1 (2) The State Board of Education, subject to the
2 concurrence of the Department of Health, shall adopt rules to
3 govern medical examinations and immunizations performed under
4 this section.

5 (3) The Department of Health may adopt rules necessary
6 to administer and enforce this section. The Department of
7 Health, after consultation with the Department of Education,
8 shall adopt rules governing the immunization of children
9 against, the testing for, and the control of preventable
10 communicable diseases. The rules must include procedures for
11 exempting a child from immunization requirements.

12 Immunizations shall be required for poliomyelitis, diphtheria,
13 rubeola, rubella, pertussis, mumps, tetanus, and other
14 communicable diseases as determined by rules of the Department
15 of Health. The manner and frequency of administration of the
16 immunization or testing shall conform to recognized standards
17 of medical practice. The Department of Health shall supervise
18 and secure the enforcement of the required immunization.
19 Immunizations required by this section shall be available at
20 no cost from the county health departments.

21 (4) Each district school board and the governing
22 authority of each private school shall establish and enforce
23 as policy that, prior to admittance to or attendance in a
24 public or private school, grades kindergarten through 12, each
25 child present or have on file with the school a certification
26 of immunization for the prevention of those communicable
27 diseases for which immunization is required by the Department
28 of Health and further shall provide for appropriate screening
29 of its students for scoliosis at the proper age. Such
30 certification shall be made on forms approved and provided by
31 the Department of Health and shall become a part of each

1 student's permanent record, to be transferred when the student
2 transfers, is promoted, or changes schools. The transfer of
3 such immunization certification by Florida public schools
4 shall be accomplished using the Florida Automated System for
5 Transferring Education Records and shall be deemed to meet the
6 requirements of this section.

7 (5) The provisions of this section shall not apply if:

8 (a) The parent of the child objects in writing that
9 the administration of immunizing agents conflicts with his or
10 her religious tenets or practices;

11 (b) A physician licensed under the provisions of
12 chapter 458 or chapter 459 certifies in writing, on a form
13 approved and provided by the Department of Health, that the
14 child should be permanently exempt from the required
15 immunization for medical reasons stated in writing, based upon
16 valid clinical reasoning or evidence, demonstrating the need
17 for the permanent exemption;

18 (c) A physician licensed under the provisions of
19 chapter 458, chapter 459, or chapter 460 certifies in writing,
20 on a form approved and provided by the Department of Health,
21 that the child has received as many immunizations as are
22 medically indicated at the time and is in the process of
23 completing necessary immunizations;

24 (d) The Department of Health determines that,
25 according to recognized standards of medical practice, any
26 required immunization is unnecessary or hazardous; or

27 (e) An authorized school official issues a temporary
28 exemption, for a period not to exceed 30 school days, to
29 permit a student who transfers into a new county to attend
30 class until his or her records can be obtained. A homeless
31 child, as defined in s. 1003.01, shall be given a temporary

1 exemption for 30 school days. The public school health nurse
2 or authorized private school official is responsible for
3 followup of each such student until proper documentation or
4 immunizations are obtained. An exemption for 30 days may be
5 issued for a student who enters a juvenile justice program to
6 permit the student to attend class until his or her records
7 can be obtained or until the immunizations can be obtained. An
8 authorized juvenile justice official is responsible for
9 followup of each student who enters a juvenile justice program
10 until proper documentation or immunizations are obtained.

11 (6)(a) No person licensed by this state as a physician
12 or nurse shall be liable for any injury caused by his or her
13 action or failure to act in the administration of a vaccine or
14 other immunizing agent pursuant to the provisions of this
15 section if the person acts as a reasonably prudent person with
16 similar professional training would have acted under the same
17 or similar circumstances.

18 (b) No member of a district school board, or any of
19 its employees, or member of a governing board of a private
20 school, or any of its employees, shall be liable for any
21 injury caused by the administration of a vaccine to any
22 student who is required to be so immunized or for a failure to
23 diagnose scoliosis pursuant to the provisions of this section.

24 (7) The parents of any child admitted to or in
25 attendance at a Florida public or private school, grades
26 kindergarten through 12, are responsible for assuring that the
27 child is in compliance with the provisions of this section.

28 (8) Each public school, including public kindergarten,
29 and each private school, including private kindergarten, shall
30 be required to provide to the county health department
31 director or administrator annual reports of compliance with

1 the provisions of this section. Reports shall be completed on
2 forms provided by the Department of Health for each
3 kindergarten, and other grade as specified; and the reports
4 shall include the status of children who were admitted at the
5 beginning of the school year. After consultation with the
6 Department of Education, the Department of Health shall
7 establish by administrative rule the dates for submission of
8 these reports, the grades for which the reports shall be
9 required, and the forms to be used.

10 (9) The presence of any of the communicable diseases
11 for which immunization is required by the Department of Health
12 in a Florida public or private school shall permit the county
13 health department director or administrator or the State
14 Health Officer to declare a communicable disease emergency.
15 The declaration of such emergency shall mandate that all
16 students in attendance in the school who are not in compliance
17 with the provisions of this section be identified by the
18 district school board or by the governing authority of the
19 private school; and the school health and immunization records
20 of such children shall be made available to the county health
21 department director or administrator. Those children
22 identified as not being immunized against the disease for
23 which the emergency has been declared shall be temporarily
24 excluded from school by the district school board, or the
25 governing authority of the private school, until such time as
26 is specified by the county health department director or
27 administrator.

28 (10) Each district school board and the governing
29 authority of each private school shall:

30 (a) Refuse admittance to any child otherwise entitled
31 to admittance to kindergarten, or any other initial entrance

1 into a Florida public or private school, who is not in
2 compliance with the provisions of subsection (4).

3 (b) Temporarily exclude from attendance any student
4 who is not in compliance with the provisions of subsection
5 (4).

6 (11) The provisions of this section do not apply to
7 those persons admitted to or attending adult education classes
8 unless the adult students are under 21 years of age.

9 Section 117. Section 1003.23, Florida Statutes, is
10 created to read:

11 1003.23 Attendance records and reports.--

12 (1) The attendance of all public K-12 school students
13 shall be checked each school day in the manner prescribed by
14 rules of the State Board of Education and recorded in the
15 teacher's register or by some approved system of recording
16 attendance. Students may be counted in attendance only if
17 they are actually present at school or are away from school on
18 a school day and are engaged in an educational activity which
19 constitutes a part of the school-approved instructional
20 program for the student.

21 (2) All officials, teachers, and other employees in
22 public, parochial, religious, denominational, and private K-12
23 schools, including private tutors, shall keep all records and
24 shall prepare and submit promptly all reports that may be
25 required by law and by rules of the State Board of Education
26 and district school boards. Such records shall include a
27 register of enrollment and attendance and all persons
28 described above shall make these reports therefrom as may be
29 required by the State Board of Education. The enrollment
30 register shall show the absence or attendance of each student
31 enrolled for each school day of the year in a manner

1 prescribed by the State Board of Education. The register shall
2 be open for the inspection by the designated school
3 representative or the district school superintendent of the
4 district in which the school is located. Violation of the
5 provisions of this section shall be a misdemeanor of the
6 second degree, punishable as provided by law. This section
7 shall not apply to home education programs provided in s.
8 1002.41.

9 Section 118. Section 1003.24, Florida Statutes, is
10 created to read:

11 1003.24 Parents responsible for attendance of
12 children; attendance policy.--Each parent of a child within
13 the compulsory attendance age is responsible for the child's
14 school attendance as required by law. The absence of a
15 student from school is prima facie evidence of a violation of
16 this section; however, criminal prosecution under this chapter
17 may not be brought against a parent until the provisions of s.
18 1003.26 have been complied with. A parent of a student is not
19 responsible for the student's nonattendance at school under
20 any of the following conditions:

21 (1) WITH PERMISSION.--The absence was with permission
22 of the head of the school;

23 (2) WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE.--The absence was without the
24 parent's knowledge, consent, or connivance, in which case the
25 student shall be dealt with as a dependent child;

26 (3) FINANCIAL INABILITY.--The parent was unable
27 financially to provide necessary clothes for the student,
28 which inability was reported in writing to the superintendent
29 prior to the opening of school or immediately after the
30 beginning of such inability, provided that the validity of any
31 claim for exemption under this paragraph shall be determined

1 by the district school superintendent subject to appeal to the
2 district school board; or
3 (4) SICKNESS, INJURY, OR OTHER INSURMOUNTABLE
4 CONDITION.--Attendance was impracticable or inadvisable on
5 account of sickness or injury, attested to by a written
6 statement of a licensed practicing physician, or was
7 impracticable because of some other stated insurmountable
8 condition as defined by rules of the State Board of Education.
9 If a student is continually sick and repeatedly absent from
10 school, he or she must be under the supervision of a physician
11 in order to receive an excuse from attendance. Such excuse
12 provides that a student's condition justifies absence for more
13 than the number of days permitted by the district school
14 board.

15
16 Each district school board shall establish an attendance
17 policy that includes, but is not limited to, the required
18 number of days each school year that a student must be in
19 attendance and the number of absences and tardinesses after
20 which a statement explaining such absences and tardinesses
21 must be on file at the school. Each school in the district
22 must determine if an absence or tardiness is excused or
23 unexcused according to criteria established by the district
24 school board.

25 Section 119. Section 1003.25, Florida Statutes, is
26 created to read:

27 1003.25 Procedures for maintenance and transfer of
28 student records.--

29 (1) Each principal shall maintain a permanent
30 cumulative record for each student enrolled in a public K-12
31 school. Such record shall be maintained in the form, and

1 contain all data, prescribed by rule by the State Board of
2 Education. The cumulative record is confidential and exempt
3 from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and is open to inspection
4 only as provided in chapter 1002.

5 (2) The procedure for transferring and maintaining
6 records of students who transfer from school to school shall
7 be prescribed by rules of the State Board of Education.

8 (3) Procedures relating to the acceptance of transfer
9 work and credit for students shall be prescribed by rule by
10 the State Board of Education.

11 Section 120. Section 1003.26, Florida Statutes, is
12 created to read:

13 1003.26 Enforcement of school attendance.--The
14 Legislature finds that poor academic performance is associated
15 with nonattendance and that schools must take an active role
16 in enforcing attendance as a means of improving the
17 performance of many students. It is the policy of the state
18 that each district school superintendent be responsible for
19 enforcing school attendance of all students subject to the
20 compulsory school age in the school district. The
21 responsibility includes recommending to the district school
22 board policies and procedures to ensure that schools respond
23 in a timely manner to every unexcused absence, or absence for
24 which the reason is unknown, of students enrolled in the
25 schools. District school board policies must require each
26 parent of a student to justify each absence of the student,
27 and that justification will be evaluated based on adopted
28 district school board policies that define excused and
29 unexcused absences. The policies must provide that schools
30 track excused and unexcused absences and contact the home in
31 the case of an unexcused absence from school, or an absence

1 from school for which the reason is unknown, to prevent the
2 development of patterns of nonattendance. The Legislature
3 finds that early intervention in school attendance matters is
4 the most effective way of producing good attendance habits
5 that will lead to improved student learning and achievement.
6 Each public school shall implement the following steps to
7 enforce regular school attendance:

8 (1) CONTACT, REFER, AND ENFORCE.--

9 (a) Upon each unexcused absence, or absence for which
10 the reason is unknown, the school principal or his or her
11 designee shall contact the student's parent to determine the
12 reason for the absence. If the absence is an excused absence,
13 as defined by district school board policy, the school shall
14 provide opportunities for the student to make up assigned work
15 and not receive an academic penalty unless the work is not
16 made up within a reasonable time.

17 (b) If a student has had at least five unexcused
18 absences, or absences for which the reasons are unknown,
19 within a calendar month or 10 unexcused absences, or absences
20 for which the reasons are unknown, within a 90-calendar-day
21 period, the student's primary teacher shall report to the
22 school principal or his or her designee that the student may
23 be exhibiting a pattern of nonattendance. The principal shall,
24 unless there is clear evidence that the absences are not a
25 pattern of nonattendance, refer the case to the school's child
26 study team to determine if early patterns of truancy are
27 developing. If the child study team finds that a pattern of
28 nonattendance is developing, whether the absences are excused
29 or not, a meeting with the parent must be scheduled to
30 identify potential remedies, and the principal shall notify
31 the district school superintendent and the school district

1 contact for home education programs that the referred student
2 is exhibiting a pattern of nonattendance.

3 (c) If an initial meeting does not resolve the
4 problem, the child study team shall implement interventions
5 that best address the problem. The interventions may include,
6 but need not be limited to:

7 1. Frequent communication between the teacher and the
8 family;

9 2. Changes in the learning environment;

10 3. Mentoring;

11 4. Student counseling;

12 5. Tutoring, including peer tutoring;

13 6. Placement into different classes;

14 7. Evaluation for alternative education programs;

15 8. Attendance contracts;

16 9. Referral to other agencies for family services; or

17 10. Other interventions, including, but not limited

18 to, a truancy petition pursuant to s. 984.151.

19 (d) The child study team shall be diligent in
20 facilitating intervention services and shall report the case
21 to the district school superintendent only when all reasonable
22 efforts to resolve the nonattendance behavior are exhausted.

23 (e) If the parent refuses to participate in the
24 remedial strategies because he or she believes that those
25 strategies are unnecessary or inappropriate, the parent may
26 appeal to the district school board. The district school board
27 may provide a hearing officer, and the hearing officer shall
28 make a recommendation for final action to the district school
29 board. If the district school board's final determination is
30 that the strategies of the child study team are appropriate,
31 and the parent still refuses to participate or cooperate, the

1 district school superintendent may seek criminal prosecution
2 for noncompliance with compulsory school attendance.

3 (f)1. If the parent of a child who has been identified
4 as exhibiting a pattern of nonattendance enrolls the child in
5 a home education program pursuant to chapter 1002, the
6 district school superintendent shall provide the parent a copy
7 of s. 1002.41 and the accountability requirements of this
8 paragraph. The district school superintendent shall also
9 refer the parent to a home education review committee composed
10 of the district contact for home education programs and at
11 least two home educators selected by the parent from a
12 district list of all home educators who have conducted a home
13 education program for at least 3 years and who have indicated
14 a willingness to serve on the committee. The home education
15 review committee shall review the portfolio of the student, as
16 defined by s. 1002.41, every 30 days during the district's
17 regular school terms until the committee is satisfied that the
18 home education program is in compliance with s. 1002.41(1)(b).
19 The first portfolio review must occur within the first 30
20 calendar days of the establishment of the program. The
21 provisions of subparagraph 2. do not apply once the committee
22 determines the home education program is in compliance with s.
23 1002.41(1)(b).

24 2. If the parent fails to provide a portfolio to the
25 committee, the committee shall notify the district school
26 superintendent. The district school superintendent shall then
27 terminate the home education program and require the parent to
28 enroll the child in an attendance option that meets the
29 definition of "regular school attendance" under s.
30 1003.01(13)(a), (b), (c), or (e), within 3 days. Upon
31 termination of a home education program pursuant to this

1 subparagraph, the parent shall not be eligible to reenroll the
2 child in a home education program for 180 calendar days.
3 Failure of a parent to enroll the child in an attendance
4 option as required by this subparagraph after termination of
5 the home education program pursuant to this subparagraph shall
6 constitute noncompliance with the compulsory attendance
7 requirements of s. 1003.21 and may result in criminal
8 prosecution under s. 1003.27(2). Nothing contained herein
9 shall restrict the ability of the district school
10 superintendent, or the ability of his or her designee, to
11 review the portfolio pursuant to s. 1002.41(1)(b).

12 (g) If a student subject to compulsory school
13 attendance will not comply with attempts to enforce school
14 attendance, the parent or the district school superintendent
15 or his or her designee shall refer the case to the case
16 staffing committee pursuant to s. 984.12, and the district
17 school superintendent or his or her designee may file a
18 truancy petition pursuant to the procedures in s. 984.151.

19 (2) GIVE WRITTEN NOTICE.--

20 (a) Under the direction of the district school
21 superintendent, a designated school representative shall give
22 written notice that requires enrollment or attendance within 3
23 days after the date of notice, in person or by return-receipt
24 mail, to the parent when no valid reason is found for a
25 student's nonenrollment in school. If the notice and
26 requirement are ignored, the designated school representative
27 shall report the case to the district school superintendent,
28 and may refer the case to the case staffing committee,
29 established pursuant to s. 984.12. The district school
30 superintendent shall take such steps as are necessary to bring
31 criminal prosecution against the parent.

1 (b) Subsequent to the activities required under
2 subsection (1), the district school superintendent or his or
3 her designee shall give written notice in person or by
4 return-receipt mail to the parent that criminal prosecution is
5 being sought for nonattendance. The district school
6 superintendent may file a truancy petition, as defined in s.
7 984.03, following the procedures outlined in s. 984.151.

8 (3) RETURN STUDENT TO PARENT.--A designated school
9 representative shall visit the home or place of residence of a
10 student and any other place in which he or she is likely to
11 find any student who is required to attend school when the
12 student is not enrolled or is absent from school during school
13 hours without an excuse, and, when the student is found, shall
14 return the student to his or her parent or to the principal or
15 teacher in charge of the school, or to the private tutor from
16 whom absent, or to the juvenile assessment center or other
17 location established by the district school board to receive
18 students who are absent from school. Upon receipt of the
19 student, the parent shall be immediately notified.

20 (4) REPORT TO APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY.--A designated
21 school representative shall report to the appropriate
22 authority designated by law to receive such notices, all
23 violations of the Child Labor Law that may come to his or her
24 knowledge.

25 (5) RIGHT TO INSPECT.--A designated school
26 representative shall have the right of access to, and
27 inspection of, establishments where minors may be employed or
28 detained only for the purpose of ascertaining whether students
29 of compulsory school age are actually employed there and are
30 actually working there regularly. The designated school
31 representative shall, if he or she finds unsatisfactory

1 working conditions or violations of the Child Labor Law,
2 report his or her findings to the appropriate authority.

3 Section 121. Section 1003.27, Florida Statutes, is
4 created to read:

5 1003.27 Court procedure and penalties.--The court
6 procedure and penalties for the enforcement of the provisions
7 of this part, relating to compulsory school attendance, shall
8 be as follows:

9 (1) COURT JURISDICTION.--The circuit court has
10 original and exclusive jurisdiction of all proceedings
11 against, or prosecutions of, students under the provisions of
12 this part. Proceedings against, or prosecutions of, parents or
13 employers as provided by this section shall be in the court of
14 each county having jurisdiction of misdemeanors wherein trial
15 by jury is afforded the defendant.

16 (2) NONENROLLMENT AND NONATTENDANCE CASES.--

17 (a) In each case of nonenrollment or of nonattendance
18 upon the part of a student who is required to attend some
19 school, when no valid reason for such nonenrollment or
20 nonattendance is found, the district school superintendent
21 shall institute a criminal prosecution against the student's
22 parent.

23 (b) Each public school principal or the principal's
24 designee shall notify the district school board of each minor
25 student under its jurisdiction who accumulates 15 unexcused
26 absences in a period of 90 calendar days. Each designee of the
27 governing body of each private school, and each parent whose
28 child is enrolled in a home education program, may provide the
29 Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles with the legal
30 name, sex, date of birth, and social security number of each
31 minor student under his or her jurisdiction who fails to

1 satisfy relevant attendance requirements and who fails to
2 otherwise satisfy the requirements of s. 322.091. The district
3 school superintendent must provide the Department of Highway
4 Safety and Motor Vehicles the legal name, sex, date of birth,
5 and social security number of each minor student who has been
6 reported under this paragraph and who fails to otherwise
7 satisfy the requirements of s. 322.091. The Department of
8 Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles may not issue a driver's
9 license or learner's driver's license to, and shall suspend
10 any previously issued driver's license or learner's driver's
11 license of, any such minor student, pursuant to the provisions
12 of s. 322.091.

13 (3) HABITUAL TRUANCY CASES.--The district school
14 superintendent is authorized to file a truancy petition, as
15 defined in s. 984.03, following the procedures outlined in s.
16 984.151. If the district school superintendent chooses not to
17 file a truancy petition, procedures for filing a
18 child-in-need-of-services petition shall be commenced pursuant
19 to this subsection and chapter 984. In accordance with
20 procedures established by the district school board, the
21 designated school representative shall refer a student who is
22 habitually truant and the student's family to the
23 children-in-need-of-services and families-in-need-of-services
24 provider or the case staffing committee, established pursuant
25 to s. 984.12, as determined by the cooperative agreement
26 required in this section. The case staffing committee may
27 request the Department of Juvenile Justice or its designee to
28 file a child-in-need-of-services petition based upon the
29 report and efforts of the district school board or other
30 community agency or may seek to resolve the truant behavior
31 through the school or community-based organizations or

1 agencies. Prior to and subsequent to the filing of a
2 child-in-need-of-services petition due to habitual truancy,
3 the appropriate governmental agencies must allow a reasonable
4 time to complete actions required by this section and s.
5 1003.26 to remedy the conditions leading to the truant
6 behavior. Prior to the filing of a petition, the district
7 school board must have complied with the requirements of s.
8 1003.26, and those efforts must have been unsuccessful.

9 (4) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.--The circuit manager of
10 the Department of Juvenile Justice or the circuit manager's
11 designee, the district administrator of the Department of
12 Children and Family Services or the district administrator's
13 designee, and the district school superintendent or the
14 superintendent's designee must develop a cooperative
15 interagency agreement that:

16 (a) Clearly defines each department's role,
17 responsibility, and function in working with habitual truants
18 and their families.

19 (b) Identifies and implements measures to resolve and
20 reduce truant behavior.

21 (c) Addresses issues of streamlining service delivery,
22 the appropriateness of legal intervention, case management,
23 the role and responsibility of the case staffing committee,
24 student and parental intervention and involvement, and
25 community action plans.

26 (d) Delineates timeframes for implementation and
27 identifies a mechanism for reporting results by the circuit
28 juvenile justice manager or the circuit manager's designee and
29 the district school superintendent or the superintendent's
30 designee to the Department of Juvenile Justice and the
31

1 Department of Education and other governmental entities as
2 needed.

3 (e) Designates which agency is responsible for each of
4 the intervention steps in this section, to yield more
5 effective and efficient intervention services.

6 (5) ATTENDANCE REGISTER AS EVIDENCE.--The register of
7 attendance of students at a public, parochial, religious,
8 denominational, or private school, or of students taught by a
9 private tutor, kept in compliance with rules of the State
10 Board of Education is prima facie evidence of the facts which
11 it is required to show. A certified copy of any rule and a
12 statement of the date of its adoption by the State Board of
13 Education is admissible as prima facie evidence of the
14 provisions of the rule and of the date of its adoption.

15 (6) PROCEEDINGS AND PROSECUTIONS; WHO MAY
16 BEGIN.--Proceedings or prosecutions under this chapter may be
17 commenced by the district school superintendent, by a
18 designated school representative, by the probation officer of
19 the county, by the executive officer of any court of competent
20 jurisdiction, by an officer of any court of competent
21 jurisdiction, or by a duly authorized agent of the Department
22 of Education or the Department of Juvenile Justice. If a
23 proceeding has been commenced against both a parent and a
24 child pursuant to this chapter, the presiding courts shall
25 make every effort to coordinate sanctions against the child
26 and parent, including ordering the child and parent to perform
27 community service hours or attend counseling together.

28 (7) PENALTIES.--The penalties for refusing or failing
29 to comply with this chapter shall be as follows:

30 (a) The parent.--
31

1 1. A parent who refuses or fails to have a minor
2 student who is under his or her control attend school
3 regularly, or who refuses or fails to comply with the
4 requirements in subsection (3), commits a misdemeanor of the
5 second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s.
6 775.083.

7 2. The continued or habitual absence of a minor
8 student without the consent of the principal or teacher in
9 charge of the school he or she attends or should attend, or of
10 the tutor who instructs or should instruct him or her, is
11 prima facie evidence of a violation of this chapter; however,
12 a showing that the parent has made a bona fide and diligent
13 effort to control and keep the student in school shall be an
14 affirmative defense to any criminal or other liability under
15 this subsection and the court shall refer the parent and child
16 for counseling, guidance, or other needed services.

17 3. In addition to any other punishment, the court
18 shall order a parent who has violated this section to send the
19 minor student to school, and may also order the parent to
20 participate in an approved parent training class, attend
21 school with the student unless this would cause undue
22 hardship, perform community service hours at the school, or
23 participate in counseling or other services, as appropriate.
24 If a parent is ordered to attend school with a student, the
25 school shall provide for programming to educate the parent and
26 student on the importance of school attendance. It shall be
27 unlawful to terminate any employee solely because he or she is
28 attending school with his or her child pursuant to a court
29 order.

30 (b) The principal or teacher.--A principal or teacher
31 in any public, parochial, religious, denominational, or

1 private school, or a private tutor who willfully violates any
2 provision of this chapter may, upon satisfactory proof of such
3 violation, have his or her certificate revoked by the
4 Department of Education.

5 (c) The employer.--

6 1. An employer who fails to notify the district school
7 superintendent when he or she ceases to employ a student
8 commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as
9 provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

10 2. An employer who terminates any employee solely
11 because he or she is attending school with a student pursuant
12 to court order commits a misdemeanor of the second degree,
13 punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

14 (d) The student.--

15 1. In addition to any other authorized sanctions, the
16 court shall order a student found to be a habitual truant to
17 make up all school work missed and may order the student to
18 pay a civil penalty of up to \$2, based on the student's
19 ability to pay, for each day of school missed, perform up to
20 25 community service hours at the school, or participate in
21 counseling or other services, as appropriate.

22 2. Upon a second or subsequent finding that a student
23 is a habitual truant, the court, in addition to any other
24 authorized sanctions, shall order the student to make up all
25 school work missed and may order the student to pay a civil
26 penalty of up to \$5, based on the student's ability to pay,
27 for each day of school missed, perform up to 50 community
28 service hours at the school, or participate in counseling or
29 other services, as appropriate.

30 Section 122. Section 1003.28, Florida Statutes, is
31 created to read:

1 1003.28 Continuation of truancy remedial activities
2 upon transfer of student; retention of legal jurisdiction.--

3 (1) If, during the activities designed to remedy
4 truant behavior as described in s. 1003.27, the parent of the
5 student who is the subject of such activities transfers the
6 student to another school district in this state in an attempt
7 to circumvent the remedial procedures which have already
8 begun, the administration of the school from which the student
9 transferred shall provide to the administration of the new
10 school, at no charge, copies of all available records and
11 documents relevant to such remedial activities, and the
12 administration of the new school shall begin remedial
13 activities in the program that most closely meets the transfer
14 student's needs.

15 (2) In the event that a legal proceeding has
16 commenced, as provided in s. 1003.27, against a student who
17 has been determined to be a habitual truant, the movement of
18 the student who is the subject of such proceeding to another
19 circuit court district in this state will not affect the
20 jurisdiction of the court to proceed with the case under the
21 law.

22 Section 123. Section 1003.29, Florida Statutes, is
23 created to read:

24 1003.29 Notice to schools of court action.--If a court
25 takes action that directly involves a student's school,
26 including, but not limited to, an order that a student attend
27 school, attend school with his or her parent, perform at grade
28 level, or perform community service hours at the school, the
29 office of the clerk of the court shall provide notice to the
30 school of the court's action.

31

1 Section 124. Part III of chapter 1003, Florida
2 Statutes, shall be entitled "Control of Students" and shall
3 consist of ss. 1003.31-1003.33.

4 Section 125. Section 1003.31, Florida Statutes, is
5 created to read:

6 1003.31 Students subject to control of school.--

7 (1) Subject to law and rules of the State Board of
8 Education and of the district school board, each student
9 enrolled in a school shall:

10 (a) During the time she or he is being transported to
11 or from school at public expense;

12 (b) During the time she or he is attending school;

13 (c) During the time she or he is on the school
14 premises participating with authorization in a
15 school-sponsored activity; and

16 (d) During a reasonable time before and after the
17 student is on the premises for attendance at school or for
18 authorized participation in a school-sponsored activity, and
19 only when on the premises,

20
21 be under the control and direction of the principal or teacher
22 in charge of the school, and under the immediate control and
23 direction of the teacher or other member of the instructional
24 staff or of the bus driver to whom such responsibility may be
25 assigned by the principal. However, the State Board of
26 Education or the district school board may, by rules, subject
27 each student to the control and direction of the principal or
28 teacher in charge of the school during the time she or he is
29 otherwise en route to or from school or is presumed by law to
30 be attending school.

31

1 (2) There is a rebuttable presumption that the term
2 "reasonable time" means 30 minutes before or after the
3 activity is scheduled or actually begins or ends, whichever
4 period is longer. A school or district school board may, by
5 policy or other formal action, assume a longer period of
6 supervision. Casual or incidental contact between school
7 district personnel and students on school property shall not
8 result in a legal duty to supervise outside of the reasonable
9 times set forth in this section, provided that parents shall
10 be advised in writing twice per year or by posted signs of the
11 school's formal supervisory responsibility and that parents
12 should not rely on additional supervision. The duty of
13 supervision shall not extend to anyone other than students
14 attending school and students authorized to participate in
15 school-sponsored activities.

16 (3) Nothing shall prohibit a district school board
17 from having the right to expel, or to take disciplinary action
18 against, a student who is found to have committed an offense
19 on school property at any time if:

20 (a) The student is found to have committed a
21 delinquent act which would be a felony if committed by an
22 adult;

23 (b) The student has had adjudication withheld for a
24 delinquent act which, if committed by an adult, would be a
25 felony; or

26 (c) The student has been found guilty of a felony.

27
28 However, if the student is a student with a disability, the
29 disciplinary action must comply with the procedures set forth
30 in State Board of Education rule.

31

1 (4) Each student enrolled in a school may be required
2 to take the following school child's daily conduct pledge:

3 (a) I will be respectful at all times and obedient
4 unless asked to do wrong.

5 (b) I will not hurt another person with my words or my
6 acts, because it is wrong to hurt others.

7 (c) I will tell the truth, because it is wrong to tell
8 a lie.

9 (d) I will not steal, because it is wrong to take
10 someone else's property.

11 (e) I will respect my body, and not take drugs.

12 (f) I will show strength and courage, and not do
13 something wrong, just because others are doing it.

14 (g) I pledge to be nonviolent and to respect my
15 teachers and fellow classmates.

16 Section 126. Section 1003.32, Florida Statutes, is
17 created to read:

18 1003.32 Authority of teacher; responsibility for
19 control of students; district school board and principal
20 duties.--Subject to law and to the rules of the district
21 school board, each teacher or other member of the staff of any
22 school shall have such authority for the control and
23 discipline of students as may be assigned to him or her by the
24 principal or the principal's designated representative and
25 shall keep good order in the classroom and in other places in
26 which he or she is assigned to be in charge of students.

27 (1) Within the framework of the district school
28 board's code of student conduct, teachers and other
29 instructional personnel shall have the authority to undertake
30 any of the following actions in managing student behavior and
31

- 1 ensuring the safety of all students in their classes and
2 school:
- 3 (a) Establish classroom rules of conduct.
- 4 (b) Establish and implement consequences, designed to
5 change behavior, for infractions of classroom rules.
- 6 (c) Have disobedient, disrespectful, violent, abusive,
7 uncontrollable, or disruptive students temporarily removed
8 from the classroom for behavior management intervention.
- 9 (d) Have violent, abusive, uncontrollable, or
10 disruptive students directed for information or assistance
11 from appropriate school or district school board personnel.
- 12 (e) Assist in enforcing school rules on school
13 property, during school-sponsored transportation, and during
14 school-sponsored activities.
- 15 (f) Request and receive information as to the
16 disposition of any referrals to the administration for
17 violation of classroom or school rules.
- 18 (g) Request and receive immediate assistance in
19 classroom management if a student becomes uncontrollable or in
20 case of emergency.
- 21 (h) Request and receive training and other assistance
22 to improve skills in classroom management, violence
23 prevention, conflict resolution, and related areas.
- 24 (i) Press charges if a crime has been committed
25 against the teacher or other instructional personnel on school
26 property, during school-sponsored transportation, or during
27 school-sponsored activities.
- 28 (j) Use reasonable force, according to standards
29 adopted by the State Board of Education, to protect himself or
30 herself or others from injury.
- 31

1 (k) Use corporal punishment according to school board
2 policy and at least the following procedures, if a teacher
3 feels that corporal punishment is necessary:

4 1. The use of corporal punishment shall be approved in
5 principle by the principal before it is used, but approval is
6 not necessary for each specific instance in which it is used.
7 The principal shall prepare guidelines for administering such
8 punishment which identify the types of punishable offenses,
9 the conditions under which the punishment shall be
10 administered, and the specific personnel on the school staff
11 authorized to administer the punishment.

12 2. A teacher or principal may administer corporal
13 punishment only in the presence of another adult who is
14 informed beforehand, and in the student's presence, of the
15 reason for the punishment.

16 3. A teacher or principal who has administered
17 punishment shall, upon request, provide the student's parent
18 with a written explanation of the reason for the punishment
19 and the name of the other adult who was present.

20 (2) Teachers and other instructional personnel shall:

21 (a) Set and enforce reasonable classroom rules that
22 treat all students equitably.

23 (b) Seek professional development to improve classroom
24 management skills when data show that they are not effective
25 in handling minor classroom disruptions.

26 (c) Maintain a positive and effective learning
27 environment that maximizes learning and minimizes disruption.

28 (d) Work with parents and other school personnel to
29 solve discipline problems in their classrooms.

30 (3) A teacher may send a student to the principal's
31 office to maintain effective discipline in the classroom. The

1 principal shall respond by employing appropriate
2 discipline-management techniques consistent with the student
3 code of conduct under s. 1006.07.

4 (4) A teacher may remove from class a student whose
5 behavior the teacher determines interferes with the teacher's
6 ability to communicate effectively with the students in the
7 class or with the ability of the student's classmates to
8 learn.

9 (5) If a teacher removes a student from class under
10 subsection (4), the principal may place the student in another
11 appropriate classroom, in in-school suspension, or in a
12 dropout prevention and academic intervention program as
13 provided by s. 1003.53; or the principal may recommend the
14 student for out-of-school suspension or expulsion, as
15 appropriate. The student may be prohibited from attending or
16 participating in school-sponsored or school-related
17 activities. The principal may not return the student to that
18 teacher's class without the teacher's consent unless the
19 committee established under subsection (6) determines that
20 such placement is the best or only available alternative. The
21 teacher and the placement review committee must render
22 decisions within 5 days of the removal of the student from the
23 classroom.

24 (6) Each school shall establish a committee to
25 determine placement of a student when a teacher withholds
26 consent to the return of a student to the teacher's class.
27 Committee membership must include at least the following:

28 (a) Two teachers selected by the school's faculty.

29 (b) One member from the school's staff who is selected
30 by the principal.

31

1 The teacher who withheld consent to readmitting the student
2 may not serve on the committee. The teacher and the placement
3 review committee must render decisions within 5 days after the
4 removal of the student from the classroom.

5 (7) Any teacher who removes 25 percent of his or her
6 total class enrollment shall be required to complete
7 professional development to improve classroom management
8 skills.

9 (8) When knowledgeable of the likely risk of physical
10 violence in the schools, the district school board shall take
11 reasonable steps to ensure that teachers, other school staff,
12 and students are not at undue risk of violence or harm.

13 Section 127. Section 1003.33, Florida Statutes, is
14 created to read:

15 1003.33 Report cards; end-of-the-year status.--

16 (1) Each district school board shall establish and
17 publish policies requiring the content and regular issuance of
18 student report cards for all elementary school, middle school,
19 and high school students. These report cards must clearly
20 depict and grade:

21 (a) The student's academic performance in each class
22 or course, which in grades 1 through 12 must be based upon
23 examinations as well as written papers, class participation,
24 and other academic performance criteria.

25 (b) The student's conduct and behavior.

26 (c) The student's attendance, including absences and
27 tardiness.

28 (2) A student's final report card for a school year
29 shall contain a statement indicating end-of-the-year status
30 regarding performance or nonperformance at grade level,
31

1 acceptable or unacceptable behavior and attendance, and
2 promotion or nonpromotion.

3
4 District school boards shall not allow schools to exempt
5 students from academic performance requirements based on
6 practices or policies designed to encourage student
7 attendance. A student's attendance record may not be used in
8 whole or in part to provide an exemption from any academic
9 performance requirement.

10 Section 128. Part IV of chapter 1003, Florida
11 Statutes, shall be entitled "Public K-12 Educational
12 Instruction" and shall consist of ss. 1003.41-1003.491.

13 Section 129. Section 1003.41, Florida Statutes, is
14 created to read:

15 1003.41 Sunshine State Standards.--Public K-12
16 educational instruction in Florida is based on the "Sunshine
17 State Standards." These standards have been adopted by the
18 State Board of Education and delineate the academic
19 achievement of students, for which the state will hold schools
20 accountable, in grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12 in the subjects
21 of language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, the
22 arts, health and physical education, and foreign languages.
23 They include standards in reading, writing, history,
24 government, geography, economics, and computer literacy.

25 Section 130. Section 1003.42, Florida Statutes, is
26 created to read:

27 1003.42 Required instruction.--

28 (1) Each district school board shall provide all
29 courses required for high school graduation and appropriate
30 instruction designed to ensure that students meet State Board
31 of Education adopted standards in the following subject areas:

1 reading and other language arts, mathematics, science, social
2 studies, foreign languages, health and physical education, and
3 the arts.

4 (2) Members of the instructional staff of the public
5 schools, subject to the rules of the State Board of Education
6 and the district school board, shall teach efficiently and
7 faithfully, using the books and materials required, following
8 the prescribed courses of study, and employing approved
9 methods of instruction, the following:

10 (a) The content of the Declaration of Independence and
11 how it forms the philosophical foundation of our government.

12 (b) The arguments in support of adopting our
13 republican form of government, as they are embodied in the
14 most important of the Federalist Papers.

15 (c) The essentials of the United States Constitution
16 and how it provides the structure of our government.

17 (d) Flag education, including proper flag display and
18 flag salute.

19 (e) The elements of civil government, including the
20 primary functions of and interrelationships between the
21 Federal Government, the state, and its counties,
22 municipalities, school districts, and special districts.

23 (f) The history of the Holocaust (1933-1945), the
24 systematic, planned annihilation of European Jews and other
25 groups by Nazi Germany, a watershed event in the history of
26 humanity, to be taught in a manner that leads to an
27 investigation of human behavior, an understanding of the
28 ramifications of prejudice, racism, and stereotyping, and an
29 examination of what it means to be a responsible and
30 respectful person, for the purposes of encouraging tolerance
31

1 of diversity in a pluralistic society and for nurturing and
2 protecting democratic values and institutions.

3 (g) The history of African Americans, including the
4 history of African peoples before the political conflicts that
5 led to the development of slavery, the passage to America, the
6 enslavement experience, abolition, and the contributions of
7 African Americans to society.

8 (h) The elementary principles of agriculture.

9 (i) The true effects of all alcoholic and intoxicating
10 liquors and beverages and narcotics upon the human body and
11 mind.

12 (j) Kindness to animals.

13 (k) The history of the state.

14 (l) The conservation of natural resources.

15 (m) Comprehensive health education that addresses
16 concepts of community health; consumer health; environmental
17 health; family life, including an awareness of the benefits of
18 sexual abstinence as the expected standard and the
19 consequences of teenage pregnancy; mental and emotional
20 health; injury prevention and safety; nutrition; personal
21 health; prevention and control of disease; and substance use
22 and abuse.

23 (n) Such additional materials, subjects, courses, or
24 fields in such grades as are prescribed by law or by rules of
25 the State Board of Education and the district school board in
26 fulfilling the requirements of law.

27 (o) The study of Hispanic contributions to the United
28 States.

29 (p) The study of women's contributions to the United
30 States.

31

1 (q) A character-development program in the elementary
2 schools, similar to Character First or Character Counts, which
3 is secular in nature and stresses such character qualities as
4 attentiveness, patience, and initiative. Beginning in school
5 year 2004-2005, the character-development program shall be
6 required in kindergarten through grade 12. Each district
7 school board shall develop or adopt a curriculum for the
8 character-development program that shall be submitted to the
9 department for approval. The character-development curriculum
10 shall stress the qualities of patriotism, responsibility,
11 citizenship, kindness, respect, honesty, self-control,
12 tolerance, and cooperation.

13 (r) In order to encourage patriotism, the sacrifices
14 that veterans have made in serving our country and protecting
15 democratic values worldwide. Such instruction must occur on or
16 before Veterans' Day and Memorial Day. Members of the
17 instructional staff are encouraged to use the assistance of
18 local veterans when practicable.

19 (3) Any student whose parent makes written request to
20 the school principal shall be exempted from the teaching of
21 reproductive health or any disease, including HIV/AIDS, its
22 symptoms, development, and treatment. A student so exempted
23 may not be penalized by reason of that exemption. Course
24 descriptions for comprehensive health education shall not
25 interfere with the local determination of appropriate
26 curriculum which reflects local values and concerns.

27 Section 131. Section 1003.43, Florida Statutes, is
28 created to read:

29 1003.43 General requirements for high school
30 graduation.--

31

1 (1) Graduation requires successful completion of
2 either a minimum of 24 academic credits in grades 9 through 12
3 or an International Baccalaureate curriculum. The 24 credits
4 shall be distributed as follows:

5 (a) Four credits in English, with major concentration
6 in composition and literature.

7 (b) Three credits in mathematics. Effective for
8 students entering the 9th grade in the 1997-1998 school year
9 and thereafter, one of these credits must be Algebra I, a
10 series of courses equivalent to Algebra I, or a higher-level
11 mathematics course.

12 (c) Three credits in science, two of which must have a
13 laboratory component. The State Board of Education may grant
14 an annual waiver of the laboratory requirement to a district
15 school board that certifies that its laboratory facilities are
16 inadequate, provided the district school board submits a
17 capital outlay plan to provide adequate facilities and makes
18 the funding of this plan a priority of the district school
19 board. Agriscience Foundations I, the core course in secondary
20 Agriscience and Natural Resources programs, counts as one of
21 the science credits.

22 (d) One credit in American history.

23 (e) One credit in world history, including a
24 comparative study of the history, doctrines, and objectives of
25 all major political systems.

26 (f) One-half credit in economics, including a
27 comparative study of the history, doctrines, and objectives of
28 all major economic systems. The Florida Council on Economic
29 Education shall provide technical assistance to the department
30 and district school boards in developing curriculum materials
31 for the study of economics.

1 (g) One-half credit in American government, including
2 study of the Constitution of the United States. For students
3 entering the 9th grade in the 1997-1998 school year and
4 thereafter, the study of Florida government, including study
5 of the State Constitution, the three branches of state
6 government, and municipal and county government, shall be
7 included as part of the required study of American government.

8 (h)1. One credit in practical arts career and
9 technical education or exploratory career and technical
10 education. Any career and technical education course as
11 defined in s. 1003.01 may be taken to satisfy the high school
12 graduation requirement for one credit in practical arts or
13 exploratory career and technical education provided in this
14 subparagraph;

15 2. One credit in performing fine arts to be selected
16 from music, dance, drama, painting, or sculpture. A course in
17 any art form, in addition to painting or sculpture, that
18 requires manual dexterity, or a course in speech and debate,
19 may be taken to satisfy the high school graduation requirement
20 for one credit in performing arts pursuant to this
21 subparagraph; or

22 3. One-half credit each in practical arts career and
23 technical education or exploratory career and technical
24 education and performing fine arts, as defined in this
25 paragraph.

26
27 Such credit for practical arts career and technical education
28 or exploratory career and technical education or for
29 performing fine arts shall be made available in the 9th grade,
30 and students shall be scheduled into a 9th grade course as a
31 priority.

1 (i) One-half credit in life management skills to
2 include consumer education, positive emotional development,
3 marriage and relationship skill-based education, nutrition,
4 prevention of human immunodeficiency virus infection and
5 acquired immune deficiency syndrome and other sexually
6 transmissible diseases, benefits of sexual abstinence and
7 consequences of teenage pregnancy, information and instruction
8 on breast cancer detection and breast self-examination,
9 cardiopulmonary resuscitation, drug education, and the hazards
10 of smoking. Such credit shall be given for a course to be
11 taken by all students in either the 9th or 10th grade.

12 (j) One credit in physical education to include
13 assessment, improvement, and maintenance of personal fitness.
14 Participation in an interscholastic sport at the junior
15 varsity or varsity level, for two full seasons, shall satisfy
16 the one-credit requirement in physical education if the
17 student passes a competency test on personal fitness with a
18 score of "C" or better. The competency test on personal
19 fitness must be developed by the Department of Education. A
20 district school board may not require that the one credit in
21 physical education be taken during the 9th grade year.
22 Completion of one semester with a grade of "C" or better in a
23 marching band class or in a physical activity class that
24 requires participation in marching band activities as an
25 extracurricular activity shall satisfy a one-half credit
26 requirement in physical education. This one-half credit may
27 not be used to satisfy the personal fitness requirement or the
28 requirement for adaptive physical education under an
29 individual educational plan (IEP) or 504 plan.

30 (k) Eight and one-half elective credits.
31

1 District school boards may award a maximum of one-half credit
2 in social studies and one-half elective credit for student
3 completion of nonpaid voluntary community or school service
4 work. Students choosing this option must complete a minimum
5 of 75 hours of service in order to earn the one-half credit in
6 either category of instruction. Credit may not be earned for
7 service provided as a result of court action. District school
8 boards that approve the award of credit for student volunteer
9 service shall develop guidelines regarding the award of the
10 credit, and school principals are responsible for approving
11 specific volunteer activities. A course designated in the
12 Course Code Directory as grade 9 through grade 12 that is
13 taken below the 9th grade may be used to satisfy high school
14 graduation requirements or Florida Academic Scholars award
15 requirements as specified in a district school board's student
16 progression plan. A student shall be granted credit toward
17 meeting the requirements of this subsection for equivalent
18 courses, as identified pursuant to s. 1007.271(6), taken
19 through dual enrollment.

20 (2) Remedial and compensatory courses taken in grades
21 9 through 12 may only be counted as elective credit as
22 provided in subsection (1).

23 (3) Credit for high school graduation may be earned
24 for volunteer activities and nonacademic activities which have
25 been approved for such credit by the State Board of Education.

26 (4)(a) A district school board may require specific
27 courses and programs of study within the minimum credit
28 requirements for high school graduation and shall modify basic
29 courses, as necessary, to assure exceptional students the
30 opportunity to meet the graduation requirements for a standard
31 diploma, using one of the following strategies:

1 1. Assignment of the exceptional student to an
2 exceptional education class for instruction in a basic course
3 with the same student performance standards as those required
4 of nonexceptional students in the district school board
5 student progression plan; or

6 2. Assignment of the exceptional student to a basic
7 education class for instruction that is modified to
8 accommodate the student's exceptionality.

9 (b) The district school board shall determine which of
10 these strategies to employ based upon an assessment of the
11 student's needs and shall reflect this decision in the
12 student's individual educational plan.

13 (c) District school boards are authorized and
14 encouraged to establish requirements for high school
15 graduation in excess of the minimum requirements; however, an
16 increase in academic credit or minimum grade point average
17 requirements shall not apply to those students enrolled in
18 grades 9 through 12 at the time the district school board
19 increases the requirements. In addition, any increase in
20 academic credit or minimum grade point average requirements
21 shall not apply to a student who earns credit toward the
22 graduation requirements of this section for equivalent courses
23 taken through dual enrollment.

24 (5) Each district school board shall establish
25 standards for graduation from its schools, and these standards
26 must include:

27 (a) Earning passing scores on the FCAT, as defined in
28 s. 1008.22(3)(c).

29 (b) Completion of all other applicable requirements
30 prescribed by the district school board pursuant to s.
31 1008.25.

1 (c) Achievement of a cumulative grade point average of
2 1.5 on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, for students entering
3 9th grade before the 1997-1998 school year; however, these
4 students must earn a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on
5 a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, in the courses required by
6 subsection (1) that are taken after July 1, 1997, or have an
7 overall cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or above.

8 (d) Achievement of a cumulative grade point average of
9 2.0 on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, in the courses required
10 by subsection (1), for students entering 9th grade in the
11 1997-1998 school year and thereafter.

12 (e) For purposes of paragraphs (c) and (d):

13 1. Each district school board shall adopt policies
14 designed to assist students in meeting these requirements.
15 These policies may include, but are not limited to:
16 forgiveness policies, summer school or before or after school
17 attendance, special counseling, volunteer and/or peer tutors,
18 school-sponsored help sessions, homework hotlines, and study
19 skills classes. Beginning in the 2000-2001 school year and
20 each year thereafter, forgiveness policies for required
21 courses shall be limited to replacing a grade of "D" or "F,"
22 or the equivalent of a grade of "D" or "F," with a grade of
23 "C" or higher, or the equivalent of a grade of "C" or higher,
24 earned subsequently in the same or comparable course.
25 Forgiveness policies for elective courses shall be limited to
26 replacing a grade of "D" or "F," or the equivalent of a grade
27 of "D" or "F," with a grade of "C" or higher, or the
28 equivalent of a grade of "C" or higher, earned subsequently in
29 another course. Any course grade not replaced according to a
30 district school board forgiveness policy shall be included in
31

1 the calculation of the cumulative grade point average required
2 for graduation.

3 2. At the end of each semester, the parent of each
4 student in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 who has a cumulative grade
5 point average of less than 0.5 above the cumulative grade
6 point average required for graduation shall be notified that
7 the student is at risk of not meeting the requirements for
8 graduation. The notice shall contain an explanation of the
9 policies the district school board has in place to assist the
10 student in meeting the grade point average requirement.

11 3. Special assistance to obtain a high school
12 equivalency diploma pursuant to s. 1003.435 may be given only
13 when the student has completed all requirements for graduation
14 except the attainment of the required cumulative grade point
15 average.

16
17 The standards required in this subsection, and any subsequent
18 modifications, shall be reprinted in the Florida
19 Administrative Code even though not defined as "rules."

20 (6) The Legislature recognizes that adult learners are
21 unique in situation and needs. The following graduation
22 requirements are therefore instituted for students enrolled in
23 adult general education in accordance with s. 1004.93 in
24 pursuit of a high school diploma:

25 (a) The one credit in physical education required for
26 graduation, pursuant to subsection (1), is not required for
27 graduation and shall be substituted with elective credit
28 keeping the total credits needed for graduation consistent
29 with subsection (1).

30 (b) Each district school board may waive the
31 laboratory component of the science requirement expressed in

1 subsection (1) when such facilities are inaccessible or do not
2 exist.

3 (c) Any course listed within the Department of
4 Education Course Code Directory in the areas of art, dance,
5 drama, or music may be undertaken by adult secondary education
6 students. Enrollment and satisfactory completion of such a
7 course shall satisfy the credit in performing fine arts
8 required for high school graduation pursuant to subsection
9 (1).

10 (7) No student may be granted credit toward high
11 school graduation for enrollment in the following courses or
12 programs:

13 (a) More than a total of nine elective credits in
14 remedial programs.

15 (b) More than one credit in exploratory career
16 education courses as defined in s. 1003.01(4)(a).

17 (c) More than three credits in practical arts family
18 and consumer sciences classes as defined in s. 1003.01(4)(a).

19 (d) Any Level I course unless the student's assessment
20 indicates that a more rigorous course of study would be
21 inappropriate, in which case a written assessment of the need
22 must be included in the student's individual educational plan
23 or in a student performance plan, signed by the principal, the
24 guidance counselor, and the parent of the student, or the
25 student if the student is 18 years of age or older.

26 (8) The State Board of Education, after a public
27 hearing and consideration, shall make provision for
28 appropriate modification of testing instruments and procedures
29 for students with identified handicaps or disabilities in
30 order to ensure that the results of the testing represent the
31 student's achievement, rather than reflecting the student's

1 impaired sensory, manual, speaking, or psychological process
2 skills.

3 (9) A student who meets all requirements prescribed in
4 subsections (1), (4), and (5) shall be awarded a standard
5 diploma in a form prescribed by the State Board of Education.
6 A district school board may attach the Florida gold seal
7 career and technical endorsement to a standard diploma or,
8 instead of the standard diploma, award differentiated diplomas
9 to those exceeding the prescribed minimums. A student who
10 completes the minimum number of credits and other requirements
11 prescribed by subsections (1) and (4), but who is unable to
12 meet the standards of paragraph (5)(a), paragraph (5)(b), or
13 paragraph (5)(c), shall be awarded a certificate of completion
14 in a form prescribed by the State Board of Education. However,
15 any student who is otherwise entitled to a certificate of
16 completion may elect to remain in the secondary school either
17 as a full-time student or a part-time student for up to 1
18 additional year and receive special instruction designed to
19 remedy his or her identified deficiencies.

20 (10) The public hearing and consideration required in
21 subsection (8) shall not be construed to amend or nullify the
22 requirements of security relating to the contents of
23 examinations or assessment instruments and related materials
24 or data as prescribed in s. 1008.23.

25 (11) The Commissioner of Education may award a
26 standard high school diploma to honorably discharged veterans
27 who started high school between 1937 and 1946 and were
28 scheduled to graduate between 1941 and 1950 but were inducted
29 into the United States Armed Forces between September 16,
30 1940, and December 31, 1946, prior to completing the necessary
31 high school graduation requirements. Upon the recommendation

1 of the commissioner, the State Board of Education may develop
2 criteria and guidelines for awarding such diplomas.

3 Section 132. Section 1003.435, Florida Statutes, is
4 created to read:

5 1003.435 High school equivalency diploma program.--

6 (1) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
7 that prescribe performance standards and provide for
8 comprehensive examinations to be administered to candidates
9 for high school equivalency diplomas. Such rules shall
10 include, but are not limited to, provisions for fees,
11 frequency of examinations, and procedures for retaking an
12 examination upon unsatisfactory performance.

13 (2) The department may award high school equivalency
14 diplomas to candidates who meet the performance standards
15 prescribed by the State Board of Education.

16 (3) Each district school board shall offer and
17 administer the high school equivalency diploma examinations
18 and the subject area examinations to all candidates pursuant
19 to rules of the State Board of Education.

20 (4) A candidate for a high school equivalency diploma
21 shall be at least 18 years of age on the date of the
22 examination, except that in extraordinary circumstances, as
23 provided for in rules of the district school board of the
24 district in which the candidate resides or attends school, a
25 candidate may take the examination after reaching the age of
26 16.

27 (5) Each district school board shall develop, in
28 cooperation with the area community college board of trustees,
29 a plan for the provision of advanced instruction for those
30 students who attain satisfactory performance on the high
31 school equivalency examination or the subject area

1 examinations or who demonstrate through other means a
2 readiness to engage in postsecondary-level academic work. The
3 plan shall include provisions for the equitable distribution
4 of generated funds to cover personnel, maintenance, and other
5 costs of offering the advanced instruction. Priority shall be
6 given to programs of advanced instruction offered in high
7 school facilities.

8 (6)(a) All high school equivalency diplomas issued
9 under the provisions of this section shall have equal status
10 with other high school diplomas for all state purposes,
11 including admission to any state university or community
12 college.

13 (b) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
14 providing for the award of a standard high school diploma to
15 holders of high school equivalency diplomas who are assessed
16 as meeting designated criteria, and the commissioner shall
17 establish procedures for administering the assessment.

18 Section 133. Section 1003.436, Florida Statutes, is
19 created to read:

20 1003.436 Definition of "credit".--

21 (1)(a) For the purposes of requirements for high
22 school graduation, one full credit means a minimum of 135
23 hours of bona fide instruction in a designated course of study
24 that contains student performance standards. The State Board
25 of Education shall determine the number of postsecondary
26 credit hours earned through dual enrollment pursuant to s.
27 1007.271 that satisfy the requirements of a district's
28 interinstitutional articulation agreement according to s.
29 1007.235 and that equal one full credit of the equivalent high
30 school course identified pursuant to s. 1007.271(6).

31

1 (b) The hourly requirements for one-half credit are
2 one-half the requirements specified in paragraph (a).

3 (2) In awarding credit for high school graduation,
4 each district school board shall maintain a one-half credit
5 earned system that shall include courses provided on a
6 full-year basis. A student enrolled in a full-year course
7 shall receive one-half credit if the student successfully
8 completes either the first half or the second half of a
9 full-year course but fails to successfully complete the other
10 half of the course and the averaging of the grades obtained in
11 each half would not result in a passing grade. A student
12 enrolled in a full-year course shall receive a full credit if
13 the student successfully completes either the first half or
14 the second half of a full-year course but fails to
15 successfully complete the other half of the course and the
16 averaging of the grades obtained in each half would result in
17 a passing grade, provided that such additional requirements
18 specified in district school board policies, such as class
19 attendance, homework, participation, and other indicators of
20 performance, shall be successfully completed by the student.

21 Section 134. Section 1003.437, Florida Statutes, is
22 created to read:

23 1003.437 High school grading system.--The grading
24 system and interpretation of letter grades used in public high
25 schools shall be as follows:

26 (1) Grade "A" equals 90 percent through 100 percent,
27 has a grade point average value of 4, and is defined as
28 "outstanding progress."

29 (2) Grade "B" equals 80 percent through 89 percent,
30 has a grade point average value of 3, and is defined as "above
31 average progress."

1 (3) Grade "C" equals 70 percent through 79 percent,
2 has a grade point average value of 2, and is defined as
3 "average progress."

4 (4) Grade "D" equals 60 percent through 69 percent,
5 has a grade point average value of 1, and is defined as
6 "lowest acceptable progress."

7 (5) Grade "F" equals zero percent through 59 percent,
8 has a grade point average value of zero, and is defined as
9 "failure."

10 (6) Grade "I" equals zero percent, has a grade point
11 average value of zero, and is defined as "incomplete."

12

13 For the purposes of class ranking, district school boards may
14 exercise a weighted grading system.

15 Section 135. Section 1003.438, Florida Statutes, is
16 created to read:

17 1003.438 Special high school graduation requirements
18 for certain exceptional students.--A student who has been
19 properly classified, in accordance with rules established by
20 the State board of Education, as "educable mentally
21 handicapped," "trainable mentally handicapped," "hearing
22 impaired," "specific learning disabled," "physically or
23 language impaired," or "emotionally handicapped" shall not be
24 required to meet all requirements of s. 1003.43 and shall,
25 upon meeting all applicable requirements prescribed by the
26 district school board pursuant to s. 1008.25, be awarded a
27 special diploma in a form prescribed by the commissioner;
28 however, such special graduation requirements prescribed by
29 the district school board must include minimum graduation
30 requirements as prescribed by the commissioner. Any such
31 student who meets all special requirements of the district

1 school board for exceptionality, but is unable to meet the
2 appropriate special state minimum requirements, shall be
3 awarded a special certificate of completion in a form
4 prescribed by the commissioner. A student who has been
5 properly classified as "profoundly handicapped" and who meets
6 the special requirements of the district school board for a
7 special diploma in accordance with requirements for any
8 exceptional student identified in this section shall be
9 awarded a special diploma; however, such a student shall
10 alternatively be eligible for a special certificate of
11 completion, in a form prescribed by the commissioner, if all
12 school requirements for students who are "profoundly
13 handicapped" have been met. However, this section does not
14 limit or restrict the right of an exceptional student solely
15 to a special diploma or special certificate of completion.
16 Any such student shall, upon proper request, be afforded the
17 opportunity to fully meet all requirements of s. 1003.43
18 through the standard procedures established therein and
19 thereby to qualify for a standard diploma upon graduation.

20 Section 136. Section 1003.44, Florida Statutes, is
21 created to read:

22 1003.44 Patriotic programs; rules.--

23 (1) Each district school board may adopt rules to
24 require, in all of the schools of the district, programs of a
25 patriotic nature to encourage greater respect for the
26 government of the United States and its national anthem and
27 flag, subject always to other existing pertinent laws of the
28 United States or of the state. When the national anthem is
29 played, students and all civilians shall stand at attention,
30 men removing the headdress, except when such headdress is worn
31 for religious purposes. The pledge of allegiance to the flag,

1 "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of
2 America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation
3 under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all,"
4 shall be rendered by students standing with the right hand
5 over the heart. The pledge of allegiance to the flag shall be
6 recited at the beginning of the day in each public elementary,
7 middle, and high school in the state. Each student shall be
8 informed by posting a notice in a conspicuous place that the
9 student has the right not to participate in reciting the
10 pledge. Upon written request by his or her parent, the student
11 must be excused from reciting the pledge. When the pledge is
12 given, civilians must show full respect to the flag by
13 standing at attention, men removing the headdress, except when
14 such headdress is worn for religious purposes, as provided by
15 Pub. L. ch. 77-435, s. 7, approved June 22, 1942, 56 Stat.
16 377, as amended by Pub. L. ch. 77-806, 56 Stat. 1074, approved
17 December 22, 1942.

18 (2) Each district school board may allow any teacher
19 or administrator to read, or to post in a public school
20 building or classroom or at any school-related event, any
21 excerpt or portion of the following historic material: the
22 national motto; the national anthem; the pledge of allegiance;
23 the Constitution of the State of Florida, including the
24 Preamble; the Constitution of the United States, including the
25 Preamble; the Bill of Rights; the Declaration of Independence;
26 the Mayflower Compact; the Emancipation Proclamation; the
27 writings, speeches, documents, and proclamations of the
28 presidents of the United States, the signers of the
29 Constitution of the United States and the Declaration of
30 Independence, and civil rights leaders; and decisions of the
31 United States Supreme Court. However, any material that is

1 read, posted, or taught pursuant to this provision may be
2 presented only from a historical perspective and in a
3 nonproselytizing manner. When less than an entire document is
4 used, the excerpt or portion must include as much material as
5 is reasonably necessary to reflect the sentiment of the entire
6 document and avoid expressing statements out of the context in
7 which they were originally made. If the material refers to
8 laws or judicial decisions that have been superseded, the
9 material must be accompanied by a statement indicating that
10 such law or decision is no longer the law of the land. No
11 material shall be selected to advance a particular religious,
12 political, or sectarian purpose. The department shall
13 distribute a copy of this section to each district school
14 board, whereupon each district school superintendent shall
15 distribute a copy to all teachers and administrators.

16 Section 137. Section 1003.45, Florida Statutes, is
17 created to read:

18 1003.45 Permitting study of the Bible and religion;
19 permitting brief meditation period.--

20 (1) The district school board may install in the
21 public schools in the district a secular program of education
22 including, but not limited to, an objective study of the Bible
23 and of religion.

24 (2) The district school board may provide that a brief
25 period, not to exceed 2 minutes, for the purpose of silent
26 prayer or meditation be set aside at the start of each school
27 day or each school week in the public schools in the district.

28 Section 138. Section 1003.46, Florida Statutes, is
29 created to read:

30 1003.46 Health education; instruction in acquired
31 immune deficiency syndrome.--

1 (1) Each district school board may provide instruction
2 in acquired immune deficiency syndrome education as a specific
3 area of health education. Such instruction may include, but
4 is not limited to, the known modes of transmission, signs and
5 symptoms, risk factors associated with acquired immune
6 deficiency syndrome, and means used to control the spread of
7 acquired immune deficiency syndrome. The instruction shall be
8 appropriate for the grade and age of the student and shall
9 reflect current theory, knowledge, and practice regarding
10 acquired immune deficiency syndrome and its prevention.

11 (2) Throughout instruction in acquired immune
12 deficiency syndrome, sexually transmitted diseases, or health
13 education, when such instruction and course material contains
14 instruction in human sexuality, a school shall:

15 (a) Teach abstinence from sexual activity outside of
16 marriage as the expected standard for all school-age students
17 while teaching the benefits of monogamous heterosexual
18 marriage.

19 (b) Emphasize that abstinence from sexual activity is
20 a certain way to avoid out-of-wedlock pregnancy, sexually
21 transmitted diseases, including acquired immune deficiency
22 syndrome, and other associated health problems.

23 (c) Teach that each student has the power to control
24 personal behavior and encourage students to base actions on
25 reasoning, self-esteem, and respect for others.

26 (d) Provide instruction and material that is
27 appropriate for the grade and age of the student.

28 Section 139. Section 1003.47, Florida Statutes, is
29 created to read:

30 1003.47 Biological experiments on living subjects.--
31

1 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature with respect
2 to biological experiments involving living subjects by
3 students in grades K through 12 that:

4 (a) No surgery or dissection shall be performed on any
5 living mammalian vertebrate or bird. Dissection may be
6 performed on nonliving mammals or birds secured from a
7 recognized source of such specimens and under supervision of
8 qualified instructors. Students may be excused upon written
9 request of a parent.

10 (b) Lower orders of life and invertebrates may be used
11 in such experiments.

12 (c) Nonmammalian vertebrates, excluding birds, may be
13 used in biological experiments, provided that physiological
14 harm does not result from such experiments. Anatomical
15 studies shall only be conducted on models that are
16 anatomically correct for the animal being studied or on
17 nonliving nonmammalian vertebrates secured and from a
18 recognized source of such specimens and under the supervision
19 of qualified instructors. Students may be excused from such
20 experiments upon written request of the parent.

21 (d) Observational studies of animals in the wild or in
22 zoological parks, gardens, or aquaria, or of pets, fish,
23 domestic animals, or livestock may be conducted.

24 (e) Studies of vertebrate animal cells, such as red
25 blood cells or other tissue cells, plasma or serum, or
26 anatomical specimens, such as organs, tissues, or skeletons,
27 purchased or acquired from biological supply houses or
28 research facilities or from wholesale or retail establishments
29 that supply carcasses or parts of food animals may be
30 conducted.

31

1 (f) Normal physiological and behavioral studies of the
2 human animal may be conducted, provided that such projects are
3 carefully selected so that neither physiological or
4 psychological harm to the subject can result from such
5 studies.

6 (g) All experiments shall be carried out under the
7 supervision of a competent science teacher who shall be
8 responsible for ensuring that the student has the necessary
9 comprehension for the study to be undertaken. Whenever
10 feasible, specifically qualified experts in the field should
11 be consulted.

12 (h) Live animals on the premises of public and private
13 elementary, middle, and high schools shall be housed and cared
14 for in a humane and safe manner. Animals shall not remain on
15 the premises of any school during periods when such school is
16 not in session, unless adequate care is provided for such
17 animals.

18 (2) The provisions of this section shall not be
19 construed to prohibit or constrain conventional instruction in
20 the normal practices of animal husbandry or exhibition of any
21 livestock in connection with any agricultural program or
22 instruction of advanced students participating in advanced
23 research, scientific studies, or projects.

24 (3) If any instructional employee of a public high
25 school or area technical center knowingly or intentionally
26 fails or refuses to comply with any of the provisions of this
27 section, the district school board may suspend, dismiss,
28 return to annual contract, or otherwise discipline such
29 employee as provided in s. 1012.22(1)(f) in accordance with
30 procedures established in chapter 1012. If any instructional
31 employee of any private school knowingly or intentionally

1 fails or refuses to comply with the provisions of this
2 section, the governing authority of the private school may
3 suspend, dismiss, or otherwise discipline such employee in
4 accordance with its standard personnel procedures.

5 Section 140. Section 1003.48, Florida Statutes, is
6 created to read:

7 1003.48 Instruction in operation of motor vehicles.--

8 (1) A course of study and instruction in the safe and
9 lawful operation of a motor vehicle shall be made available by
10 each district school board to students in the secondary
11 schools in the state. As used in this section, the term
12 "motor vehicle" shall have the same meaning as in s.

13 320.01(1)(a) and shall include motorcycles and mopeds.

14 Instruction in motorcycle or moped operation may be limited to
15 classroom instruction. The course shall not be made a part
16 of, or a substitute for, any of the minimum requirements for
17 graduation.

18 (2) In order to make such a course available to any
19 secondary school student, the district school board may use
20 any one of the following procedures or any combination
21 thereof:

22 (a) Utilize instructional personnel employed by the
23 district school board.

24 (b) Contract with a commercial driving school licensed
25 under the provisions of chapter 488.

26 (c) Contract with an instructor certified under the
27 provisions of chapter 488.

28 (3)(a) District school boards shall earn funds on
29 full-time equivalent students at the appropriate basic program
30 cost factor, regardless of the method by which such courses
31 are offered.

1 (b) For the purpose of financing the Driver Education
2 Program in the secondary schools, there shall be levied an
3 additional 50 cents per year to the driver's license fee
4 required by s. 322.21. The additional fee shall be promptly
5 remitted to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor
6 Vehicles, which shall transmit the fee to the Treasurer to be
7 deposited in the General Revenue Fund.

8 (4) The district school board shall prescribe
9 standards for the course required by this section and for
10 instructional personnel directly employed by the district
11 school board. Any certified instructor or licensed commercial
12 driving school shall be deemed sufficiently qualified and
13 shall not be required to meet any standards in lieu of or in
14 addition to those prescribed under chapter 488.

15 Section 141. Section 1003.49, Florida Statutes, is
16 created to read:

17 1003.49 Graduation and promotion requirements for
18 publicly operated schools.--

19 (1) Each state or local public agency, including the
20 Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of
21 Corrections, the boards of trustees of universities and
22 community colleges, and the Board of Trustees of the Florida
23 School for the Deaf and the Blind, which agency is authorized
24 to operate educational programs for students at any level of
25 grades kindergarten through 12 shall be subject to all
26 applicable requirements of ss. 1003.43, 1008.23, and 1008.25.
27 Within the content of these cited statutes each such state or
28 local public agency or entity shall be considered a "district
29 school board."

30 (2) The Commissioner of Education shall establish
31 procedures to extend the state-administered assessment program

1 to school programs operated by such state or local public
2 agencies or entities in the same manner and to the same extent
3 as such program is administered in each district school
4 system.

5 Section 142. Section 1003.491, Florida Statutes, is
6 created to read:

7 1003.491 Career and technical education.--

8 (1) School board, superintendent, and school
9 accountability for career and technical education within
10 elementary and secondary schools includes, but is not limited
11 to:

12 (a) Student exposure to a variety of careers and
13 provision of instruction to explore specific careers in
14 greater depth.

15 (b) Student awareness of available career and
16 technical programs and the corresponding occupations into
17 which such programs lead.

18 (c) Student development of individual career plans.

19 (d) Integration of academic and career and technical
20 skills in the secondary curriculum.

21 (e) Student preparation to enter the workforce and
22 enroll in postsecondary education without being required to
23 complete college-preparatory or career and
24 technical-preparatory instruction.

25 (f) Student retention in school through high school
26 graduation.

27 (g) Career and technical curriculum articulation with
28 corresponding postsecondary programs in the local area
29 technical center or community college, or both.

30 (2) No school board or public school shall require a
31 student to participate in any school-to-work or job training

1 program. A district school board or school shall not require a
2 student to meet occupational standards for grade level
3 promotion or graduation unless the student is voluntarily
4 enrolled in a job training program.

5 Section 143. Part V of chapter 1003, Florida Statutes,
6 shall be entitled "Specialized Instruction For Certain Public
7 K-12 Students" and shall consist of ss. 1003.51-1003.58.

8 Section 144. Section 1003.51, Florida Statutes, is
9 created to read:

10 1003.51 Other public educational services.--

11 (1) The general control of other public educational
12 services shall be vested in the State Board of Education
13 except as provided herein. The State Board of Education
14 shall, at the request of the Department of Children and Family
15 Services and the Department of Juvenile Justice, advise as to
16 standards and requirements relating to education to be met in
17 all state schools or institutions under their control which
18 provide educational programs. The Department of Education
19 shall provide supervisory services for the educational
20 programs of all such schools or institutions. The direct
21 control of any of these services provided as part of the
22 district program of education shall rest with the district
23 school board. These services shall be supported out of state,
24 district, federal, or other lawful funds, depending on the
25 requirements of the services being supported.

26 (2) The State Board of Education shall adopt and
27 maintain an administrative rule articulating expectations for
28 high-quality, effective education programs for youth in
29 Department of Juvenile Justice programs, including, but not
30 limited to, education programs in juvenile justice commitment
31 and detention facilities. The rule shall articulate policies

1 and standards for education programs for youth in Department
2 of Juvenile Justice programs and shall include the following:
3 (a) The interagency collaborative process needed to
4 ensure effective programs with measurable results.
5 (b) The responsibilities of the Department of
6 Education, the Department of Juvenile Justice, district school
7 boards, and providers of education services to youth in
8 Department of Juvenile Justice programs.
9 (c) Academic expectations.
10 (d) Service delivery options available to district
11 school boards, including direct service and contracting.
12 (e) Assessment procedures, which:
13 1. Include appropriate academic and career and
14 technical assessments administered at program entry and exit
15 that are selected by the Department of Education in
16 partnership with representatives from the Department of
17 Juvenile Justice, district school boards, and providers.
18 2. Require district school boards to be responsible
19 for ensuring the completion of the assessment process.
20 3. Require assessments for students in detention who
21 will move on to commitment facilities, to be designed to
22 create the foundation for developing the student's education
23 program in the assigned commitment facility.
24 4. Require assessments of students sent directly to
25 commitment facilities to be completed within the first week of
26 the student's commitment.
27
28 The results of these assessments, together with a portfolio
29 depicting the student's academic and career and technical
30 accomplishments, shall be included in the discharge package
31 assembled for each youth.

1 (f) Recommended instructional programs, including, but
2 not limited to, career and technical training and job
3 preparation.

4 (g) Funding requirements, which shall include the
5 requirement that at least 80 percent of the FEFP funds
6 generated by students in Department of Juvenile Justice
7 programs be spent on instructional costs for those students.
8 One hundred percent of the formula-based categorical funds
9 generated by students in Department of Juvenile Justice
10 programs must be spent on appropriate categoricals such as
11 instructional materials and public school technology for those
12 students.

13 (h) Qualifications of instructional staff, procedures
14 for the selection of instructional staff, and procedures to
15 ensure consistent instruction and qualified staff year round.

16 (i) Transition services, including the roles and
17 responsibilities of appropriate personnel in school districts,
18 provider organizations, and the Department of Juvenile
19 Justice.

20 (j) Procedures and timeframe for transfer of education
21 records when a youth enters and leaves a facility.

22 (k) The requirement that each district school board
23 maintain an academic transcript for each student enrolled in a
24 juvenile justice facility that delineates each course
25 completed by the student as provided by the State Course Code
26 Directory.

27 (l) The requirement that each district school board
28 make available and transmit a copy of a student's transcript
29 in the discharge packet when the student exits a facility.

30 (m) Contract requirements.

31

1 (n) Performance expectations for providers and
2 district school boards, including the provision of an academic
3 improvement plan as required in s. 1008.25.

4 (o) The role and responsibility of the district school
5 board in securing workforce development funds.

6 (p) A series of graduated sanctions for district
7 school boards whose educational programs in Department of
8 Juvenile Justice facilities are considered to be
9 unsatisfactory and for instances in which district school
10 boards fail to meet standards prescribed by law, rule, or
11 State Board of Education policy. These sanctions shall include
12 the option of requiring a district school board to contract
13 with a provider or another district school board if the
14 educational program at the Department of Juvenile Justice
15 facility has failed a quality assurance review and, after 6
16 months, is still performing below minimum standards.

17 (q) Other aspects of program operations.

18 (3) The Department of Education in partnership with
19 the Department of Juvenile Justice, the district school
20 boards, and providers shall:

21 (a) Maintain model contracts for the delivery of
22 appropriate education services to youth in Department of
23 Juvenile Justice programs to be used for the development of
24 future contracts. The model contracts shall reflect the policy
25 and standards included in subsection (2). The Department of
26 Education shall ensure that appropriate district school board
27 personnel are trained and held accountable for the management
28 and monitoring of contracts for education programs for youth
29 in juvenile justice residential and nonresidential facilities.

30 (b) Maintain model procedures for transitioning youth
31 into and out of Department of Juvenile Justice programs. These

1 procedures shall reflect the policy and standards adopted
2 pursuant to subsection (2).

3 (c) Maintain standardized required content of
4 education records to be included as part of a youth's
5 commitment record. These requirements shall reflect the policy
6 and standards adopted pursuant to subsection (2) and shall
7 include, but not be limited to, the following:

8 1. A copy of the student's individual educational
9 plan.

10 2. Assessment data, including grade level proficiency
11 in reading, writing, and mathematics, and performance on tests
12 taken according to s. 1008.22.

13 3. A copy of the student's permanent cumulative
14 record.

15 4. A copy of the student's academic transcript.

16 5. A portfolio reflecting the youth's academic
17 accomplishments while in the Department of Juvenile Justice
18 program.

19 (d) Maintain model procedures for securing the
20 education record and the roles and responsibilities of the
21 juvenile probation officer and others involved in the
22 withdrawal of the student from school and assignment to a
23 commitment or detention facility. District school boards shall
24 respond to requests for student education records received
25 from another district school board or a juvenile justice
26 facility within 5 working days after receiving the request.

27 (4) The Department of Education shall ensure that
28 district school boards notify students in juvenile justice
29 residential or nonresidential facilities who attain the age of
30 16 years of the provisions of law regarding compulsory school
31 attendance and make available the option of enrolling in a

1 program to attain a Florida high school diploma by taking the
2 general educational development test prior to release from the
3 facility. District school boards or community colleges, or
4 both, shall waive GED testing fees for youth in Department of
5 Juvenile Justice residential programs and shall, upon request,
6 designate schools operating for the purpose of providing
7 educational services to youth in Department of Juvenile
8 Justice programs as GED testing centers, subject to GED
9 testing center requirements. The administrative fees for the
10 general education development test required by the Department
11 of Education are the responsibility of district school boards
12 and may be required of providers by contractual agreement.

13 (5) The Department of Education shall establish and
14 operate, either directly or indirectly through a contract, a
15 mechanism to provide quality assurance reviews of all juvenile
16 justice education programs and shall provide technical
17 assistance and related research to district school boards and
18 providers on how to establish, develop, and operate
19 educational programs that exceed the minimum quality assurance
20 standards.

21 Section 145. Section 1003.52, Florida Statutes, is
22 created to read:

23 1003.52 Educational services in Department of Juvenile
24 Justice programs.--

25 (1) The Legislature finds that education is the single
26 most important factor in the rehabilitation of adjudicated
27 delinquent youth in the custody of the Department of Juvenile
28 Justice in detention or commitment facilities. It is the goal
29 of the Legislature that youth in the juvenile justice system
30 continue to be given the opportunity to receive a high-quality
31 education. The Department of Education shall serve as the lead

1 agency for juvenile justice education programs, curriculum,
2 support services, and resources. To this end, the Department
3 of Education and the Department of Juvenile Justice shall each
4 designate a Coordinator for Juvenile Justice Education
5 Programs to serve as the point of contact for resolving issues
6 not addressed by district school boards and to provide each
7 department's participation in the following activities:

8 (a) Training, collaborating, and coordinating with the
9 Department of Juvenile Justice, district school boards,
10 educational contract providers, and juvenile justice
11 providers, whether state operated or contracted.

12 (b) Collecting information on the academic performance
13 of students in juvenile justice commitment and detention
14 programs and reporting on the results.

15 (c) Developing academic and career and technical
16 protocols that provide guidance to district school boards and
17 providers in all aspects of education programming, including
18 records transfer and transition.

19 (d) Prescribing the roles of program personnel and
20 interdepartmental district school board or provider
21 collaboration strategies.

22
23 Annually, a cooperative agreement and plan for juvenile
24 justice education service enhancement shall be developed
25 between the Department of Juvenile Justice and the Department
26 of Education and submitted to the Secretary of Juvenile
27 Justice and the Commissioner of Education by June 30.

28 (2) Students participating in a detention, commitment,
29 or rehabilitation program pursuant to chapter 985 which is
30 sponsored by a community-based agency or is operated or
31 contracted for by the Department of Juvenile Justice shall

1 receive educational programs according to rules of the State
2 Board of Education. These students shall be eligible for
3 services afforded to students enrolled in programs pursuant to
4 s. 1003.53 and all corresponding State Board of Education
5 rules.

6 (3) The district school board of the county in which
7 the residential or nonresidential care facility or juvenile
8 assessment facility is located shall provide appropriate
9 educational assessments and an appropriate program of
10 instruction and special education services. The district
11 school board shall make provisions for each student to
12 participate in basic, career and technical education, and
13 exceptional student programs as appropriate. Students served
14 in Department of Juvenile Justice programs shall have access
15 to the appropriate courses and instruction to prepare them for
16 the GED test. Students participating in GED preparation
17 programs shall be funded at the basic program cost factor for
18 Department of Juvenile Justice programs in the Florida
19 Education Finance Program. Each program shall be conducted
20 according to applicable law providing for the operation of
21 public schools and rules of the State Board of Education.

22 (4) Educational services shall be provided at times of
23 the day most appropriate for the juvenile justice program.
24 School programming in juvenile justice detention, commitment,
25 and rehabilitation programs shall be made available by the
26 local school district during the juvenile justice school year,
27 as defined in s. 1003.01(12).

28 (5) The educational program shall consist of
29 appropriate basic academic, career and technical, or
30 exceptional curricula and related services which support the
31 treatment goals and reentry and which may lead to completion

1 of the requirements for receipt of a high school diploma or
2 its equivalent. If the duration of a program is less than 40
3 days, the educational component may be limited to tutorial
4 activities and career and technical employability skills.

5 (6) Participation in the program by students of
6 compulsory school-attendance age as provided for in s. 1003.21
7 shall be mandatory. All students of noncompulsory
8 school-attendance age who have not received a high school
9 diploma or its equivalent shall participate in the educational
10 program, unless the student files a formal declaration of his
11 or her intent to terminate school enrollment as described in
12 s. 1003.21 and is afforded the opportunity to take the general
13 educational development test and attain a Florida high school
14 diploma prior to release from a facility. A youth who has
15 received a high school diploma or its equivalent and is not
16 employed shall participate in workforce development or other
17 career or technical education or community college or
18 university courses while in the program, subject to available
19 funding.

20 (7) An academic improvement plan shall be developed
21 for students who score below the level specified in district
22 school board policy in reading, writing, and mathematics or
23 below the level specified by the Commissioner of Education on
24 statewide assessments as required by s. 1008.25. These plans
25 shall address academic, literacy, and life skills and shall
26 include provisions for intensive remedial instruction in the
27 areas of weakness.

28 (8) Each district school board shall maintain an
29 academic record for each student enrolled in a juvenile
30 justice facility as prescribed by s. 1003.51. Such record
31 shall delineate each course completed by the student according

1 to procedures in the State Course Code Directory. The district
2 school board shall include a copy of a student's academic
3 record in the discharge packet when the student exits the
4 facility.

5 (9) The Department of Education shall ensure that all
6 district school boards make provisions for high school level
7 committed youth to earn credits toward high school graduation
8 while in residential and nonresidential juvenile justice
9 facilities. Provisions must be made for the transfer of
10 credits and partial credits earned.

11 (10) The district school board shall recruit and train
12 teachers who are interested, qualified, or experienced in
13 educating students in juvenile justice programs. Students in
14 juvenile justice programs shall be provided a wide range of
15 educational programs and opportunities including textbooks,
16 technology, instructional support, and other resources
17 available to students in public schools. Teachers assigned to
18 educational programs in juvenile justice settings in which the
19 district school board operates the educational program shall
20 be selected by the district school board in consultation with
21 the director of the juvenile justice facility. Educational
22 programs in juvenile justice facilities shall have access to
23 the substitute teacher pool utilized by the district school
24 board. Full-time teachers working in juvenile justice schools,
25 whether employed by a district school board or a provider,
26 shall be eligible for the critical teacher shortage tuition
27 reimbursement program as defined by s. 1009.58.

28 (11) District school boards may contract with a
29 private provider for the provision of educational programs to
30 youths placed with the Department of Juvenile Justice and
31 shall generate local, state, and federal funding, including

1 funding through the Florida Education Finance Program for such
2 students. The district school board's planning and budgeting
3 process shall include the needs of Department of Juvenile
4 Justice programs in the district school board's plan for
5 expenditures for state categorical and federal funds.

6 (12) The district school board shall fund the
7 educational program in a Department of Juvenile Justice
8 facility at the same or higher level of funding for equivalent
9 students in the district school system based on the funds
10 generated by state funding through the Florida Education
11 Finance Program for such students. It is the intent of the
12 Legislature that the school district maximize its available
13 local, state, and federal funding to a juvenile justice
14 program.

15 (a) Juvenile justice educational programs shall be
16 funded in the appropriate FEFP program based on the
17 educational services needed by the student for Department of
18 Juvenile Justice programs in accordance with s. 1011.62.

19 (b) Juvenile justice educational programs to receive
20 the appropriate FEFP funding for Department of Juvenile
21 Justice programs shall include those operated through a
22 contract with the Department of Juvenile Justice and which are
23 under purview of the Department of Juvenile Justice quality
24 assurance standards for education.

25 (c) Consistent with the rules of the State Board of
26 Education, district school boards are required to request an
27 alternative FTE survey for Department of Juvenile Justice
28 programs experiencing fluctuations in student enrollment.

29 (d) FTE count periods shall be prescribed in rules of
30 the State Board of Education and shall be the same for
31 programs of the Department of Juvenile Justice as for other

1 public school programs. The summer school period for students
2 in Department of Juvenile Justice programs shall begin on the
3 day immediately following the end of the regular school year
4 and end on the day immediately preceding the subsequent
5 regular school year. Students shall be funded for no more than
6 25 hours per week of direct instruction.

7 (13) Each district school board shall negotiate a
8 cooperative agreement with the Department of Juvenile Justice
9 on the delivery of educational services to youths under the
10 jurisdiction of the Department of Juvenile Justice. Such
11 agreement must include, but is not limited to:

12 (a) Roles and responsibilities of each agency,
13 including the roles and responsibilities of contract
14 providers.

15 (b) Administrative issues including procedures for
16 sharing information.

17 (c) Allocation of resources including maximization of
18 local, state, and federal funding.

19 (d) Procedures for educational evaluation for
20 educational exceptionalities and special needs.

21 (e) Curriculum and delivery of instruction.

22 (f) Classroom management procedures and attendance
23 policies.

24 (g) Procedures for provision of qualified
25 instructional personnel, whether supplied by the district
26 school board or provided under contract by the provider, and
27 for performance of duties while in a juvenile justice setting.

28 (h) Provisions for improving skills in teaching and
29 working with juvenile delinquents.

30 (i) Transition plans for students moving into and out
31 of juvenile facilities.

1 (j) Procedures and timelines for the timely
2 documentation of credits earned and transfer of student
3 records.

4 (k) Methods and procedures for dispute resolution.

5 (l) Provisions for ensuring the safety of education
6 personnel and support for the agreed-upon education program.

7 (m) Strategies for correcting any deficiencies found
8 through the quality assurance process.

9 (14) Nothing in this section or in a cooperative
10 agreement shall be construed to require the district school
11 board to provide more services than can be supported by the
12 funds generated by students in the juvenile justice programs.

13 (15)(a) The Department of Education in consultation
14 with the Department of Juvenile Justice, district school
15 boards, and providers shall establish objective and measurable
16 quality assurance standards for the educational component of
17 residential and nonresidential juvenile justice facilities.
18 These standards shall rate the district school board's
19 performance both as a provider and contractor. The quality
20 assurance rating for the educational component shall be
21 disaggregated from the overall quality assurance score and
22 reported separately.

23 (b) The Department of Education shall develop a
24 comprehensive quality assurance review process and schedule
25 for the evaluation of the educational component in juvenile
26 justice programs. The Department of Juvenile Justice quality
27 assurance site visit and the education quality assurance site
28 visit shall be conducted during the same visit.

29 (c) The Department of Education, in consultation with
30 district school boards and providers, shall establish minimum
31 thresholds for the standards and key indicators for

1 educational programs in juvenile justice facilities. If a
2 district school board fails to meet the established minimum
3 standards, it will be given 6 months to achieve compliance
4 with the standards. If after 6 months, the district school
5 board's performance is still below minimum standards, the
6 Department of Education shall exercise sanctions as prescribed
7 by rules adopted by the State Board of Education. If a
8 provider, under contract with the district school board, fails
9 to meet minimum standards, such failure shall cause the
10 district school board to cancel the provider's contract unless
11 the provider achieves compliance within 6 months or unless
12 there are documented extenuating circumstances.

13 (16) The district school board shall not be charged
14 any rent, maintenance, utilities, or overhead on such
15 facilities. Maintenance, repairs, and remodeling of existing
16 facilities shall be provided by the Department of Juvenile
17 Justice.

18 (17) When additional facilities are required, the
19 district school board and the Department of Juvenile Justice
20 shall agree on the appropriate site based on the instructional
21 needs of the students. When the most appropriate site for
22 instruction is on district school board property, a special
23 capital outlay request shall be made by the commissioner in
24 accordance with s. 1013.60. When the most appropriate site is
25 on state property, state capital outlay funds shall be
26 requested by the Department of Juvenile Justice provided by s.
27 216.043 and shall be submitted as specified by s. 216.023.
28 Any instructional facility to be built on state property shall
29 have educational specifications jointly developed by the
30 district school board and the Department of Juvenile Justice
31 and approved by the Department of Education. The size of

1 space and occupant design capacity criteria as provided by
2 State Board of Education rules shall be used for remodeling or
3 new construction whether facilities are provided on state
4 property or district school board property.

5 (18) The parent of an exceptional student shall have
6 the due process rights provided for in chapter 1003.

7 (19) Department of Juvenile Justice detention and
8 commitment programs may be designated as second chance schools
9 pursuant to s. 1003.53(1)(d). Admission to such programs shall
10 be governed by chapter 985.

11 (20) The Department of Education and the Department of
12 Juvenile Justice, after consultation with and assistance from
13 local providers and district school boards, shall report
14 annually to the Legislature by February 1 on the progress
15 towards developing effective educational programs for juvenile
16 delinquents, including the amount of funding provided by
17 district school boards to juvenile justice programs, the
18 amount retained for administration including documenting the
19 purposes for such expenses, the status of the development of
20 cooperative agreements, the results of the quality assurance
21 reviews including recommendations for system improvement, and
22 information on the identification of, and services provided
23 to, exceptional students in juvenile justice commitment
24 facilities to determine whether these students are properly
25 reported for funding and are appropriately served.

26 (21) The educational programs at the Arthur Dozier
27 School for Boys in Jackson County and the Florida School for
28 Boys in Okeechobee shall be operated by the Department of
29 Education, either directly or through grants or contractual
30 agreements with other public or duly accredited education
31 agencies approved by the Department of Education.

1 (22) The State Board of Education may adopt any rules
2 necessary to implement the provisions of this section,
3 including uniform curriculum, funding, and second chance
4 schools. Such rules shall require the minimum amount of
5 paperwork and reporting.

6 (23) The Department of Juvenile Justice and the
7 Department of Education shall, in consultation with the
8 statewide Workforce Development Youth Council, district school
9 boards, providers, and others, jointly develop a multiagency
10 plan for career and technical education which describes the
11 curriculum, goals, and outcome measures for career and
12 technical education programming in juvenile commitment
13 facilities, pursuant to s. 985.3155.

14 Section 146. Section 1003.53, Florida Statutes, is
15 created to read:

16 1003.53 Dropout prevention and academic
17 intervention.--

18 (1)(a) Dropout prevention and academic intervention
19 programs may differ from traditional educational programs and
20 schools in scheduling, administrative structure, philosophy,
21 curriculum, or setting and shall employ alternative teaching
22 methodologies, curricula, learning activities, and diagnostic
23 and assessment procedures in order to meet the needs,
24 interests, abilities, and talents of eligible students. The
25 educational program shall provide curricula, character
26 development and law education, and related services that
27 support the program goals and lead to improved performance in
28 the areas of academic achievement, attendance, and discipline.
29 Student participation in such programs shall be voluntary.
30 District school boards may, however, assign students to a
31 program for disruptive students. Notwithstanding any other

1 provision of law to the contrary, no student shall be
2 identified as being eligible to receive services funded
3 through the dropout prevention and academic intervention
4 program based solely on the student being from a single-parent
5 family.

6 (b) Students in grades 1-12 shall be eligible for
7 dropout prevention and academic intervention programs.
8 Eligible students shall be reported in the appropriate basic
9 cost factor in the Florida Education Finance Program. The
10 strategies and supports provided to eligible students shall be
11 funded through the General Appropriations Act and may include,
12 but are not limited to, those services identified on the
13 student's academic intervention plan.

14 (c) A student shall be identified as being eligible to
15 receive services funded through the dropout prevention and
16 academic intervention program based upon one of the following
17 criteria:

18 1. The student is academically unsuccessful as
19 evidenced by low test scores, retention, failing grades, low
20 grade point average, falling behind in earning credits, or not
21 meeting the state or district proficiency levels in reading,
22 mathematics, or writing.

23 2. The student has a pattern of excessive absenteeism
24 or has been identified as a habitual truant.

25 3. The student has a history of disruptive behavior in
26 school or has committed an offense that warrants out-of-school
27 suspension or expulsion from school according to the district
28 school board's code of student conduct. For the purposes of
29 this program, "disruptive behavior" is behavior that:

30 a. Interferes with the student's own learning or the
31 educational process of others and requires attention and

1 assistance beyond that which the traditional program can
2 provide or results in frequent conflicts of a disruptive
3 nature while the student is under the jurisdiction of the
4 school either in or out of the classroom; or

5 b. Severely threatens the general welfare of students
6 or others with whom the student comes into contact.

7 (d)1. "Second chance schools" means district school
8 board programs provided through cooperative agreements between
9 the Department of Juvenile Justice, private providers, state
10 or local law enforcement agencies, or other state agencies for
11 students who have been disruptive or violent or who have
12 committed serious offenses. As partnership programs, second
13 chance schools are eligible for waivers by State Board of
14 Education rules from statutory requirements that prevent the
15 provision of appropriate educational services to violent,
16 severely disruptive, or delinquent students in small
17 nontraditional settings or in court-adjudicated settings.

18 2. District school boards seeking to enter into a
19 partnership with a private entity or public entity to operate
20 a second chance school for disruptive students may apply to
21 the Department of Education for startup grants. These grants
22 must be available for 1 year and must be used to offset the
23 startup costs for implementing such programs off public school
24 campuses. General operating funds must be generated through
25 the appropriate programs of the Florida Education Finance
26 Program. Grants approved under this program shall be for the
27 full operation of the school by a private nonprofit or
28 for-profit provider or the public entity. This program must
29 operate under rules adopted by the State Board of Education
30 and be implemented to the extent funded by the Legislature.

31

1 3. A student enrolled in a sixth, seventh, eighth,
2 ninth, or tenth grade class may be assigned to a second chance
3 school if the student meets the following criteria:

4 a. The student is a habitual truant as defined in s.
5 1003.01.

6 b. The student's excessive absences have detrimentally
7 affected the student's academic progress and the student may
8 have unique needs that a traditional school setting may not
9 meet.

10 c. The student's high incidences of truancy have been
11 directly linked to a lack of motivation.

12 d. The student has been identified as at risk of
13 dropping out of school.

14 4. A student who is habitually truant may be assigned
15 to a second chance school only if the case staffing committee,
16 established pursuant to s. 984.12, determines that such
17 placement could be beneficial to the student and the criteria
18 included in subparagraph 3. are met.

19 5. A student may be assigned to a second chance school
20 if the district school board in which the student resides has
21 a second chance school and if the student meets one of the
22 following criteria:

23 a. The student habitually exhibits disruptive behavior
24 in violation of the code of student conduct adopted by the
25 district school board.

26 b. The student interferes with the student's own
27 learning or the educational process of others and requires
28 attention and assistance beyond that which the traditional
29 program can provide, or, while the student is under the
30 jurisdiction of the school either in or out of the classroom,
31 frequent conflicts of a disruptive nature occur.

1 c. The student has committed a serious offense which
2 warrants suspension or expulsion from school according to the
3 district school board's code of student conduct. For the
4 purposes of this program, "serious offense" is behavior which:

5 (I) Threatens the general welfare of students or
6 others with whom the student comes into contact;

7 (II) Includes violence;

8 (III) Includes possession of weapons or drugs; or

9 (IV) Is harassment or verbal abuse of school personnel
10 or other students.

11 6. Prior to assignment of students to second chance
12 schools, district school boards are encouraged to use
13 alternative programs, such as in-school suspension, which
14 provide instruction and counseling leading to improved student
15 behavior, a reduction in the incidence of truancy, and the
16 development of more effective interpersonal skills.

17 7. Students assigned to second chance schools must be
18 evaluated by the district school board's child study team
19 before placement in a second chance school. The study team
20 shall ensure that students are not eligible for placement in a
21 program for emotionally disturbed children.

22 8. Students who exhibit academic and social progress
23 and who wish to return to a traditional school shall complete
24 a character development and law education program and
25 demonstrate preparedness to reenter the regular school setting
26 prior to reentering a traditional school.

27 (2)(a) Each district school board may establish
28 dropout prevention and academic intervention programs at the
29 elementary, middle, junior high school, or high school level.
30 Programs designed to eliminate patterns of excessive
31 absenteeism or habitual truancy shall emphasize academic

1 performance and may provide specific instruction in the areas
2 of career education, preemployment training, and behavioral
3 management. Such programs shall utilize instructional teaching
4 methods appropriate to the specific needs of the student.

5 (b) Each school that establishes a dropout prevention
6 and academic intervention program at that school site shall
7 reflect that program in the school improvement plan as
8 required under s. 1001.42(16).

9 (3) Each district school board receiving state funding
10 for dropout prevention and academic intervention programs
11 through the General Appropriations Act shall submit
12 information through an annual report to the Department of
13 Education's database documenting the extent to which each of
14 the district's dropout prevention and academic intervention
15 programs has been successful in the areas of graduation rate,
16 dropout rate, attendance rate, and retention/promotion rate.
17 The department shall compile this information into an annual
18 report which shall be submitted to the presiding officers of
19 the Legislature by February 15.

20 (4) Each district school board shall establish
21 procedures for ensuring that teachers assigned to dropout
22 prevention and academic intervention programs possess the
23 affective, pedagogical, and content-related skills necessary
24 to meet the needs of these students.

25 (5) Each district school board providing a dropout
26 prevention and academic intervention program pursuant to this
27 section shall maintain for each participating student records
28 documenting the student's eligibility, the length of
29 participation, the type of program to which the student was
30 assigned or the type of academic intervention services
31 provided, and an evaluation of the student's academic and

1 behavioral performance while in the program. The school
2 principal or his or her designee shall, prior to placement in
3 a dropout prevention and academic intervention program or the
4 provision of an academic service, provide written notice of
5 placement or services by certified mail, return receipt
6 requested, to the student's parent. The parent of the student
7 shall sign an acknowledgment of the notice of placement or
8 service and return the signed acknowledgment to the principal
9 within 3 days after receipt of the notice. The parents of a
10 student assigned to such a dropout prevention and academic
11 intervention program shall be notified in writing and entitled
12 to an administrative review of any action by school personnel
13 relating to such placement pursuant to the provisions of
14 chapter 120.

15 (6) District school board dropout prevention and
16 academic intervention programs shall be coordinated with
17 social service, law enforcement, prosecutorial, and juvenile
18 justice agencies and juvenile assessment centers in the school
19 district. Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 1002.22, these
20 agencies are authorized to exchange information contained in
21 student records and juvenile justice records. Such information
22 is confidential and exempt from the provisions of s.
23 119.07(1). District school boards and other agencies receiving
24 such information shall use the information only for official
25 purposes connected with the certification of students for
26 admission to and for the administration of the dropout
27 prevention and academic intervention program, and shall
28 maintain the confidentiality of such information unless
29 otherwise provided by law or rule.

30 (7) The State Board of Education shall have the
31 authority pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to adopt rules

1 necessary to implement the provisions of this section; such
2 rules shall require the minimum amount of necessary paperwork
3 and reporting.

4 Section 147. Section 1003.54, Florida Statutes, is
5 created to read:

6 1003.54 Teenage parent programs.--

7 (1) Each district school board shall maintain a
8 teenage parent program.

9 (2) "Teenage parent programs" means educational
10 programs designed to provide a specialized curriculum to meet
11 the needs of students who are pregnant or students who are
12 mothers or fathers and the children of the students.

13 (3)(a) The program shall provide pregnant students or
14 students who are parents and the children of these students
15 with a comprehensive teenage parent program. The program shall
16 provide pregnant students or students who are parents with the
17 option of participating in regular classroom activities or
18 enrolling in a special program designed to meet their needs
19 pursuant to s. 1003.21. Students participating in teenage
20 parent programs shall be exempt from minimum attendance
21 requirements for absences related to pregnancy or parenting,
22 but shall be required to make up work missed due to absence.

23 (b) The curriculum shall include instruction in such
24 topics as prenatal and postnatal health care, parenting
25 skills, benefits of sexual abstinence, and consequences of
26 subsequent pregnancies. Parenting skills should include
27 instruction in the stages of child growth and development,
28 methods for aiding in the intellectual, language, physical,
29 and social development of children, and guidance on
30 constructive play activities.

31

1 (c) Provision for necessary child care, health care,
2 social services, parent education, and transportation shall be
3 ancillary service components of teenage parent programs.
4 Ancillary services may be provided through the coordination of
5 existing programs and services and through joint agreements
6 between district school boards and local school readiness
7 coalitions or other appropriate public and private providers.

8 (d) The district school board shall make adequate
9 provisions for pregnant and parenting teenagers to complete
10 the coursework necessary to earn a high school diploma.

11 (e) Children enrolled in child care provided by the
12 district shall be funded at the special program cost factor
13 pursuant to s. 1011.62 if the parent or parents are enrolled
14 full time in a public school in the district.

15 (4) Districts may modify courses listed in the State
16 Course Code Directory for the purpose of providing teenage
17 parent programs pursuant to the provisions of this section.
18 Such modifications must be approved by the commissioner and
19 may include lengthening or shortening of the school time
20 allotted for in-class study, alternate methods of assessment
21 of student performance, and the integration of curriculum
22 frameworks or student performance standards to produce
23 interdisciplinary units of instruction.

24 (5) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
25 necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

26 Section 148. Section 1003.55, Florida Statutes, is
27 created to read:

28 1003.55 Instructional programs for blind or visually
29 impaired students and deaf or hard-of-hearing students.--

30 (1) The Department of Education may establish a
31 coordinating unit and instructional materials center for

1 visually impaired students and deaf or hard-of-hearing
2 students to provide staff and resources for the coordination,
3 cataloging, standardizing, producing, procuring, storing, and
4 distributing of braille, large print, tangible apparatus,
5 captioned films and video tapes, and other specialized
6 educational materials needed by these students and other
7 exceptional students. The coordinating unit shall have as its
8 major purpose the improvement of instructional programs for
9 visually impaired students and deaf or hard-of-hearing
10 students and may, as a second priority, extend appropriate
11 services to other exceptional students, consistent with
12 provisions and criteria established, to the extent that
13 resources are available.

14 (2) The unit shall be operated under rules adopted by
15 the State Board of Education.

16 (3) As used in this section, the term:

17 (a) "Blind student" means a student who is eligible
18 for special education services and who:

19 1. Has a visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better
20 eye with correcting lenses or has a limited field of vision
21 such that the widest diameter subtends an angular distance of
22 no greater than 20 degrees; or

23 2. Has a medically indicated expectation of visual
24 deterioration.

25 (b) "Braille" means the system of reading and writing
26 through touch commonly known as standard English braille.

27 (c) "Individualized education program" means a written
28 statement developed for a student eligible for special
29 education services pursuant to s. 602(a)(20), Part A of the
30 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. s.
31 1401(a).

1 (4) In developing an individualized written education
2 program for each blind student, the presumption shall be that
3 blind students can communicate effectively and efficiently
4 with the same level of proficiency expected of the students'
5 peers of comparable ability and grade level. Accordingly,
6 proficiency in reading and writing braille shall be considered
7 during the individualized planning and assessment processes in
8 this context.

9 (5) Any publisher of a textbook adopted pursuant to
10 the state instructional materials adoption process shall
11 furnish the Department of Education with a computer file in an
12 electronic format specified by the department at least 2 years
13 in advance that is readily translatable to braille and can be
14 used for large print or speech access. Any textbook
15 reproduced pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall
16 be purchased at a price equal to the price paid for the
17 textbook as adopted. The Department of Education shall not
18 reproduce textbooks obtained pursuant to this subsection in
19 any manner that would generate revenues for the department
20 from the use of such computer files or that would preclude the
21 rightful payment of fees to the publisher for use of all or
22 some portion of the textbook.

23 Section 149. Section 1003.56, Florida Statutes, is
24 created to read:

25 1003.56 English language instruction for limited
26 English proficient students.--

27 (1) Instruction in the English language shall be
28 provided to limited English proficient students. Such
29 instruction shall be designed to develop the student's mastery
30 of the four language skills, including listening, speaking,
31 reading, and writing, as rapidly as possible.

1 (2)(a) "Limited English proficient" or "limited
2 English proficiency," when used with reference to an
3 individual, means:
4 1.a. An individual who was not born in the United
5 States and whose native language is a language other than
6 English;
7 b. An individual who comes from a home environment
8 where a language other than English is spoken in the home; or
9 c. An individual who is an American Indian or Alaskan
10 native and who comes from an environment where a language
11 other than English has had a significant impact on his or her
12 level of English language proficiency; and
13 2. Who, by reason thereof, has sufficient difficulty
14 speaking, reading, writing, or listening to the English
15 language to deny such individual the opportunity to learn
16 successfully in classrooms where the language of instruction
17 is English.
18 (b) "Home language" or "native language," when used
19 with reference to an individual of limited English
20 proficiency, means the language normally used by such
21 individual or, in the case of a student, the language normally
22 used by the parents of the student.
23 (c) "ESOL" means English for Speakers of Other
24 Languages and:
25 1. When modifying instruction, the strategy used to
26 teach limited English proficient students; or
27 2. When modifying program, the program funded in the
28 Florida Education Finance Program, listed under English for
29 Speakers of Other Languages in s. 1011.62.
30 (3) Each district school board shall implement the
31 following procedures:

1 (a) Develop and submit a plan for providing English
2 language instruction for limited English proficient students
3 to the Department of Education for review and approval.

4 (b) Identify limited English proficient students
5 through assessment.

6 (c) Provide for student exit from and reclassification
7 into the program.

8 (d) Provide limited English proficient students ESOL
9 instruction in English and ESOL instruction or home language
10 instruction in the basic subject areas of reading,
11 mathematics, science, social studies, and computer literacy.

12 (e) Maintain a student plan.

13 (f) Provide qualified teachers.

14 (g) Provide equal access to other programs for
15 eligible limited English proficient students based on need.

16 (h) Provide for parental involvement in the program.

17 (4) Each district school board's program for limited
18 English proficient students shall be evaluated and monitored
19 periodically.

20 (5) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules for
21 the purpose of implementing this section.

22 Section 150. Section 1003.57, Florida Statutes, is
23 created to read:

24 1003.57 Exceptional students instruction.--Each
25 district school board shall provide for an appropriate program
26 of special instruction, facilities, and services for
27 exceptional students as prescribed by the State Board of
28 Education as acceptable, including provisions that:

29 (1) The district school board provide the necessary
30 professional services for diagnosis and evaluation of
31 exceptional students.

1 (2) The district school board provide the special
2 instruction, classes, and services, either within the district
3 school system, in cooperation with other district school
4 systems, or through contractual arrangements with approved
5 private schools or community facilities that meet standards
6 established by the commissioner.

7 (3) The district school board annually provide
8 information describing the Florida School for the Deaf and the
9 Blind and all other programs and methods of instruction
10 available to the parent of a sensory-impaired student.

11 (4) The district school board, once every 3 years,
12 submit to the department its proposed procedures for the
13 provision of special instruction and services for exceptional
14 students.

15 (5) No student be given special instruction or
16 services as an exceptional student until after he or she has
17 been properly evaluated, classified, and placed in the manner
18 prescribed by rules of the State Board of Education. The
19 parent of an exceptional student evaluated and placed or
20 denied placement in a program of special education shall be
21 notified of each such evaluation and placement or denial. Such
22 notice shall contain a statement informing the parent that he
23 or she is entitled to a due process hearing on the
24 identification, evaluation, and placement, or lack thereof.
25 Such hearings shall be exempt from the provisions of ss.
26 120.569, 120.57, and 286.011, except to the extent that the
27 State Board of Education adopts rules establishing other
28 procedures and any records created as a result of such
29 hearings shall be confidential and exempt from the provisions
30 of s. 119.07(1). The hearing must be conducted by an
31 administrative law judge from the Division of Administrative

1 Hearings of the Department of Management Services. The
2 decision of the administrative law judge shall be final,
3 except that any party aggrieved by the finding and decision
4 rendered by the administrative law judge shall have the right
5 to bring a civil action in the circuit court. In such an
6 action, the court shall receive the records of the
7 administrative hearing and shall hear additional evidence at
8 the request of either party. In the alternative, any party
9 aggrieved by the finding and decision rendered by the
10 administrative law judge shall have the right to request an
11 impartial review of the administrative law judge's order by
12 the district court of appeal as provided by s. 120.68.
13 Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, during the pendency
14 of any proceeding conducted pursuant to this section, unless
15 the district school board and the parents otherwise agree, the
16 student shall remain in his or her then-current educational
17 assignment or, if applying for initial admission to a public
18 school, shall be assigned, with the consent of the parents, in
19 the public school program until all such proceedings have been
20 completed.

21 (6) In providing for the education of exceptional
22 students, the district school superintendent, principals, and
23 teachers shall utilize the regular school facilities and adapt
24 them to the needs of exceptional students to the maximum
25 extent appropriate. Segregation of exceptional students shall
26 occur only if the nature or severity of the exceptionality is
27 such that education in regular classes with the use of
28 supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved
29 satisfactorily.

30 Section 151. Section 1003.58, Florida Statutes, is
31 created to read:

1 1003.58 Students in residential care facilities.--Each
2 district school board shall provide educational programs
3 according to rules of the State Board of Education to students
4 who reside in residential care facilities operated by the
5 Department of Children and Family Services.

6 (1) The district school board shall not be charged any
7 rent, maintenance, utilities, or overhead on such facilities.
8 Maintenance, repairs, and remodeling of existing facilities
9 shall be provided by the Department of Children and Family
10 Services.

11 (2) If additional facilities are required, the
12 district school board and the Department of Children and
13 Family Services shall agree on the appropriate site based on
14 the instructional needs of the students. When the most
15 appropriate site for instruction is on district school board
16 property, a special capital outlay request shall be made by
17 the commissioner in accordance with s. 1013.60. When the most
18 appropriate site is on state property, state capital outlay
19 funds shall be requested by the Department of Children and
20 Family Services as provided by s. 216.043 and shall be
21 submitted as specified by s. 216.023. Any instructional
22 facility to be built on state property shall have educational
23 specifications jointly developed by the school district and
24 the Department of Children and Family Services and approved by
25 the Department of Education. The size of space and occupant
26 design capacity criteria as provided by state board rules
27 shall be used for remodeling or new construction whether
28 facilities are provided on state property or district school
29 board property. The planning of such additional facilities
30 shall incorporate current Department of Children and Family
31 Services deinstitutionalization plans.

1 (3) The district school board shall have full and
2 complete authority in the matter of the assignment and
3 placement of such students in educational programs. The parent
4 of an exceptional student shall have the same due process
5 rights as are provided under s. 1003.57(5).

6 (4) The district school board shall have a written
7 agreement with the Department of Children and Family Services
8 outlining the respective duties and responsibilities of each
9 party.

10
11 Notwithstanding the provisions herein, the educational program
12 at the Marianna Sunland Center in Jackson County shall be
13 operated by the Department of Education, either directly or
14 through grants or contractual agreements with other public or
15 duly accredited educational agencies approved by the
16 Department of Education.

17 Section 152. Part VI of chapter 1003, Florida
18 Statutes, shall be entitled "Pilot Public K-12 Education
19 Programs" and shall consist of ss. 1003.61-1003.63.

20 Section 153. Section 1003.61, Florida Statutes, is
21 created to read:

22 1003.61 Pilot attendance project.--It is the purpose
23 of this section to require the Manatee County District School
24 Board to implement a pilot project that raises the compulsory
25 age of attendance for children from the age of 16 years to the
26 age of 18 years. The pilot project applies to each child who
27 has not attained the age of 16 years by September 30 of the
28 school year in which a school board policy is adopted.

29 (1) Beginning July 1, 1999, the Manatee County
30 District School Board shall implement a pilot project
31 consistent with policy adopted by the school board to raise

1 the compulsory age of attendance for children from the age of
2 16 years to the age of 18 years.

3 (2) The district school board must, before the
4 beginning of the school year, adopt a policy for raising the
5 compulsory age of attendance for children from the age of 16
6 years to 18 years.

7 (a) Before the adoption of the policy, the district
8 school board must provide a notice of intent to adopt a policy
9 to raise the compulsory age of attendance for children from
10 the age of 16 years to the age of 18 years. The notice must be
11 provided to the parent of each child who is 15 years of age
12 and who is enrolled in a school in the district.

13 (b) Within 2 weeks after adoption of the school board
14 policy, the district school board must provide notice of the
15 policy to the parent of each child who is 15 years of age and
16 who is enrolled in a school in the district. The notice must
17 also provide information related to the penalties for refusing
18 or failing to comply with the compulsory attendance
19 requirements and information on alternative education programs
20 offered within the school district.

21 (3) All state laws and State Board of Education rules
22 related to students subject to compulsory school attendance
23 apply to the district school board. Notwithstanding the
24 provisions of s. 1003.21, the formal declaration of intent to
25 terminate school enrollment does not apply to the district
26 school board.

27 (4) The district school board must evaluate the effect
28 of its adopted policy raising the compulsory age of attendance
29 on school attendance and on the school district's dropout
30 rate, as well as on the costs associated with the pilot
31 project. The school district shall report its findings to the

1 President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
2 Representatives, the minority leader of each house of the
3 Legislature, the Governor, and the Commissioner of Education
4 not later than August 1 following each year that the pilot
5 project is in operation.

6 Section 154. Section 1003.62, Florida Statutes, is
7 created to read:

8 1003.62 Charter school districts pilot program.--The
9 State Board of Education is authorized to enter into a
10 performance contract with up to six district school boards for
11 the purpose of establishing them as charter school districts.
12 The State Board of Education shall give priority to
13 Hillsborough and Volusia Counties upon the submission of a
14 completed precharter agreement or charter proposal for a
15 charter school district. The purpose of this pilot program is
16 to examine a new relationship between the State Board of
17 Education and district school boards that may produce
18 significant improvements in student achievement and school
19 management, while complying with constitutional requirements
20 assigned to each entity.

21 (1) CHARTER DISTRICT.--A charter school district is a
22 school district in Florida in which the district school board
23 has submitted and the State Board of Education has approved a
24 charter proposal that exchanges statutory and rule exemption
25 for agreement to meet performance goals in the proposal. The
26 charter school district shall be chartered for 3 years, at the
27 end of which the performance shall be evaluated.

28 (2) EXEMPTION FROM STATUTES AND RULES.--Charter school
29 districts shall be exempt from state statutes and specified
30 State Board of Education rules. The district school board of a
31 charter school district shall not be exempt from any statute

1 governing election of district school board members, public
2 meetings and public records requirements, financial
3 disclosure, conflicts of interest, operation in the sunshine,
4 or any provisions outside the Florida K-20 Education Code.

5 (3) GOVERNING BOARD.--The governing board of the
6 charter school district shall be the duly elected district
7 school board. The district school board shall be responsible
8 for supervising the schools in the charter district and is
9 authorized to charter each of its existing public schools
10 pursuant to s. 1002.33, apply for deregulation of its public
11 schools pursuant to s. 1003.63, or otherwise establish
12 performance-based contractual relationships with its public
13 schools for the purpose of giving them greater autonomy with
14 accountability for performance.

15 (4) PRECHARTER AGREEMENT.--The State Board of
16 Education is authorized to approve a precharter agreement with
17 a potential charter district. The agreement may grant limited
18 flexibility and direction for developing the full charter
19 proposal.

20 (5) TIME PERIOD FOR PILOT.--The pilot program shall be
21 authorized for a period of 3 full school years commencing with
22 award of a charter. The charter may be renewed upon action of
23 the State Board of Education.

24 (6) REPORTS.--The State Board of Education shall
25 annually report on the implementation of the charter school
26 district pilot program. Upon the completion of the first
27 3-year term, the State Board of Education, through the
28 Commissioner of Education, shall submit to the Legislature a
29 full evaluation of the effectiveness of the program.

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1 (7) RULEMAKING.--The State Board of Education shall
2 have the authority to enact rules to implement this section in
3 accordance with ss. 120.536 and 120.54.

4 Section 155. Section 1003.63, Florida Statutes, is
5 created to read:

6 1003.63 Deregulated public schools pilot program.--

7 (1) PILOT PROGRAM.--To provide public schools the same
8 flexibility and accountability afforded charter schools, pilot
9 programs for deregulated public schools shall be conducted.

10 The following districts are authorized to conduct pilot
11 programs in 1998-1999: Palm Beach, Pinellas, Seminole, Leon,
12 Walton, and Citrus Counties. The schools and district school
13 boards which are participating in the pilot program as of
14 January 1, 1999, are authorized to continue the pilot program
15 through the 2003-2004 school year. Lee County is authorized to
16 conduct the pilot program beginning in the 1999-2000 school
17 year through the 2003-2004 school year.

18 (2) PURPOSE.--The purpose of the pilot program for
19 deregulated public schools shall be to:

20 (a) Improve student learning.

21 (b) Increase learning opportunities for all students,
22 with special emphasis on expanded learning experiences for
23 students who are identified as academically low achieving.

24 (c) Encourage the use of different and innovative
25 learning methods.

26 (d) Increase choice of learning opportunities for
27 students.

28 (e) Establish a new form of accountability for
29 schools.

30 (f) Require the measurement of learning outcomes and
31 create innovative measurement tools.

- 1 (g) Make the school the unit for improvement.
2 (h) Relieve schools of paperwork and procedures that
3 are required by the state and the district school board for
4 purposes other than health, safety, equal opportunity, fiscal
5 accountability and documentation of student achievement.
6 (3) PROPOSAL.--
7 (a) A proposal to be a deregulated school must be
8 developed by the school principal and the school advisory
9 council. A majority of the members of the school advisory
10 council must approve the proposal, and the principal and the
11 school advisory council chair must sign the proposal. At least
12 50 percent of the teachers employed at the school must approve
13 the proposal. The school must conduct a survey to show
14 parental support for the proposal.
15 (b) A district school board shall receive and review
16 all proposals for a deregulated public school. A district
17 school board must by a majority vote approve or deny a
18 proposal no later than 30 days after the proposal is received.
19 If a proposal is denied, the district school board must,
20 within 10 calendar days, articulate in writing the specific
21 reasons based upon good cause supporting its denial of the
22 proposal.
23 (c) The Department of Education may provide technical
24 assistance to an applicant upon written request.
25 (d) The terms and conditions for the operation of a
26 deregulated public school shall be set forth in the proposal.
27 The district school board shall not impose unreasonable rules
28 or regulations that violate the intent of giving schools
29 greater flexibility to meet educational goals.
30 (4) ELIGIBLE STUDENTS.--
31

- 1 (a) A deregulated school shall be open to all students
2 residing in the school's attendance boundaries as determined
3 by the district school board.
- 4 (b) The deregulated public school shall have maximum
5 flexibility to enroll students under the district school board
6 open enrollment plan.
- 7 (5) REQUIREMENTS.--Like other public schools, a
8 deregulated public school shall:
- 9 (a) Be nonsectarian in its programs, admission
10 policies, employment practices, and operations.
- 11 (b) Not charge tuition or fees, except those fees
12 normally charged by other public schools.
- 13 (c) Meet all applicable state and local health,
14 safety, and civil rights requirements.
- 15 (d) Not violate the antidiscrimination provisions of
16 s. 1000.05.
- 17 (e) Be subject to an annual financial audit in a
18 manner similar to that of other public schools in the
19 district.
- 20 (6) ELEMENTS OF THE PROPOSAL.--The major issues
21 involving the operation of a deregulated public school shall
22 be considered in advance and written into the proposal.
- 23 (a) The proposal shall address, and criteria for
24 approval of the proposal shall be based on:
- 25 1. The school's mission and the students to be served.
26 2. The focus of the curriculum, the instructional
27 methods to be used, and any distinctive instructional
28 techniques to be employed.
- 29 3. The current baseline standard of achievement and
30 the outcomes to be achieved and the method of measurement that
31 will be used.

1 4. The methods used to identify the educational
2 strengths and needs of students and how well educational goals
3 and performance standards are met by students attending the
4 school. Students in deregulated public schools shall, at a
5 minimum, participate in the statewide assessment program.

6 5. In secondary schools, a method for determining that
7 a student has satisfied the requirements for graduation in s.
8 1003.43.

9 6. A method for resolving conflicts between the school
10 and the district.

11 7. The admissions procedures and dismissal procedures,
12 including the school's code of student conduct.

13 8. The ways by which the school's racial/ethnic
14 balance reflects the community it serves or reflects the
15 racial/ethnic range of other public schools in the same school
16 district.

17 9. The financial and administrative management of the
18 school including a statement of the areas in which the school
19 will have administrative and fiscal autonomy and the areas in
20 which the school will follow district school board fiscal and
21 administrative policies.

22 10. The manner in which the school will be insured,
23 including whether or not the school will be required to have
24 liability insurance, and, if so, the terms and conditions
25 thereof and the amounts of coverage.

26 11. The qualifications to be required of the teachers.

27 (b) The school shall make annual progress reports to
28 the district, which upon verification shall be forwarded to
29 the Commissioner of Education at the same time as other annual
30 school accountability reports. The report shall contain at
31 least the following information:

- 1 1. The school's progress towards achieving the goals
2 outlined in its proposal.
- 3 2. The information required in the annual school
4 report pursuant to s. 1008.345.
- 5 3. Financial records of the school, including revenues
6 and expenditures.
- 7 4. Salary and benefit levels of school employees.
- 8 (c) A district school board shall ensure that the
9 proposal is innovative and consistent with the state education
10 goals established by s. 1000.03(5).
- 11 (d) Upon receipt of the annual report required by
12 paragraph (b), the Department of Education shall provide the
13 State Board of Education, the Commissioner of Education, the
14 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
15 Representatives with a copy of each report and an analysis and
16 comparison of the overall performance of students, to include
17 all students in deregulated public schools whose scores are
18 counted as part of the statewide assessment tests, versus
19 comparable public school students in the district as
20 determined by FCAT and district assessment tests and, as
21 appropriate, the Florida Writes Assessment Test, and other
22 assessments administered pursuant to s. 1008.22(3).
- 23 (7) EXEMPTION FROM STATUTES.--
- 24 (a) A deregulated public school shall operate in
25 accordance with its proposal and shall be exempt from all
26 statutes of the Florida K-20 Education Code, except those
27 pertaining to civil rights and student health, safety, and
28 welfare, or as otherwise required by this section. A
29 deregulated public school shall not be exempt from the
30 following statutes: chapter 119, relating to public records,
31 and s. 286.011, relating to public meetings and records,

1 public inspection, and penalties. The school district, upon
2 request of a deregulated public school, may apply to the State
3 Board of Education for a waiver of provisions of law
4 applicable to deregulated public schools under this section,
5 except that the provisions of chapter 1010 or chapter 1011
6 shall not be eligible for waiver if the waiver would affect
7 funding allocations or create inequity in public school
8 funding. The State Board of Education may grant the waiver if
9 necessary to implement the school program.

10 (b) A deregulated public school may employ or contract
11 with skilled selected noncertified personnel to provide
12 instructional services or to assist instructional staff
13 members as education paraprofessionals in the same manner as
14 defined in chapter 1012. A deregulated public school may not
15 employ an individual to provide instructional services or to
16 serve as an education paraprofessional if the individual's
17 certification or licensure as an educator is suspended or
18 revoked by this or any other state. The qualifications of
19 teachers shall be disclosed to parents.

20 (c) A deregulated public school shall employ or
21 contract with employees who have been fingerprinted as
22 provided in s. 1012.32.

23 (8) REVENUE.--Students enrolled in a deregulated
24 public school shall be funded in a basic program or a special
25 program in the same manner as students enrolled in other
26 public schools in the school district.

27 (9) LENGTH OF SCHOOL YEAR.--A deregulated public
28 school shall provide instruction for at least the number of
29 days required by law for other public schools, and may provide
30 instruction for additional days.

31

1 (10) FACILITIES.--A deregulated public school shall
2 utilize facilities which comply with the State Uniform
3 Building Code for Public Educational Facilities Construction
4 adopted pursuant to s. 1013.37, or with applicable state
5 minimum building codes pursuant to chapter 553 and state
6 minimum fire protection codes pursuant to s. 633.025, as
7 adopted by the authority in whose jurisdiction the facility is
8 located.

9 Section 156. Chapter 1004, Florida Statutes, shall be
10 entitled "Public Postsecondary Education" and shall consist of
11 ss. 1004.01-1004.98.

12 Section 157. Part I of chapter 1004, Florida Statutes,
13 shall be entitled "General Provisions" and shall consist of
14 ss. 1004.01-1004.06.

15 Section 158. Section 1004.01, Florida Statutes, is
16 created to read:

17 1004.01 Statement of purpose and mission.--

18 (1) The Legislature finds it in the public interest to
19 provide a system of postsecondary education which is of the
20 highest possible quality; which enables all students to
21 participate in the search for knowledge and individual
22 development; which stresses undergraduate teaching as its main
23 priority; which offers selected professional, graduate, and
24 research programs with emphasis on state and national needs;
25 which fosters diversity of educational opportunity; which
26 promotes service to the public; which makes effective and
27 efficient use of human and physical resources; which functions
28 cooperatively with other educational institutions and systems;
29 and which promotes internal coordination and the wisest
30 possible use of resources.

31

1 (2) The mission of the state system of postsecondary
2 education is to develop human resources, to discover and
3 disseminate knowledge, to extend knowledge and its application
4 beyond the boundaries of its campuses, and to develop in
5 students heightened intellectual, cultural, and humane
6 sensitivities; scientific, professional, and technological
7 expertise; and a sense of purpose. Inherent in this broad
8 mission are methods of instruction, research, extended
9 training, and public service designed to educate people and
10 improve the human condition.

11 Section 159. Section 1004.02, Florida Statutes, is
12 created to read:

13 1004.02 Definitions.--As used in this chapter:

14 (1) "Adult basic education" means courses of
15 instruction designed to improve the employability of the
16 state's workforce through instruction in mathematics, reading,
17 language, and workforce readiness skills at grade level
18 equivalency 0-8.9.

19 (2) "Adult ESOL" or "adult ESL" means noncredit
20 English literacy courses designed to improve the employability
21 of the state's workforce through acquisition of communication
22 skills and cultural competencies that enhance ability to read,
23 write, speak, and listen in English. ESOL means English for
24 Speakers of Other Languages. ESL means English as a Second
25 Language. The two terms are interchangeable.

26 (3) "Adult general education" means comprehensive
27 instructional programs designed to improve the employability
28 of the state's workforce through adult basic education, adult
29 secondary education, English for Speakers of Other Languages,
30 vocational-preparatory instruction, and instruction for adults
31 with disabilities.

1 (4) "Adult high school credit program" means the award
2 of credits upon completion of courses and passing of state
3 mandated assessments necessary to qualify for a high school
4 diploma. Except as provided elsewhere in law, the graduation
5 standards for adults shall be the same as those for secondary
6 students.

7 (5) "Adult secondary education" means courses through
8 which a person receives high school credit that leads to the
9 award of a high school diploma or courses of instruction
10 through which a student prepares to take the General
11 Educational Development test.

12 (6) "Adult student" is a student who is beyond the
13 compulsory school age and who has legally left elementary or
14 secondary school, or a high school student who is taking an
15 adult course required for high school graduation.

16 (7) "Adult with disability" means an individual who
17 has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits
18 one or more major life activities, has a record of such
19 impairment, or is regarded as having such an impairment, and
20 who requires modifications to the educational program,
21 adaptive equipment, or specialized instructional methods and
22 services in order to participate in workforce development
23 programs that lead to competitive employment.

24 (8) "Applied technology diploma program" means a
25 course of study that is part of a technical degree program, is
26 less than 60 credit hours, and leads to employment in a
27 specific occupation. An applied technology diploma program may
28 consist of either technical credit or college credit. A public
29 school district may offer an applied technology diploma
30 program only as technical credit, with college credit awarded
31 to a student upon articulation to a community college.

1 Statewide articulation among public schools and community
2 colleges is guaranteed by s. 1007.23, and is subject to
3 guidelines and standards adopted by the State Board of
4 Education pursuant to ss. 1007.24 and 1007.25.

5 (9) "Basic literacy," means the demonstration of
6 academic competence from 2.0 through 5.9 educational grade
7 levels as measured by means approved for this purpose by the
8 State Board of Education.

9 (10) "Beginning literacy" means the demonstration of
10 academic competence from 0 through 1.9 educational grade
11 levels as measured by means approved for this purpose by the
12 State Board of Education.

13 (11) "College-preparatory instruction" means courses
14 through which a high school graduate who applies for any
15 college credit program may attain the communication and
16 computation skills necessary to enroll in college credit
17 instruction.

18 (12) "Community education" means the use of a school
19 or other public facility as a community center operated in
20 conjunction with other public, private, and governmental
21 organizations for the purpose of providing educational,
22 recreational, social, cultural, health, and community services
23 for persons in the community in accordance with the needs,
24 interests, and concerns of that community, including lifelong
25 learning.

26 (13) "Continuing workforce education" means
27 instruction that does not result in a technical certificate,
28 diploma, associate in applied science degree, or associate in
29 science degree. Continuing workforce education is for:

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1 (a) Individuals who are required to have training for
2 licensure renewal or certification renewal by a regulatory
3 agency or credentialing body;

4 (b) New or expanding businesses as described in
5 chapter 288;

6 (c) Business, industry, and government agencies whose
7 products or services are changing so that retraining of
8 employees is necessary or whose employees need training in
9 specific skills to increase efficiency and productivity; or

10 (d) Individuals who are enhancing occupational skills
11 necessary to maintain current employment, to cross train, or
12 to upgrade employment.

13 (14) "Technical degree education program" means a
14 course of study that leads to an associate in applied science
15 degree or an associate in science degree. A technical degree
16 program may contain within it one or more program progression
17 points and may lead to certificates or diplomas within the
18 course of study. The term is interchangeable with the term
19 "degree career education program." For licensure purposes, the
20 term "associate in science degree" is interchangeable with
21 "associate in applied science degree."

22 (15) "Family literacy" means a program for adults with
23 a literacy component for parents and children or other
24 intergenerational literacy components.

25 (16) "Functional literacy," which is also referred to
26 as "intermediate adult basic education," means the
27 demonstration of academic competence from 6.0 through 8.9
28 educational grade levels as measured by means approved for
29 this purpose by the State Board of Education.

30 (17) "General Educational Development (GED) test
31 preparation" means courses of instruction designed to prepare

1 adults for success on GED subject area tests leading to
2 qualification for a State of Florida high school diploma.

3 (18) "Lifelong learning" means a noncredit course or
4 activity offered by a school district or community college
5 that seeks to address community social and economic issues
6 related to health and human relations, government, parenting,
7 consumer economics, and senior citizens.

8 (19) "Local educational agency" means a community
9 college or school district.

10 (20) "Local sponsor" means a district school board,
11 community college board of trustees, public library, other
12 public entity, or private nonprofit entity, or any combination
13 of these entities, that provides adult literacy instruction.

14 (21) "Technical certificate program" means a course of
15 study that leads to at least one occupational completion
16 point. The program may also confer credit that may articulate
17 with a diploma or technical degree education program, if
18 authorized by rules of the State Board of Education. Any
19 credit instruction designed to articulate to a degree program
20 is subject to guidelines and standards adopted by the
21 Department of Education pursuant to chapter 1007. The term is
22 interchangeable with the term "certificate career and
23 technical education program."

24 (22) "Occupational completion point" means the
25 occupational competencies that qualify a person to enter an
26 occupation that is linked to a career and technical program.

27 (23) "Career and technical education planning region"
28 means the geographic area in which career and technical or
29 adult education is provided. Each career and technical region
30 is contiguous with one of the 28 community college service
31 areas.

1 (24) "Vocational-preparatory instruction" means adult
2 general education through which persons attain academic and
3 workforce readiness skills at the level of functional literacy
4 (grade levels 6.0-8.9) or higher so that such persons may
5 pursue technical certificate education or higher-level
6 technical education.

7 (25) "Career and technical program" means a group of
8 identified competencies leading to occupations identified by a
9 Classification of Instructional Programs number.

10 (26) "Workforce development education" means adult
11 general education or career and technical education and may
12 consist of a continuing workforce education course or a
13 program of study leading to an occupational completion point,
14 a technical certificate, an applied technology diploma, or a
15 technical degree.

16 (27) "Workforce literacy" means the basic skills
17 necessary to perform in entry-level occupations or the skills
18 necessary to adapt to technological advances in the workplace.

19 Section 160. Section 1004.03, Florida Statutes, is
20 created to read:

21 1004.03 Program approval.--

22 (1) The State Board of Education shall establish
23 criteria for the approval of new programs at state
24 universities, which criteria include, but are not limited to,
25 the following:

26 (a) New programs may not be approved unless the same
27 objectives cannot be met through use of educational
28 technology.

29 (b) Unnecessary duplication of programs offered by
30 public and independent institutions shall be avoided.

31

1 (c) Cooperative programs, particularly within regions,
2 should be encouraged.

3 (d) New programs shall be approved only if they are
4 consistent with the state master plans adopted by the State
5 Board of Education.

6 (e) A new graduate-level program may be approved if:

7 1. The university has taken into account the offerings
8 of its counterparts, including institutions in other sectors,
9 particularly at the regional level.

10 2. The addition of the program will not alter the
11 emphasis on undergraduate education.

12 3. The regional need and demand for the graduate
13 program was addressed and the community needs are obvious.

14 (2) The State Board of Education shall establish
15 criteria for the approval of new programs at community
16 colleges, which criteria include, but are not limited to, the
17 following:

18 (a) New programs may not be approved unless the same
19 objectives cannot be met through use of educational
20 technology.

21 (b) Unnecessary duplication of programs offered by
22 independent institutions shall be avoided.

23 (c) Cooperative programs, particularly within regions,
24 should be encouraged.

25 (d) New programs may be approved only if they are
26 consistent with the state master plan adopted by the State
27 Board of Education.

28 Section 161. Section 1004.04, Florida Statutes, is
29 created to read:

30 1004.04 Public accountability and state approval for
31 teacher preparation programs.--

1 (1) INTENT.--The Legislature recognizes that skilled
2 teachers make an important contribution to a system that
3 allows students to obtain a high-quality education. The intent
4 of the Legislature is to establish a system for development
5 and approval of teacher preparation programs that will free
6 postsecondary teacher preparation institutions to employ
7 varied and innovative teacher preparation techniques while
8 being held accountable for producing graduates with the
9 competencies and skills necessary to achieve the state
10 education goals; help the state's diverse student population,
11 including students with limited English proficiency, meet high
12 standards for academic achievement; maintain safe, secure
13 classroom learning environments; and sustain the state system
14 of school improvement and education accountability established
15 pursuant to ss. 1000.03(5) and 1008.345. The State Board of
16 Education shall adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and
17 120.54 that establish uniform core curricula for each
18 state-approved teacher preparation program.

19 (2) DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS.--A
20 system developed by the Department of Education in
21 collaboration with postsecondary educational institutions
22 shall assist departments and colleges of education in the
23 restructuring of their programs to meet the need for producing
24 quality teachers now and in the future. The system must be
25 designed to assist teacher educators in conceptualizing,
26 developing, implementing, and evaluating programs that meet
27 state-adopted standards. These standards shall emphasize
28 quality indicators drawn from research, professional
29 literature, recognized guidelines, Florida essential teaching
30 competencies and educator-accomplished practices, effective
31 classroom practices, and the outcomes of the state system of

1 school improvement and education accountability, as well as
2 performance measures. Departments and colleges of education
3 shall emphasize the state system of school improvement and
4 education accountability concepts and standards, including
5 Sunshine State Standards. State-approved teacher preparation
6 programs must incorporate appropriate English for Speakers of
7 Other Languages instruction so that program graduates will
8 have completed the requirements for teaching limited English
9 proficient students in Florida public schools.

10 (3) INITIAL STATE PROGRAM APPROVAL.--

11 (a) A program approval process based on standards
12 adopted pursuant to subsection (2) must be established for
13 postsecondary teacher preparation programs, phased in
14 according to timelines determined by the Department of
15 Education, and fully implemented for all teacher preparation
16 programs in the state. Each program shall be approved by the
17 department, consistent with the intent set forth in subsection
18 (1) and based primarily upon significant, objective, and
19 quantifiable graduate performance measures.

20 (b) Each teacher preparation program approved by the
21 Department of Education, as provided for by this section,
22 shall require students to meet the following as prerequisites
23 for admission into the program:

24 1. Have a grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0
25 scale for the general education component of undergraduate
26 studies or have completed the requirements for a baccalaureate
27 degree with a minimum grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0
28 scale from any college or university accredited by a regional
29 accrediting association as defined by State Board of Education
30 rule.

31

1 2. Demonstrate mastery of general knowledge, including
2 the ability to read, write, and compute, by passing the
3 College Level Academic Skills Test, a corresponding component
4 of the National Teachers Examination series, or a similar test
5 pursuant to rules of the State Board of Education.

6
7 Each teacher preparation program may waive these admissions
8 requirements for up to 10 percent of the students admitted.
9 Programs shall implement strategies to ensure that students
10 admitted under a waiver receive assistance to demonstrate
11 competencies to successfully meet requirements for
12 certification.

13 (4) CONTINUED PROGRAM APPROVAL.--Notwithstanding
14 subsection (3), failure by a public or nonpublic teacher
15 preparation program to meet the criteria for continued program
16 approval shall result in loss of program approval. The
17 Department of Education, in collaboration with the departments
18 and colleges of education, shall develop procedures for
19 continued program approval that document the continuous
20 improvement of program processes and graduates' performance.

21 (a) Continued approval of specific teacher preparation
22 programs at each public and nonpublic postsecondary
23 educational institution within the state is contingent upon
24 the passing of the written examination required by s. 1012.56
25 by at least 90 percent of the graduates of the program who
26 take the examination. On request of an institution, the
27 Department of Education shall provide an analysis of the
28 performance of the graduates of such institution with respect
29 to the competencies assessed by the examination required by s.
30 1012.56.

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1 (b) Additional criteria for continued program approval
2 for public institutions may be approved by the State Board of
3 Education. Such criteria must emphasize instruction in
4 classroom management and must provide for the evaluation of
5 the teacher candidates' performance in this area. The criteria
6 shall also require instruction in working with underachieving
7 students. Program evaluation procedures must include, but are
8 not limited to, program graduates' satisfaction with
9 instruction and the program's responsiveness to local school
10 districts. Additional criteria for continued program approval
11 for nonpublic institutions shall be developed in the same
12 manner as for public institutions; however, such criteria must
13 be based upon significant, objective, and quantifiable
14 graduate performance measures. Responsibility for collecting
15 data on outcome measures through survey instruments and other
16 appropriate means shall be shared by the postsecondary
17 educational institutions and the Department of Education. By
18 January 1 of each year, the Department of Education shall
19 report this information for each postsecondary educational
20 institution that has state-approved programs of teacher
21 education to the Governor, the State Board of Education, the
22 Commissioner of Education, the President of the Senate, the
23 Speaker of the House of Representatives, all Florida
24 postsecondary teacher preparation programs, and interested
25 members of the public. This report must analyze the data and
26 make recommendations for improving teacher preparation
27 programs in the state.

28 (c) Continued approval for a teacher preparation
29 program is contingent upon the results of annual reviews of
30 the program conducted by the postsecondary educational
31 institution, using procedures and criteria outlined in an

1 institutional program evaluation plan approved by the
2 Department of Education. This plan must incorporate the
3 criteria established in paragraphs (a) and (b) and include
4 provisions for involving primary stakeholders, such as program
5 graduates, district school personnel, classroom teachers,
6 principals, community agencies, and business representatives
7 in the evaluation process. Upon request by an institution, the
8 department shall provide assistance in developing, enhancing,
9 or reviewing the institutional program evaluation plan and
10 training evaluation team members.

11 (d) Continued approval for a teacher preparation
12 program is contingent upon standards being in place that are
13 designed to adequately prepare elementary, middle, and high
14 school teachers to instruct their students in higher-level
15 mathematics concepts and in the use of technology at the
16 appropriate grade level.

17 (e) Continued approval of teacher preparation programs
18 is contingent upon compliance with the student admission
19 requirements of subsection (3) and upon the receipt of at
20 least a satisfactory rating from public schools and private
21 schools that employ graduates of the program. Employer
22 satisfaction shall be determined by an annually administered
23 survey instrument approved by the Department of Education
24 that, at a minimum, must include employer satisfaction of the
25 graduates' ability to do the following:

26 1. Write and speak in a logical and understandable
27 style with appropriate grammar.

28 2. Recognize signs of students' difficulty with the
29 reading and computational process and apply appropriate
30 measures to improve students' reading and computational
31 performance.

1 3. Use and integrate appropriate technology in
2 teaching and learning processes.

3 4. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Sunshine
4 State Standards.

5 (f)1. Each Florida public and private institution that
6 offers a state-approved teacher preparation program must
7 annually report information regarding these programs to the
8 state and the general public. This information shall be
9 reported in a uniform and comprehensible manner that is
10 consistent with definitions and methods approved by the
11 Commissioner of the National Center for Educational Statistics
12 and that is approved by the State Board of Education. This
13 information must include, at a minimum:

14 a. The percent of graduates obtaining full-time
15 teaching employment within the first year of graduation.

16 b. The average length of stay of graduates in their
17 full-time teaching positions.

18 c. Satisfaction ratings required in paragraph (e).

19 2. Each public and private institution offering
20 training for school readiness related professions, including
21 training in the fields of child care and early childhood
22 education, whether offering technical credit, associate in
23 applied science degree programs, associate in science degree
24 programs, or associate in arts degree programs, shall annually
25 report information regarding these programs to the state and
26 the general public in a uniform and comprehensible manner that
27 conforms with definitions and methods approved by the State
28 Board of Education. This information must include, at a
29 minimum:

30 a. Average length of stay of graduates in their
31 positions.

1 b. Satisfaction ratings of graduates' employers.

2

3 This information shall be reported through publications,
4 including college and university catalogs and promotional
5 materials sent to potential applicants, secondary school
6 guidance counselors, and prospective employers of the
7 institution's program graduates.

8 (5) PRESERVICE FIELD EXPERIENCE.--All postsecondary
9 instructors, school district personnel and instructional
10 personnel, and school sites preparing instructional personnel
11 through preservice field experience courses and internships
12 shall meet special requirements.

13 (a) All instructors in postsecondary teacher
14 preparation programs who instruct or supervise preservice
15 field experience courses or internships shall have at least
16 one of the following: specialized training in clinical
17 supervision; a valid professional teaching certificate
18 pursuant to ss. 1012.56 and 1012.585; or at least 3 years of
19 successful teaching experience in prekindergarten through
20 grade 12.

21 (b) All school district personnel and instructional
22 personnel who supervise or direct teacher preparation students
23 during field experience courses or internships must have
24 evidence of "clinical educator" training and must successfully
25 demonstrate effective classroom management strategies that
26 consistently result in improved student performance. The State
27 Board of Education shall approve the training requirements.

28 (c) Preservice field experience programs must provide
29 specific guidance and demonstration of effective classroom
30 management strategies, strategies for incorporating technology
31 into classroom instruction, and ways to link instructional

1 plans to the Sunshine State Standards, as appropriate. The
2 length of structured field experiences may be extended to
3 ensure that candidates achieve the competencies needed to meet
4 certification requirements.

5 (d) Postsecondary teacher preparation programs in
6 cooperation with district school boards and approved private
7 school associations shall select the school sites for
8 preservice field experience activities. These sites must
9 represent the full spectrum of school communities, including,
10 but not limited to, schools located in urban settings. In
11 order to be selected, school sites must demonstrate commitment
12 to the education of public school students and to the
13 preparation of future teachers.

14 (6) STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE.--The State Board of
15 Education shall approve standards of excellence for teacher
16 preparation. These standards must exceed the requirements for
17 program approval pursuant to subsection (3) and must
18 incorporate state and national recommendations for exemplary
19 teacher preparation programs.

20 (7) NATIONAL BOARD STANDARDS.--The State Board of
21 Education shall review standards and recommendations developed
22 by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and
23 may incorporate those parts deemed appropriate into criteria
24 for continued state program approval, standards of excellence,
25 and requirements for inservice education.

26 (8) COMMUNITY COLLEGES.--To the extent practical,
27 postsecondary educational institutions offering teacher
28 preparation programs shall establish articulation agreements
29 on a core of liberal arts courses and introductory
30 professional courses with field experience components which
31 shall be offered at community colleges.

1 (9) PRETEACHER AND TEACHER EDUCATION PILOT
2 PROGRAMS.--State universities and community colleges may
3 establish preteacher education and teacher education pilot
4 programs to encourage promising minority students to prepare
5 for a career in education. These pilot programs shall be
6 designed to recruit and provide additional academic, clinical,
7 and counseling support for students whom the institution
8 judges to be potentially successful teacher education
9 candidates, but who may not meet teacher education program
10 admission standards. Priority consideration shall be given to
11 those pilot programs that are jointly submitted by community
12 colleges and state universities.

13 (a) These pilot programs shall be approved by the
14 State Board of Education and shall be designed to provide help
15 and support for program participants during the preteacher
16 education period of general academic preparation at a
17 community college or state university and during professional
18 preparation in a state-approved teacher education program.
19 Emphasis shall be placed on development of the basic skills
20 needed by successful teachers.

21 (b) State universities and community colleges may
22 admit into the pilot program those incoming students who
23 demonstrate an interest in teaching as a career, but who may
24 not meet the requirements for entrance into an approved
25 teacher education program.

26 1. Flexibility may be given to colleges of education
27 to develop and market innovative teacher training programs
28 directed at specific target groups such as graduates from the
29 colleges of arts and sciences, employed education
30 paraprofessionals, substitute teachers, early federal
31

1 retirees, and nontraditional college students. Programs must
2 be submitted to the State Board of Education for approval.

3 2. Academically successful graduates in the fields of
4 liberal arts and science may be encouraged to embark upon a
5 career in education.

6 3. Models may be developed to provide a positive
7 initial experience in teaching in order to encourage
8 retention. Priority should be given to models that encourage
9 minority graduates.

10 (c) In order to be certified, a graduate from a pilot
11 program shall meet all requirements for teacher certification
12 specified by s. 1012.56. Should a graduate of a pilot program
13 not meet the requirements of s. 1012.56, that person shall not
14 be included in the calculations required by paragraph (4)(a)
15 and State Board of Education rules for continued program
16 approval, or in the statutes used by the State Board of
17 Education in deciding which teacher education programs to
18 approve.

19 (d) Institutions participating in the pilot program
20 shall submit an annual report evaluating the success of the
21 program to the Commissioner of Education by March 1 of each
22 year. The report shall contain, but shall not be limited to:
23 the number of pilot program participants, including the number
24 participating in general education and the number admitted to
25 approved teacher education programs, the number of pilot
26 program graduates, and the number of pilot program graduates
27 who met the requirements of s. 1012.56. The commissioner shall
28 consider the number of participants recruited, the number of
29 graduates, and the number of graduates successfully meeting
30 the requirements of s. 1012.56 reported by each institution,
31 and shall make an annual recommendation to the State Board of

1 Education regarding the institution's continued participation
2 in the pilot program.

3 (10) TEACHER EDUCATION PILOT PROGRAMS FOR
4 HIGH-ACHIEVING STUDENTS.--Pilot teacher preparation programs
5 shall be established at the University of Central Florida, the
6 University of North Florida, and the University of South
7 Florida. These programs shall include a year-long paid
8 teaching assignment and competency-based learning experiences
9 and shall be designed to encourage high-achieving students, as
10 identified by the institution, to pursue a career in
11 education. Students chosen to participate in the pilot
12 programs shall agree to teach for at least 1 year after they
13 receive their degrees. Criteria for identifying
14 high-achieving students shall be developed by the institution
15 and shall include, at a minimum, requirements that the student
16 have a 3.3 grade point average or above and that the student
17 has demonstrated mastery of general knowledge pursuant to s.
18 1012.56. The year-long paid teaching assignment shall begin
19 after completion of the equivalent of 3 years of the state
20 university teacher preparation program.

21 (a) Each pilot program shall be designed to include:

22 1. A year-long paid teaching assignment at a specified
23 school site during the fourth year of the state university
24 teacher preparation program, which includes intense
25 supervision by a support team trained in clinical education.
26 The support team shall include a state university supervisor
27 and experienced school-based mentors. A mentor teacher shall
28 be assigned to each fourth year employed teacher to implement
29 an individualized learning plan. This mentor teacher will be
30 considered an adjunct professor for purposes of this program
31 and may receive credit for time spent as a mentor teacher in

1 the program. The mentor teacher must have a master's degree
2 or above, a minimum of 3 years of teaching experience, and
3 clinical education training or certification by the National
4 Board of Professional Teaching Standards. Experiences and
5 instruction may be delivered by other mentors, assigned
6 teachers, professors, individualized learning, and
7 demonstrations. Students in this paid teaching assignment
8 shall assume full responsibility of all teaching duties.

9 2. Professional education curriculum requirements that
10 address the educator-accomplished practices and other
11 competencies specified in state board rule.

12 3. A modified instructional delivery system that
13 provides onsite training during the paid teaching assignment
14 in the professional education areas and competencies specified
15 in this subsection. The institutions participating in this
16 pilot program shall be given a waiver to provide a modified
17 instructional delivery system meeting criteria that allows
18 earned credit through nontraditional approaches. The modified
19 system may provide for an initial evaluation of the
20 candidate's competencies to determine an appropriate
21 individualized professional development plan and may provide
22 for earned credit by:

23 a. Internet learning and competency acquisition.
24 b. Learning acquired by observing demonstrations and
25 being observed in application.

26 c. Independent study or instruction by mentor teachers
27 or adjunct teachers.

28 4. Satisfactory demonstration of the
29 educator-accomplished practices and content area competencies
30 for program completion.

31

1 5. For program completion, required achievement of
2 passing scores on all tests required for certification by
3 State Board of Education rules.

4 (b) Beginning in July 2003, each institution
5 participating in the pilot program shall submit to the
6 Commissioner of Education an annual report evaluating the
7 effectiveness of the program. The report shall include, but
8 shall not be limited to, the number of students selected for
9 the pilot program, the number of students successfully
10 completing the pilot program, the number of program
11 participants who passed all required examinations, the number
12 of program participants who successfully demonstrated all
13 required competencies, and a followup study to determine the
14 number of pilot program completers who were employed in a
15 teaching position and employers' satisfaction with the
16 performance of pilot program completers.

17 (c) This subsection shall be implemented to the extent
18 specifically funded in the General Appropriations Act.

19 (11) RULES.--The State Board of Education shall adopt
20 necessary rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to
21 implement this section.

22 Section 162. Section 1004.05, Florida Statutes, is
23 created to read:

24 1004.05 Substance abuse training programs.--

25 (1) Each state university and community college may
26 develop courses designed for public school teachers,
27 counselors, physicians, law enforcement personnel, and other
28 professionals to assist them in recognizing symptoms of
29 substance abuse impairment and identifying appropriate service
30 providers for referral and treatment.

31

1 (2) Such courses may be made available to students who
2 are currently enrolled and for continuing education units.

3 Section 163. Section 1004.06, Florida Statutes, is
4 created to read:

5 1004.06 Prohibited expenditures.--No community
6 college, state university, community college direct-support
7 organization, or state university direct-support organization
8 shall expend any funds, regardless of source, to purchase
9 membership in, or goods and services from, any organization
10 that discriminates on the basis of race, national origin,
11 gender, or religion.

12 Section 164. Part II of chapter 1004, Florida
13 Statutes, shall be entitled "State Universities" and shall
14 consist of ss. 1004.21-1004.62.

15 Section 165. Part II.a. of chapter 1004, Florida
16 Statutes, shall be entitled "General Provisions" and shall
17 consist of ss. 1004.21-1004.32.

18 Section 166. Section 1004.21, Florida Statutes, is
19 created to read:

20 1004.21 State universities; legislative intent.--It is
21 the legislative intent that state universities be constituted
22 as public corporations of the state and be operated by a board
23 of trustees as provided in s. 1001.74.

24 Section 167. Section 1004.22, Florida Statutes, is
25 created to read:

26 1004.22 Divisions of sponsored research at state
27 universities.--

28 (1) Each university is authorized to create, as it
29 deems advisable, divisions of sponsored research which will
30 serve the function of administration and promotion of the
31 programs of research, including sponsored training programs,

1 of the university at which they are located. A division of
2 sponsored research created under the provisions of this
3 section shall be under the supervision of the president of
4 that university.

5 (2) The university shall set such policies to regulate
6 the activities of the divisions of sponsored research as it
7 may consider necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act
8 and to administer the research programs in a manner which
9 assures efficiency and effectiveness, producing the maximum
10 benefit for the educational programs and maximum service to
11 the state. To this end, materials that relate to methods of
12 manufacture or production, potential trade secrets,
13 potentially patentable material, actual trade secrets,
14 business transactions, or proprietary information received,
15 generated, ascertained, or discovered during the course of
16 research conducted within the state universities shall be
17 confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1),
18 except that a division of sponsored research shall make
19 available upon request the title and description of a research
20 project, the name of the researcher, and the amount and source
21 of funding provided for such project.

22 (3) The president of the university where a division
23 of sponsored research is created, or his or her designee, is
24 authorized to negotiate, enter into, and execute research
25 contracts; to solicit and accept research grants and
26 donations; and to fix and collect fees, other payments, and
27 donations that may accrue by reason thereof. The president or
28 his or her designee may negotiate, enter into, and execute
29 contracts on a cost-reimbursement basis and may provide
30 temporary financing of such costs prior to reimbursement from
31

1 moneys on deposit in a sponsored research development fund,
2 except as may be prohibited elsewhere by law.

3 (4) A division of sponsored research shall be financed
4 from the moneys of a university which are on deposit or
5 received for use in the research or related programs of that
6 particular university. Such moneys shall be deposited by the
7 university in a permanent sponsored research development fund.

8 (5) Moneys deposited in the permanent sponsored
9 research development fund of a university shall be disbursed
10 in accordance with the terms of the contract, grant, or
11 donation under which they are received. Moneys received for
12 overhead or indirect costs and other moneys not required for
13 the payment of direct costs shall be applied to the cost of
14 operating the division of sponsored research. Any surplus
15 moneys shall be used to support other research or sponsored
16 training programs in any area of the university.
17 Transportation and per diem expense allowances shall be the
18 same as those provided by law in s. 112.061, except that
19 personnel performing travel under a sponsored research
20 subcontract may be reimbursed for travel expenses in
21 accordance with the provisions of the applicable prime
22 contract or grant and the travel allowances established by the
23 subcontractor, subject to the requirements of subsection (7),
24 or except as provided in subsection (11).

25 (6)(a) Each university shall submit to the State Board
26 of Education a report of the activities of each division of
27 sponsored research together with an estimated budget for the
28 next fiscal year.

29 (b) Not less than 90 days prior to the convening of
30 each regular session of the Legislature in which an
31 appropriation shall be made, the State Board of Education

1 shall submit to the chair of the appropriations committee of
2 each house of the Legislature a compiled report, together with
3 a compiled estimated budget for the next fiscal year. A copy
4 of such report and estimated budget shall be furnished to the
5 Governor, as the chief budget officer of the state.

6 (7) All purchases of a division of sponsored research
7 shall be made in accordance with the policies and procedures
8 of the university; however, upon certification addressed to
9 the university president that it is necessary for the
10 efficient or expeditious prosecution of a research project,
11 the president may exempt the purchase of material, supplies,
12 equipment, or services for research purposes shall be exempt
13 from the general purchasing requirement of the Florida
14 Statutes.

15 (8) The university may authorize the construction,
16 alteration, or remodeling of buildings when the funds used are
17 derived entirely from the sponsored research development fund
18 of a university or from that fund in combination with other
19 nonstate sources, provided that such construction, alteration,
20 or remodeling is for use exclusively in the area of research;
21 it also may authorize the acquisition of real property when
22 the cost is entirely from said funds. Title to all real
23 property purchased prior to January 7, 2003, or with funds
24 appropriated by the Legislature shall vest in the Board of
25 Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund and shall only
26 be transferred or conveyed by it.

27 (9) The sponsored research programs of the Institute
28 of Food and Agricultural Sciences, the University of Florida
29 Health Science Center, and the engineering and industrial
30 experiment station shall continue to be centered at the
31 University of Florida as heretofore provided by law. Indirect

1 cost reimbursements of all grants deposited in the Division of
2 Sponsored Research shall be distributed directly to the above
3 units in direct proportion to the amounts earned by each unit.

4 (10) The operation of the divisions of sponsored
5 research and the conduct of the sponsored research program are
6 expressly exempted from the provisions of any other laws or
7 portions of laws in conflict herewith and are, subject to the
8 requirements of subsection (7), exempted from the provisions
9 of chapters 215, 216, and 283.

10 (11) The divisions of sponsored research may pay, by
11 advancement or reimbursement, or a combination thereof, the
12 costs of per diem of university employees and of other
13 authorized persons, as defined in s. 112.061(2)(e), for
14 foreign travel up to the current rates as stated in the grant
15 and contract terms and may also pay incidental expenses as
16 authorized by s. 112.061(8). This subsection applies to any
17 university employee traveling in foreign countries for
18 sponsored programs of the university, if such travel expenses
19 are approved in the terms of the contract or grant. The
20 provisions of s. 112.061, other than those relating to per
21 diem, apply to the travel described in this subsection. As
22 used in this subsection, "foreign travel" means any travel
23 outside the United States and its territories and possessions
24 and Canada. Persons traveling in foreign countries pursuant
25 to this section shall not be entitled to reimbursements or
26 advancements pursuant to s. 112.061(6)(a)2. for such travel.

27 (12) Each division of sponsored research is authorized
28 to advance funds to any principal investigator who, under the
29 contract or grant terms, will be performing a portion of his
30 or her research at a site that is remote from the university.
31 Funds shall be advanced only to employees who have executed a

1 proper power of attorney with the university to ensure the
2 proper collection of such advanced funds if it becomes
3 necessary. As used in this subsection, the term "remote"
4 means so far removed from the university as to render normal
5 purchasing and payroll functions ineffective.

6 (13) Each university board of trustees is authorized
7 to adopt rules, as necessary, to administer this section.

8 Section 168. Section 1004.23, Florida Statutes, is
9 created to read:

10 1004.23 Universities; powers; patents, copyrights, and
11 trademarks.--Any other law to the contrary notwithstanding,
12 each state university is authorized, in its own name, to:

13 (1) Perform all things necessary to secure letters of
14 patent, copyrights, and trademarks on any work products and to
15 enforce its rights therein. The university shall consider
16 contributions by university personnel in the development of
17 trademarks, copyrights, and patents and shall enter into
18 written contracts with such personnel establishing the
19 interests of the university and such personnel in each
20 trademark, copyright, or patent.

21 (2) License, lease, assign, or otherwise give written
22 consent to any person, firm, or corporation for the
23 manufacture or use thereof, on a royalty basis or for such
24 other consideration as the university shall deem proper.

25 (3) Take any action necessary, including legal action,
26 to protect the same against improper or unlawful use or
27 infringement.

28 (4) Enforce the collection of any sums due the
29 university for the manufacture or use thereof by any other
30 party.

31

1 (5) Sell any of the same and execute all instruments
2 necessary to consummate any such sale.

3 (6) Do all other acts necessary and proper for the
4 execution of powers and duties herein conferred upon the
5 university, including adopting rules, as necessary, in order
6 to administer this section. Any proceeds therefrom shall be
7 deposited and expended in accordance with s. 1004.22. Any
8 action taken by the university in securing or exploiting such
9 trademarks, copyrights, or patents shall, within 30 days, be
10 reported in writing by the president to the Department of
11 State.

12 Section 169. Section 1004.24, Florida Statutes, is
13 created to read:

14 1004.24 Authorization to secure liability insurance.--

15 (1) The State Board of Education is authorized to
16 secure, or otherwise provide as a self-insurer, or by a
17 combination thereof, comprehensive general liability
18 insurance, including professional liability for health care
19 and veterinary sciences, for:

20 (a) A university board of trustees.

21 (b) The students and faculty of any state university.

22 (c) The officers, employees, or agents of a university
23 board of trustees.

24 (d) The professional practitioners practicing a
25 profession within, or by virtue of employment by, any state
26 university.

27 (e) Any of the state universities or subdivisions
28 thereof.

29 (f) Any not-for-profit corporation, organized pursuant
30 to chapter 617, and the directors, officers, employees, and
31 agents thereof, that is affiliated with a state university, if

1 the corporation is operated for the benefit of a state
2 university in a manner consistent with the best interests of
3 the state, and if such participation is approved by the
4 appropriate insurance trust fund council, university
5 president, and the State Board of Education.

6
7 The State Board of Education is authorized to delegate to the
8 university boards of trustees, as appropriate, the authority
9 to secure any liability insurance for the above.

10 (2) In the event the State Board of Education adopts a
11 self-insurance program, the necessary trust funds in the State
12 Treasury may be established pursuant to law. If the annual
13 actuarial report to the self-insurance trust fund council is
14 provided each year to the Auditor General within 60 days after
15 acceptance by the council, the assets of a self-insurance
16 program may be deposited outside the State Treasury, at the
17 option of the State Board of Education, in accounts
18 established pursuant to law for that purpose. Self-insurance
19 program trust funds shall be administered in accordance with
20 rules established by the State Board of Education.

21 (3) There shall be no funds appropriated directly to
22 any insurance trust fund. The State Board of Education is
23 authorized to accept any payments, receipts, gifts, or
24 donations made for the purposes of this section and deposit
25 such funds in the appropriate insurance trust fund.

26 (4) No self-insurance program adopted by the State
27 Board of Education may sue or be sued. The State Board of
28 Education shall pay, out of the assets of a trust fund
29 established pursuant to this section, any claim or judgment
30 for which the self-insurance trust funds were created and
31 which is rendered against the board. The claims files of any

1 such program are privileged and confidential, exempt from the
2 provisions of s. 119.07(1), and are only for the use of the
3 program in fulfilling its duties. Any self-insurance trust
4 fund and revenues generated by that fund shall only be used to
5 pay claims and administration expenses.

6 (5) The State Board of Education is authorized and
7 empowered to make such rules as may be necessary to carry out
8 the provisions of this section, including the delegation of
9 authority, other than rulemaking authority, to appropriate
10 levels of administration within the state universities.

11 Section 170. Section 1004.25, Florida Statutes, is
12 created to read:

13 1004.25 State universities; payment of costs of civil
14 action.--A university may defray all costs of defending any
15 civil action brought against any officer or employee of the
16 university for any act or omission arising out of and in the
17 course of the performance of his or her duties and
18 responsibilities, which costs may include reasonable
19 attorney's fees and expenses together with costs of appeal,
20 and may save harmless and protect such person from any
21 financial loss resulting from the lawful performance of his or
22 her duties and responsibilities. Claims based on such actions
23 or omissions may be settled prior to or after the filing of
24 suit thereon. The university may arrange for and pay the
25 premium for appropriate insurance to cover all such losses and
26 expenses. The university may use funds available, not subject
27 to the obligation of contract, covenant, or trust, to carry
28 out the purposes of this section in the amount necessary.
29 Failure by the university to perform any act authorized by
30 this section shall not constitute a cause of action against
31 the university or its members, officers, or employees.

1 Section 171. Section 1004.28, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1004.28 Direct-support organizations; use of property;
4 board of directors; activities; audit; facilities.--

5 (1) DEFINITIONS.--For the purposes of this section:

6 (a) "University direct-support organization" means an
7 organization which is:

8 1. A Florida corporation not for profit incorporated
9 under the provisions of chapter 617 and approved by the
10 Department of State.

11 2. Organized and operated exclusively to receive,
12 hold, invest, and administer property and to make expenditures
13 to or for the benefit of a state university in Florida or for
14 the benefit of a research and development park or research and
15 development authority affiliated with a state university and
16 organized under part V of chapter 159.

17 3. An organization that a state university board of
18 trustees, after review, has certified to be operating in a
19 manner consistent with the goals of the university and in the
20 best interest of the state. Any organization that is denied
21 certification by the board of trustees shall not use the name
22 of the university that it serves.

23 (b) "Personal services" includes full-time or
24 part-time personnel as well as payroll processing.

25 (2) USE OF PROPERTY.--

26 (a) Each state university board of trustees is
27 authorized to permit the use of property, facilities, and
28 personal services at any state university by any university
29 direct-support organization, and, subject to the provisions of
30 this section, direct-support organizations may establish
31

1 accounts with the State Board of Administration for investment
2 of funds pursuant to part IV of chapter 218.

3 (b) The board of trustees shall prescribe by rule
4 conditions with which a university direct-support organization
5 must comply in order to use property, facilities, or personal
6 services at any state university. Such rules shall provide
7 for budget and audit review and oversight by the board of
8 trustees.

9 (c) The board of trustees shall not permit the use of
10 property, facilities, or personal services at any state
11 university by any university direct-support organization that
12 does not provide equal employment opportunities to all persons
13 regardless of race, color, religion, gender, age, or national
14 origin.

15 (3) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.--The chair of the university
16 board of trustees may appoint a representative to the board of
17 directors and the executive committee of any direct-support
18 organization established under this section. The president of
19 the university for which the direct-support organization is
20 established, or his or her designee, shall also serve on the
21 board of directors and the executive committee of any
22 direct-support organization established to benefit that
23 university.

24 (4) ACTIVITIES; RESTRICTION.--A university
25 direct-support organization is prohibited from giving, either
26 directly or indirectly, any gift to a political committee or
27 committee of continuous existence as defined in s. 106.011 for
28 any purpose other than those certified by a majority roll call
29 vote of the governing board of the direct-support organization
30 at a regularly scheduled meeting as being directly related to
31 the educational mission of the university.

1 (5) ANNUAL AUDIT.--Each direct-support organization
2 shall provide for an annual financial audit of its accounts
3 and records to be conducted by an independent certified public
4 accountant in accordance with rules adopted by the Auditor
5 General pursuant to s. 11.45(8) and by the university board of
6 trustees. The annual audit report shall be submitted, within
7 9 months after the end of the fiscal year, to the Auditor
8 General and the State Board of Education for review. The State
9 Board of Education, the university board of trustees, the
10 Auditor General, and the Office of Program Policy Analysis and
11 Government Accountability shall have the authority to require
12 and receive from the organization or from its independent
13 auditor any records relative to the operation of the
14 organization. The identity of donors who desire to remain
15 anonymous shall be protected, and that anonymity shall be
16 maintained in the auditor's report. All records of the
17 organization other than the auditor's report, management
18 letter, and any supplemental data requested by the State Board
19 of Education, the university board of trustees, the Auditor
20 General, and the Office of Program Policy Analysis and
21 Government Accountability shall be confidential and exempt
22 from the provisions of s. 119.07(1).

23 (6) FACILITIES.--In addition to issuance of
24 indebtedness pursuant to s. 1010.60(2), each direct-support
25 organization is authorized to enter into agreements to
26 finance, design and construct, lease, lease-purchase,
27 purchase, or operate facilities necessary and desirable to
28 serve the needs and purposes of the university, as determined
29 by the systemwide strategic plan adopted by the State Board of
30 Education. Such agreements are subject to the provisions of
31 s. 1013.171.

1 (7) ANNUAL BUDGETS AND REPORTS.--Each direct-support
2 organization shall submit to the university president and the
3 State Board of Education its federal Internal Revenue Service
4 Application for Recognition of Exemption form (Form 1023) and
5 its federal Internal Revenue Service Return of Organization
6 Exempt from Income Tax form (Form 990).

7 Section 172. Section 1004.29, Florida Statutes, is
8 created to read:

9 1004.29 University health services support
10 organizations.--

11 (1) Each state university is authorized to establish
12 university health services support organizations which shall
13 have the ability to enter into, for the benefit of the
14 university academic health sciences center, arrangements with
15 other entities as providers in other integrated health care
16 systems or similar entities. To the extent required by law or
17 rule, university health services support organizations shall
18 become licensed as insurance companies, pursuant to chapter
19 624, or be certified as health maintenance organizations,
20 pursuant to chapter 641. University health services support
21 organizations shall have sole responsibility for the acts,
22 debts, liabilities, and obligations of the organization. In
23 no case shall the state or university have any responsibility
24 for such acts, debts, liabilities, and obligations incurred or
25 assumed by university health services support organizations.

26 (2) Each university health services support
27 organization shall be a Florida corporation not for profit,
28 incorporated under the provisions of chapter 617 and approved
29 by the Department of State.

30 (3) A state university board of trustees may
31 prescribe, by rule, conditions with which a university health

1 services support organization must comply in order to be
2 certified and to use property, facilities, or personal
3 services at any state university. The rules must provide for
4 budget, audit review, and oversight by the board of trustees.
5 Such rules shall provide that the university health services
6 support organization may provide salary supplements and other
7 compensation or benefits for university faculty and staff
8 employees only as set forth in the organization's budget,
9 which shall be subject to approval by the university
10 president.

11 (4) The chair of the university board of trustees may
12 appoint a representative to the board of directors and the
13 executive committee of any university health services support
14 organization established under this section. The president of
15 the university for which the university health services
16 support organization is established, or the president's
17 designee, shall also serve on the board of directors and the
18 executive committee of any university health services support
19 organization established to benefit that university.

20 (5) Each university health services support
21 organization shall provide for an annual financial audit in
22 accordance with s. 1004.28(5). The auditor's report,
23 management letter, and any supplemental data requested by the
24 State Board of Education, the university board of trustees,
25 and the Auditor General shall be considered public records,
26 pursuant to s. 119.07.

27 Section 173. Section 1004.30, Florida Statutes, is
28 created to read:

29 1004.30 University health services support
30 organization; confidentiality of information.--
31

1 (1) All meetings of a governing board of a university
2 health services support organization and all university health
3 services support organization records shall be open and
4 available to the public in accordance with s. 286.011 and s.
5 24(b), Art. I of the State Constitution and chapter 119 and s.
6 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution, respectively, unless
7 made confidential or exempt by law. Records required by the
8 Department of Insurance to discharge its duties shall be made
9 available to the department upon request.

10 (2) The following university health services support
11 organization's records and information are confidential and
12 exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art.
13 I of the State Constitution:

14 (a) Contracts for managed care arrangements under
15 which the university health services support organization
16 provides health care services, preferred provider organization
17 contracts, health maintenance organization contracts, alliance
18 network arrangements, and exclusive provider organization
19 contracts, and any documents directly relating to the
20 negotiation, performance, and implementation of any such
21 contracts for managed care arrangements or alliance network
22 arrangements. As used in this paragraph, the term "managed
23 care" means systems or techniques generally used by
24 third-party payors or their agents to affect access to and
25 control payment for health care services. Managed-care
26 techniques most often include one or more of the following:
27 prior, concurrent, and retrospective review of the medical
28 necessity and appropriateness of services or site of services;
29 contracts with selected health care providers; financial
30 incentives or disincentives related to the use of specific
31 providers, services, or service sites; controlled access to

1 and coordination of services by a case manager; and payor
2 efforts to identify treatment alternatives and modify benefit
3 restrictions for high-cost patient care.

4 (b) Each university health services support
5 organization's marketing plan the disclosure of which may
6 reasonably be expected by the organization's governing board
7 to be used by a competitor or an affiliated provider of the
8 organization to frustrate, circumvent, or exploit the purposes
9 of the plan before it is implemented and which is not
10 otherwise known or cannot be legally obtained by a competitor
11 or an affiliated provider. However, documents that are
12 submitted to the organization's governing board as part of the
13 board's approval of the organization's budget, and the budget
14 itself, are not confidential and exempt.

15 (c) Trade secrets, as defined in s. 688.002, including
16 reimbursement methodologies and rates.

17 (d) The records of the peer review panels, committees,
18 governing board, and agents of the university health services
19 support organization which relate solely to the evaluation of
20 health care services and professional credentials of health
21 care providers and physicians employed by or providing
22 services under contract to the university health services
23 support organization. The exemptions created by this
24 paragraph shall not be construed to impair any otherwise
25 established rights of an individual health care provider to
26 inspect documents concerning the determination of such
27 provider's professional credentials.

28 (3) Any portion of a governing board or peer review
29 panel or committee meeting during which a confidential and
30 exempt contract, document, record, marketing plan, or trade
31 secret, as provided for in subsection (2), is discussed is

1 exempt from the provisions of s. 286.011 and s. 24(b), Art. I
2 of the State Constitution.

3 (4) Those portions of any public record, such as a
4 tape recording, minutes, and notes, generated during that
5 portion of a governing board or peer review panel or committee
6 meeting which is closed to the public pursuant to this
7 section, which contain information relating to contracts,
8 documents, records, marketing plans, or trade secrets which
9 are made confidential and exempt by this section, are
10 confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1)
11 and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

12 (5) The exemptions from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a),
13 Art. I of the State Constitution and s. 286.011 and s. 24(b),
14 Art. I of the State Constitution provided in this section do
15 not apply if the governing board of a university health
16 services support organization votes to lease, sell, or
17 transfer all or any substantial part of the facilities or
18 property of the university health services support
19 organization to a nonpublic entity.

20 (6) Any person may petition a court of competent
21 jurisdiction for an order for the public release of those
22 portions of any public record, such as a tape recording,
23 minutes, or notes, generated during that portion of a
24 governing board meeting which is closed to the public pursuant
25 to subsection (3), which record is made confidential and
26 exempt by subsection (4). Any action pursuant to this
27 subsection must be brought in the county where the principal
28 office of the university health services support organization
29 is located, as reflected in the records of the Secretary of
30 State. In any order for the public release of a record
31 pursuant to this subsection, the court shall make a finding

1 that a compelling public interest is served by the release of
2 the record or portions thereof which exceeds the public
3 necessity for maintaining the confidentiality of such record
4 as described in s. 2, chapter 96-171, Laws of Florida, and
5 that the release of the record will not cause damage to or
6 adversely affect the interests of private persons, business
7 entities, the university health services support organization,
8 or the affiliated university.

9 (7) Those portions of any public record, such as a
10 tape recording, minutes, or notes, generated during that
11 portion of a governing board meeting at which negotiations for
12 contracts for managed-care arrangements occur, are reported
13 on, or are acted on by the governing board, which record is
14 made confidential and exempt by subsection (4), shall become
15 public records 2 years after the termination or completion of
16 the term of the contract to which such negotiations relate or,
17 if no contract was executed, 2 years after the termination of
18 the negotiations. Notwithstanding paragraph (2)(a) and
19 subsection (4), a university health services support
20 organization must make available, upon request, the title and
21 general description of a contract for managed-care
22 arrangements, the names of the contracting parties, and the
23 duration of the contract term. All contracts for managed-care
24 arrangements which are made confidential and exempt by
25 paragraph (2)(a), except those portions of any contract
26 containing trade secrets which are made confidential and
27 exempt by paragraph (2)(c), shall become public 2 years after
28 the termination or completion of the term of the contract.

29 (8) A university health services support organization
30 may petition a court of competent jurisdiction to continue the
31 confidentiality of any public record made nonconfidential by

1 this section, upon a showing of good cause. In determining
2 good cause, the court shall balance the property, privacy, and
3 economic interests of any affected person or business entity
4 with those of the university health services support
5 organization and with the public interest and must make a
6 finding that a substantial public interest is served by the
7 continued confidentiality of the public record for an
8 additional time period. The length of time for this continued
9 exemption may be no longer than is necessary to protect that
10 substantial public interest.

11 (9) This act does not preclude discovery of records
12 and information that are otherwise discoverable under the
13 Florida Rules of Civil Procedure or any statutory provision
14 allowing discovery or presuit disclosure of such records and
15 information for the purpose of civil actions.

16 Section 174. Section 1004.31, Florida Statutes, is
17 created to read:

18 1004.31 Assent to Hatch Act and Morrill Land-Grant
19 Act.--The assent of the Legislature is given to the provisions
20 and requirements of the Acts of Congress commonly known as the
21 "Hatch Act of 1887," the "First Morrill Act of 1862," the
22 "Second Morrill Act of 1890," and all acts supplemental
23 thereto. The University of Florida Board of Trustees may
24 receive grants of money appropriated for the benefit of the
25 University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural
26 Sciences in the case of the First Morrill Act, the Hatch Act,
27 and all acts supplemental thereto. The Florida Agricultural
28 and Mechanical University Board of Trustees may receive grants
29 of money appropriated for the benefit of Florida Agricultural
30 and Mechanical University in the case of the Second Morrill
31 Act and all acts supplemental thereto. The provisions of

1 chapter 3564, 1885, Laws of Florida, and s. 7, chapter 1776,
2 1870, Laws of Florida, are made applicable to said
3 universities insofar as the same are or can be made effective;
4 and all estate, right, property claim, and emoluments, and the
5 rents and issues thereof, or any substitutions thereof, and
6 all claims and demands arising or that may or can arise
7 thereunder, or any Act of Congress in that regard, are hereby
8 preserved, maintained, and transferred to the University of
9 Florida Board of Trustees and the Florida Agricultural and
10 Mechanical University Board of Trustees for the use and
11 benefit of said universities under the terms of said acts.

12 Section 175. Section 1004.32, Florida Statutes, is
13 created to read:

14 1004.32 New College of Florida.--

15 (1) MISSION AND GOALS.--New College of Florida serves
16 a distinctive mission as a residential liberal arts honors
17 college. To maintain this mission, New College of Florida has
18 the following goals:

19 (a) To provide a quality education to students of high
20 ability who, because of their ability, deserve a program of
21 study that is both demanding and stimulating.

22 (b) To engage in undergraduate educational reform by
23 combining educational innovation with educational excellence.

24 (c) To provide programs of study that allow students
25 to design their educational experience as much as possible in
26 accordance with their individual interests, values, and
27 abilities.

28 (d) To challenge undergraduates not only to master
29 existing bodies of knowledge but also to extend the frontiers
30 of knowledge through original research.

31

1 (2) ACCREDITATION.--As soon as possible, New College
2 of Florida shall apply to the Commission on Colleges of the
3 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools for separate
4 accreditation.

5 (3) BOARD OF TRUSTEES.--The Governor shall appoint 12
6 members to the Board of Trustees, to serve 4-year staggered
7 terms, as follows:

8 (a) Three residents of Sarasota County.

9 (b) Two residents of Manatee County.

10 (c) Until the expiration date of the terms of office
11 of the members who are on the board June 30, 2001, seven
12 members selected from the Board of Trustees of the New College
13 Foundation.

14
15 In addition, the student body president shall serve ex officio
16 as a voting member of the board of trustees.

17 Section 176. Part II.b. of chapter 1004, Florida
18 Statutes, shall be entitled "Branch Campuses, Centers,
19 Institutes, and Special Programs" and shall consist of ss.
20 1004.33-1004.62.

21 Section 177. Section 1004.33, Florida Statutes, is
22 created to read:

23 1004.33 The University of South Florida St.
24 Petersburg.--

25 (1) The St. Petersburg campus of the University of
26 South Florida is established and shall be known as the
27 "University of South Florida St. Petersburg."

28 (a) The Legislature intends that the University of
29 South Florida St. Petersburg be operated and maintained as a
30 separate organizational and budget entity of the University of
31 South Florida, and that all legislative appropriations for the

1 University of South Florida St. Petersburg be set forth as
2 separate line items in the annual General Appropriations Act.

3 (b) The University of South Florida St. Petersburg
4 shall have a Campus Board and a Campus Executive Officer.

5 (c) As soon as possible, but no later than the
6 effective date of this act, the President of the University of
7 South Florida shall begin the process of application to the
8 Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges
9 and Schools for separate accreditation of the University of
10 South Florida St. Petersburg. If the application is not
11 approved or is provisionally approved, the University of South
12 Florida shall correct any identified deficiencies and shall
13 continue to work for accreditation.

14 (2) The Board of Trustees of the University of South
15 Florida shall appoint to the Campus Board, from
16 recommendations of the President of the University of South
17 Florida, five residents of Pinellas County. If a resident of
18 Pinellas County is appointed to the Board of Trustees of the
19 University of South Florida, the board shall appoint that
20 member to serve jointly as a member of the Campus Board. If
21 more than one Pinellas County resident is appointed to the
22 Board of Trustees, the board shall select one joint member.
23 The Board of Trustees may reappoint a member to the Campus
24 Board for one additional term. The Campus Board has the powers
25 and duties provided by law, which include the authority to:

26 (a) Review and approve an annual legislative budget
27 request to be submitted to the Commissioner of Education. The
28 Campus Executive Officer shall prepare the legislative budget
29 request in accordance with guidelines established by the State
30 Board of Education. This request must include items for campus
31 operations and fixed capital outlay.

1 (b) Approve and submit an annual operating plan and
2 budget for review and consultation by the Board of Trustees of
3 the University of South Florida. The campus operating budget
4 must reflect the actual funding available to that campus from
5 separate line-item appropriations contained in each annual
6 General Appropriations Act, which line-item appropriations
7 must initially reflect the funds reported to the Legislature
8 for the University of South Florida St. Petersburg campus for
9 fiscal year 2000-2001 and any additional funds provided in the
10 fiscal year 2001-2002 legislative appropriation.

11 (c) Enter into central support services contracts with
12 the Board of Trustees of the University of South Florida for
13 any services that the St. Petersburg campus cannot provide
14 more economically, including payroll processing, accounting,
15 technology, construction administration, and other desired
16 services. However, all legal services for the campus must be
17 provided by a central services contract with the university.
18 The Board of Trustees of the University of South Florida and
19 the Campus Board shall determine in a letter of agreement any
20 allocation or sharing of student fee revenue between the
21 University of South Florida's main campus and the St.
22 Petersburg campus.

23
24 The Board of Trustees of the University of South Florida may
25 lawfully delegate other powers and duties to the Campus Board
26 for the efficient operation and improvement of the campus and
27 for the purpose of vesting in the campus the attributes
28 necessary to meet the requirements for separate accreditation
29 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

30 (3) The University of South Florida St. Petersburg
31 shall be administered by a Campus Executive Officer who shall

1 be appointed by, report directly to, and serve at the pleasure
2 of the President of the University of South Florida. The
3 President shall consult with the Campus Board before hiring or
4 terminating the Campus Executive Officer. The Campus Executive
5 Officer has authority and responsibility as provided in law,
6 including the authority to:
7 (a) Administer campus operations within the annual
8 operating budget as approved by the Campus Board.
9 (b) Recommend to the Campus Board an annual
10 legislative budget request that includes funding for campus
11 operations and fixed capital outlay.
12 (c) Recommend to the Campus Board an annual campus
13 operating budget.
14 (d) Recommend to the Campus Board appropriate services
15 and terms and conditions to be included in annual central
16 support services contracts.
17 (e) Carry out any additional responsibilities assigned
18 or delegated by the President of the University of South
19 Florida for the efficient operation and improvement of the
20 campus, especially any authority necessary for the purpose of
21 vesting in the campus attributes necessary to meet the
22 requirements for separate accreditation.
23 (4) Students enrolled at the University of South
24 Florida, including those enrolled at a branch campus, have the
25 same rights and obligations as provided by law, policy, or
26 rule adopted by the University of South Florida, the Florida
27 Department of Education, or other lawful entity. The
28 University of South Florida shall provide a comprehensive and
29 coordinated system of student registration so that a student
30 enrolled at any campus of the University of South Florida has
31

1 the ability to register for courses at any other campus of the
2 University of South Florida.

3 (5) The following entities are not affected by this
4 section and remain under the administrative control of the
5 University of South Florida:

6 (a) The University of South Florida College of Marine
7 Science, which is a component college of the main campus.

8 (b) The Florida Institute of Oceanography, which is a
9 Type One Institute.

10 (c) The University of South Florida Pediatric Research
11 Center.

12 (d) The University of South Florida/USGS joint
13 facility.

14 Section 178. Section 1004.34, Florida Statutes, is
15 created to read:

16 1004.34 The University of South Florida
17 Sarasota/Manatee.--

18 (1) The Sarasota/Manatee campus of the University of
19 South Florida is established and shall be known as the
20 "University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee."

21 (a) The Legislature intends that the University of
22 South Florida Sarasota/Manatee be operated and maintained as a
23 separate organizational and budget entity of the University of
24 South Florida and that all legislative appropriations for the
25 University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee be set forth as
26 separate line items in the annual General Appropriations Act.

27 (b) The University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee
28 shall have a Campus Board and a Campus Executive Officer.

29 (c) As soon as possible, but no later than July 1,
30 2002, the President of the University of South Florida shall
31 begin the process of application to the Commission on Colleges

1 of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools for
2 separate accreditation of the University of South Florida
3 Sarasota/Manatee. If the application is not approved or is
4 provisionally approved, the University of South Florida shall
5 correct any identified deficiencies and shall continue to work
6 for accreditation.

7 (2) The Board of Trustees of the University of South
8 Florida shall appoint to the Campus Board, from
9 recommendations of the President of the University of South
10 Florida, three residents of Manatee County and two residents
11 of Sarasota County, to serve 4-year staggered terms. If one or
12 more residents of Sarasota County or Manatee County are
13 appointed to the Board of Trustees of the University of South
14 Florida, the board shall, at the next vacancy of the Campus
15 Board, appoint one of those members to serve jointly as a
16 member of the Campus Board. The Board of Trustees may
17 reappoint a member to the Campus Board for one additional
18 term. The Campus Board has the powers and duties provided by
19 law, which include the authority to:

20 (a) Review and approve an annual legislative budget
21 request to be submitted to the Commissioner of Education. The
22 Campus Executive Officer shall prepare the legislative budget
23 request in accordance with guidelines established by the State
24 Board of Education. This request must include items for campus
25 operations and fixed capital outlay.

26 (b) Approve and submit an annual operating plan and
27 budget for review and consultation by the Board of Trustees of
28 the University of South Florida. The campus operating budget
29 must reflect the actual funding available to that campus from
30 separate line-item appropriations contained in each annual
31 General Appropriations Act, which line-item appropriations

1 must initially reflect the funds reported to the Legislature
2 for the University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee campus
3 for fiscal year 2000-2001 and any additional funds provided in
4 the fiscal year 2001-2002 legislative appropriation.

5 (c) Enter into central support services contracts with
6 the Board of Trustees of the University of South Florida for
7 any services that the campus at Sarasota/Manatee cannot
8 provide more economically, including payroll processing,
9 accounting, technology, construction administration, and other
10 desired services. However, all legal services for the campus
11 must be provided by a central services contract with the
12 university. The Board of Trustees of the University of South
13 Florida and the Campus Board shall determine in a letter of
14 agreement any allocation or sharing of student fee revenue
15 between the University of South Florida's main campus and the
16 Sarasota/Manatee campus.

17
18 The Board of Trustees of the University of South Florida may
19 lawfully delegate other powers and duties to the Campus Board
20 for the efficient operation and improvement of the campus and
21 for the purpose of vesting in the campus the attributes
22 necessary to meet the requirements for separate accreditation
23 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

24 (3) The University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee
25 shall be administered by a Campus Executive Officer who shall
26 be appointed by, report directly to, and serve at the pleasure
27 of the President of the University of South Florida. The
28 President shall consult with the Campus Board before hiring or
29 terminating the Campus Executive Officer. The Campus Executive
30 Officer has authority and responsibility as provided in law,
31 including the authority to:

1 (a) Administer campus operations within the annual
2 operating budget as approved by the Campus Board.

3 (b) Recommend to the Campus Board an annual
4 legislative budget request that includes funding for campus
5 operations and fixed capital outlay.

6 (c) Recommend to the Campus Board an annual campus
7 operating budget.

8 (d) Recommend to the Campus Board appropriate services
9 and terms and conditions to be included in annual central
10 support services contracts.

11 (e) Carry out any additional responsibilities assigned
12 or delegated by the President of the University of South
13 Florida for the efficient operation and improvement of the
14 campus, especially any authority necessary for the purpose of
15 vesting in the campus attributes necessary to meet the
16 requirements for separate accreditation.

17 (4) Students enrolled at the University of South
18 Florida, including those enrolled at a branch campus, have the
19 same rights and obligations as provided by law, policy, or
20 rule adopted by the University of South Florida, the Florida
21 Department of Education, or other lawful entity. The
22 University of South Florida shall provide a comprehensive and
23 coordinated system of student registration so that a student
24 enrolled at any campus of the University of South Florida has
25 the ability to register for courses at any other campus of the
26 University of South Florida.

27 (5) Promote technology transfer between the research
28 operations of the University of South Florida and local
29 economic development agencies.

30 Section 179. Section 1004.35, Florida Statutes, is
31 created to read:

1 1004.35 Broward County campuses of Florida Atlantic
2 University; coordination with other institutions.--The State
3 Board of Education and Florida Atlantic University shall
4 consult with Broward Community College and Florida
5 International University in coordinating course offerings at
6 the postsecondary level in Broward County. Florida Atlantic
7 University may contract with the Board of Trustees of Broward
8 Community College and with Florida International University to
9 provide instruction in courses offered at the Southeast
10 Campus. Florida Atlantic University shall increase course
11 offerings at the Southeast Campus as facilities become
12 available.

13 Section 180. Section 1004.36, Florida Statutes, is
14 created to read:

15 1004.36 Florida Atlantic University campuses.--
16 (1) The Broward County campuses of Florida Atlantic
17 University are hereby established as a partner of the Florida
18 Atlantic University campus in Boca Raton. The Broward County
19 campuses of Florida Atlantic University shall be known as
20 "Florida Atlantic University Broward." The Boca Raton campuses
21 of Florida Atlantic University shall be known as "Florida
22 Atlantic University Boca Raton." The office of the president
23 shall be at the campus in Boca Raton.

24 (2) Florida Atlantic University shall develop and
25 administer a separate budget for Florida Atlantic University
26 Broward. The budget shall include, at a minimum, an allocation
27 of those operating and capital outlay funds appropriated
28 annually by the Legislature in the General Appropriations Act
29 for the Broward campuses; a proportional share, based on
30 student credit hours produced at the Broward campuses, of any
31 allocations received by the university from student tuition

1 and fees, except for athletic fees, specifically authorized by
2 law; all overhead charges from sponsored research conducted on
3 the Broward campuses; and all revenues derived from vending
4 funds, auxiliary enterprises and contracts, and grants and
5 donations, as authorized by s. 1011.91, which result from
6 activities on Broward campuses. Florida Atlantic University
7 Broward and Florida Atlantic University Boca Raton may pay
8 reasonable charges to appropriate levels of administration of
9 Florida Atlantic University for services delivered
10 universitywide.

11 (3) The Florida Atlantic University Board of Trustees
12 shall take all actions necessary to ensure that Florida
13 Atlantic University Broward and Florida Atlantic University
14 Boca Raton are partners in the overall policymaking and
15 academic governance structures of the university. Annual
16 legislative budget requests for operations and facilities
17 shall separately identify those funds requested for Florida
18 Atlantic University Broward and Florida Atlantic University
19 Boca Raton. Florida Atlantic University Broward and Florida
20 Atlantic University Boca Raton shall have local management
21 authority over their campus faculty, staff, and programs, but
22 there shall be universitywide standards and processes for
23 evaluating requests for promotion and tenure; there shall be
24 complete transferability of credits and uniform programs
25 across campuses; and colleges operating on multiple campuses
26 shall have only one dean for each college. Florida Atlantic
27 University Broward shall establish a faculty senate and may
28 establish a direct-support organization. Any such
29 direct-support organization shall be subject to s. 1004.28(5).

30 (4) The State Board of Education, as a function of its
31 comprehensive master planning process, shall continue to

1 evaluate the need for undergraduate programs in Broward County
2 and shall assess the extent to which existing postsecondary
3 programs are addressing those needs.

4 Section 181. Section 1004.37, Florida Statutes, is
5 created to read:

6 1004.37 County or area extension programs; cooperation
7 between counties and University of Florida and Florida
8 Agricultural and Mechanical University.--

9 (1) The Florida Cooperative Extension Service is
10 administered through the University of Florida and is
11 supported programmatically by the University of Florida and
12 Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University in
13 collaboration with individual county governments. County or
14 area extension programs will be developed, based on local
15 situations, needs, and problems, supported by scientific and
16 technical information developed by the University of Florida,
17 Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, the United
18 States Department of Agriculture, and other sources of
19 research information. This information will be made available
20 through the local program, with the aid of research scientists
21 and extension specialists of the University of Florida
22 Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences and Florida
23 Agricultural and Mechanical University.

24 (2) In each county or other geographic subdivision the
25 board of county commissioners or other legally constituted
26 governing body will annually determine the extent of its
27 financial participation in cooperative extension work. The
28 extent of such financial participation by the counties will
29 influence the number of county extension agents and clerical
30 staff employed and the scope of the local extension program.

31

1 (3) Boards of county commissioners or other legally
2 constituted governing bodies will approve or disapprove of
3 persons recommended for extension positions in the county. If
4 the governing body of the county notifies the extension
5 service by resolution that it wants a list of three qualified
6 candidates, then the extension service shall, for each
7 position, make its recommendation by submitting a list of not
8 fewer than three qualified persons, or all qualified persons
9 if three or fewer. From this list, the board of county
10 commissioners, or other legally constituted governing body,
11 shall make its selection. If none of the persons recommended
12 are approved, the extension service shall continue to submit
13 lists of not fewer than three additional qualified persons
14 until one person is selected. If the governing body of the
15 county does not forward such a resolution to the extension
16 service, the extension service shall recommend one qualified
17 candidate to the governing body. If a person recommended is
18 not approved, the extension service shall recommend another
19 qualified candidate and shall repeat this procedure as
20 necessary until one person is selected. Extension agents so
21 appointed will be staff members of the University of Florida
22 or Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, depending
23 on the source of funds. It is the responsibility of the
24 cooperative extension service to determine qualifications for
25 positions.

26 (4) Although county extension agents are jointly
27 employed by the state universities and federal and county
28 governments for the purposes of administration of the
29 cooperative extension service, the personnel policies and
30 procedures of the University of Florida or Florida
31 Agricultural and Mechanical University, depending on

1 appointment, will apply except in those instances when federal
2 legislation or the basic memorandum of understanding is
3 applicable.

4 (5) The University of Florida will provide county
5 extension personnel in the county with supervision and
6 resources for planning and programming and is responsible for
7 the programming process. The Florida Cooperative Extension
8 Service will make available needed program materials to the
9 extension agents through the subject matter specialists or
10 through other resource persons available from within the
11 university. It will be responsible for maintaining a high
12 level of technical competence in the county extension staff
13 through a continuous program of inservice training.

14 (6) The county extension director will report
15 periodically to the board of county commissioners or other
16 legally constituted governing body on programs underway and
17 results in the county. Each board of county commissioners or
18 other legally constituted governing body will develop a plan
19 which will enable it to be kept informed on the progress and
20 results of the local extension program so that its own
21 knowledge of program needs and problems may become a part of
22 the educational work carried on by the agents. Such plan shall
23 provide for a means of communicating the board's satisfaction
24 with the extension program to the county extension director
25 and the cooperative extension service.

26 Section 182. Section 1004.38, Florida Statutes, is
27 created to read:

28 1004.38 Master of science program in speech-language
29 pathology; Florida International University.--A master of
30 science degree program in speech-language pathology is hereby
31 authorized at Florida International University.

1 Section 183. Section 1004.39, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1004.39 College of law at Florida International
4 University.--

5 (1) A college of law is authorized at Florida
6 International University.

7 (2) The college of law at Florida International
8 University must be operated in compliance with the standards
9 approved by nationally recognized associations for accredited
10 colleges of law.

11 (3) The college of law at Florida International
12 University, to the extent consistent with the standards
13 required by the American Bar Association or any other
14 nationally recognized association for the accreditation of
15 colleges of law, shall develop a law library collection
16 utilizing electronic formats and mediums.

17 (4) The college of law at Florida International
18 University shall develop and institute a program that is
19 consistent with sound legal education principles as determined
20 by the American Bar Association or any other nationally
21 recognized association for the accreditation of colleges of
22 law and that, to the extent consistent with such sound legal
23 education principles, is structured to serve the legal needs
24 of traditionally underserved portions of the population by
25 providing an opportunity for participation in a legal clinic
26 program or pro bono legal service.

27 (5) The Florida International University Board of
28 Trustees shall commence the planning of a college of law at
29 Florida International University. In planning the college of
30 law, the Florida International University Board of Trustees
31 and the State Board of Education may accept grants, donations,

1 gifts, and moneys available for this purpose, including moneys
2 for planning and constructing the college. The Florida
3 International University Board of Trustees may procure and
4 accept any federal funds that are available for the planning,
5 creation, and establishment of the college of law. Classes
6 must commence by the fall semester 2003. If the American Bar
7 Association or any other nationally recognized association for
8 the accreditation of colleges of law issues a third
9 disapproval of an application for provisional approval or for
10 full approval or fails to grant, within 5 years following the
11 graduation of the first class, a provisional approval, to the
12 college of law at Florida International University, the State
13 Board of Education shall make recommendations to the Governor
14 and the Legislature as to whether the college of law will
15 cease operations at the end of the full academic year
16 subsequent to the receipt by the college of law of any such
17 third disapproval, or whether the college of law will continue
18 operations and any conditions for continued operations. If the
19 college of law ceases operations pursuant to this section, the
20 following conditions apply:

21 (a) The authority for the college of law at Florida
22 International University and the authority of the Florida
23 International University Board of Trustees and the State Board
24 of Education provided in this section shall terminate upon the
25 cessation of operations of the college of law at Florida
26 International University. The college of law at Florida
27 International University shall receive no moneys allocated for
28 the planning, construction, or operation of the college of law
29 after its cessation of operations other than moneys to be
30 expended for the cessation of operations of the college of
31 law. Any moneys allocated to the college of law at Florida

1 International University not expended prior to or scheduled to
2 be expended after the date of the cessation of the college of
3 law shall be appropriated for other use by the Legislature of
4 the State of Florida.

5 (b) Any buildings of the college of law at Florida
6 International University constructed from the expenditure of
7 capital outlay funds appropriated by the Legislature shall be
8 owned by the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement
9 Trust Fund and managed by the Florida International University
10 Board of Trustees upon the cessation of the college of law.

11
12 Nothing in this section shall undermine commitments to current
13 students receiving support as of the date of the enactment of
14 this section from the law school scholarship program of the
15 Florida Education Fund as provided in s. 1009.70(8). Students
16 attending the college of law at Florida International
17 University shall be eligible for financial, academic, or other
18 support from the Florida Education Fund as provided in s.
19 1009.70(8) without the college's obtaining accreditation by
20 the American Bar Association.

21 (6) The college of law at Florida International
22 University shall be dedicated to providing opportunities for
23 minorities to attain representation within the legal
24 profession proportionate to their representation in the
25 general population; however, the college of law shall not
26 include preferences in the admissions process for applicants
27 on the basis of race, national origin, or gender.

28 Section 184. Section 1004.40, Florida Statutes, is
29 created to read:

30 1004.40 College of law at Florida Agricultural and
31 Mechanical University.--

1 (1) A college of law is authorized at Florida
2 Agricultural and Mechanical University.

3 (2) The college of law at Florida Agricultural and
4 Mechanical University must be operated in compliance with the
5 standards approved by nationally recognized associations for
6 accredited colleges of law.

7 (3) The college of law at Florida Agricultural and
8 Mechanical University, to the extent consistent with the
9 standards required by the American Bar Association or any
10 other nationally recognized association for the accreditation
11 of colleges of law, shall develop a law library collection
12 utilizing electronic formats and mediums.

13 (4) The college of law at Florida Agricultural and
14 Mechanical University shall develop and institute a program
15 that is consistent with sound legal education principles as
16 determined by the American Bar Association or any other
17 nationally recognized association for the accreditation of
18 colleges of law and that, to the extent consistent with such
19 sound legal education principles, is structured to serve the
20 legal needs of traditionally underserved portions of the
21 population by providing an opportunity for participation in a
22 legal clinic program or pro bono legal service.

23 (5) The Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
24 Board of Trustees shall commence the planning of a college of
25 law under the auspices of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical
26 University to be located in the I-4 corridor area. In planning
27 the college of law, the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical
28 University Board of Trustees and the State Board of Education
29 may accept grants, donations, gifts, and moneys available for
30 this purpose, including moneys for planning and constructing
31 the college. The Florida Agricultural and Mechanical

1 University Board of Trustees may procure and accept any
2 federal funds that are available for the planning, creation,
3 and establishment of the college of law. Classes must commence
4 by the fall semester 2003. If the American Bar Association or
5 any other nationally recognized association for the
6 accreditation of colleges of law issues a third disapproval of
7 an application for provisional approval or for full approval
8 or fails to grant, within 5 years following the graduation of
9 the first class, a provisional approval, to the college of law
10 at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, the State
11 Board of Education shall make recommendations to the Governor
12 and Legislature as to whether the college of law will cease
13 operations at the end of the full academic year subsequent to
14 the receipt by the college of law of any such third
15 disapproval, or whether the college of law will continue
16 operations and any conditions for continued operations. If the
17 college of law ceases operations of the college of law
18 pursuant to this section, the following conditions apply:
19 (a) The authority for the college of law at Florida
20 Agricultural and Mechanical University and the authority of
21 the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University Board of
22 Trustees and the State Board of Education provided in this
23 section shall terminate upon the cessation of operations of
24 the college of law at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical
25 University. The college of law at Florida Agricultural and
26 Mechanical University shall receive no moneys allocated for
27 the planning, construction, or operation of the college of law
28 after its cessation of operations other than moneys to be
29 expended for the cessation of operations of the college of
30 law. Any moneys allocated to the college of law at Florida
31 Agricultural and Mechanical University not expended prior to

1 or scheduled to be expended after the date of the cessation of
2 the college of law shall be appropriated for other use by the
3 Legislature of the State of Florida.

4 (b) Any buildings of the college of law at Florida
5 Agricultural and Mechanical University constructed from the
6 expenditure of capital outlay funds appropriated by the
7 Legislature shall be owned by the Board of Trustees of the
8 Internal Improvement Trust Fund and managed by the Florida
9 Agricultural and Mechanical University Board of Trustees upon
10 the cessation of the college of law.

11
12 Nothing in this section shall undermine commitments to current
13 students receiving support as of the date of the enactment of
14 this section from the law school scholarship program of the
15 Florida Education Fund as provided in s. 1009.70(8). Students
16 attending the college of law at Florida Agricultural and
17 Mechanical University shall be eligible for financial,
18 academic, or other support from the Florida Education Fund as
19 provided in s. 1009.70(8) without the college's obtaining
20 accreditation by the American Bar Association.

21 (6) The college of law at Florida Agricultural and
22 Mechanical University shall be dedicated to providing
23 opportunities for minorities to attain representation within
24 the legal profession proportionate to their representation in
25 the general population; however, the college of law shall not
26 include preferences in the admissions process for applicants
27 on the basis of race, national origin, or gender.

28 Section 185. Section 1004.41, Florida Statutes, is
29 created to read:

30 1004.41 University of Florida; J. Hillis Miller Health
31 Center.--

- 1 (1) There is established the J. Hillis Miller Health
2 Center at the University of Florida, including campuses at
3 Gainesville and Jacksonville and affiliated teaching
4 hospitals, which shall include the following colleges:
- 5 (a) College of Dentistry.
6 (b) College of Health Professions.
7 (c) College of Medicine.
8 (d) College of Nursing.
9 (e) College of Pharmacy.
10 (f) College of Veterinary Medicine and related
11 teaching hospitals.
- 12 (2) Each college of the health center shall be so
13 maintained and operated as to comply with the standards
14 approved by a nationally recognized association for
15 accreditation.
- 16 (3)(a) The University of Florida Health Center
17 Operations and Maintenance Trust Fund shall be administered by
18 the University of Florida Board of Trustees. Funds shall be
19 credited to the trust fund from the sale of goods and services
20 performed by the University of Florida Veterinary Medicine
21 Teaching Hospital. The purpose of the trust fund is to support
22 the instruction, research, and service missions of the
23 University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine.
- 24 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 216.301, and
25 pursuant to s. 216.351, any balance in the trust fund at the
26 end of any fiscal year shall remain in the trust fund and
27 shall be available for carrying out the purposes of the trust
28 fund.
- 29 (4)(a) The University of Florida Board of Trustees
30 shall lease the hospital facilities of the health center,
31 known as the Shands Teaching Hospital and Clinics on the

1 campus of the University of Florida and all furnishings,
2 equipment, and other chattels or choses in action used in the
3 operation of the hospital, to a private not-for-profit
4 corporation organized solely for the purpose of operating the
5 hospital and ancillary health care facilities of the health
6 center and other health care facilities and programs
7 determined to be necessary by the board of the nonprofit
8 corporation. The rental for the hospital facilities shall be
9 an amount equal to the debt service on bonds or revenue
10 certificates issued solely for capital improvements to the
11 hospital facilities or as otherwise provided by law.

12 (b) The University of Florida Board of Trustees shall
13 provide in the lease or by separate contract or agreement with
14 the not-for-profit corporation for the following:

15 1. Approval of the articles of incorporation of the
16 not-for-profit corporation by the University of Florida Board
17 of Trustees and the governance of the not-for-profit
18 corporation by a board of directors appointed and chaired by
19 the President of the University of Florida and vice-chaired by
20 the Vice President for Health Affairs of the University of
21 Florida.

22 2. The use of hospital facilities and personnel in
23 support of the research programs and of the teaching role of
24 the health center.

25 3. The continued recognition of the collective
26 bargaining units and collective bargaining agreements as
27 currently composed and recognition of the certified labor
28 organizations representing those units and agreements.

29 4. The use of hospital facilities and personnel in
30 connection with research programs conducted by the health
31 center.

1 5. Reimbursement to the hospital for indigent
2 patients, state-mandated programs, underfunded state programs,
3 and costs to the hospital for support of the teaching and
4 research programs of the health center. Such reimbursement
5 shall be appropriated to either the health center or the
6 hospital each year by the Legislature after review and
7 approval of the request for funds.

8 (c) The University of Florida Board of Trustees may,
9 with the approval of the Legislature, increase the hospital
10 facilities or remodel or renovate them, provided that the
11 rental paid by the hospital for such new, remodeled, or
12 renovated facilities is sufficient to amortize the costs
13 thereof over a reasonable period of time or fund the debt
14 service for any bonds or revenue certificates issued to
15 finance such improvements.

16 (d) The University of Florida Board of Trustees is
17 authorized to provide to the not-for-profit corporation
18 leasing the hospital facilities and its not-for-profit
19 subsidiaries comprehensive general liability insurance
20 including professional liability from a self-insurance trust
21 program established pursuant to s. 1004.24.

22 (e) In the event that the lease of the hospital
23 facilities to the not-for-profit corporation is terminated for
24 any reason, the University of Florida Board of Trustees shall
25 resume management and operation of the hospital facilities.
26 In such event, the Administration Commission is authorized to
27 appropriate revenues generated from the operation of the
28 hospital facilities to the University of Florida Board of
29 Trustees to pay the costs and expenses of operating the
30 hospital facility for the remainder of the fiscal year in
31 which such termination occurs.

1 (f) The University of Florida Board of Trustees is
2 authorized to provide to Shands Jacksonville Healthcare, Inc.,
3 and its not-for-profit subsidiaries and affiliates and any
4 successor corporation that acts in support of the board of
5 trustees, comprehensive general liability coverage, including
6 professional liability, from the self-insurance programs
7 established pursuant to s. 1004.24.

8 Section 186. Section 1004.42, Florida Statutes, is
9 created to read:

10 1004.42 Florida State University College of
11 Medicine.--

12 (1) CREATION.--There is hereby established a 4-year
13 allopathic medical school within the Florida State University,
14 to be known as the Florida State University College of
15 Medicine, with a principal focus on recruiting and training
16 medical professionals to meet the primary health care needs of
17 the state, especially the needs of the state's elderly, rural,
18 minority, and other underserved citizens.

19 (2) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.--It is the intent of the
20 Legislature that the Florida State University College of
21 Medicine represent a new model for the training of allopathic
22 physician healers for the citizens of the state. In accordance
23 with this intent, the governing philosophy of the College of
24 Medicine should include the training of students, in a humane
25 environment, in the scientific, clinical, and behavioral
26 practices required to deliver patient-centered health care.
27 Key components of the College of Medicine, which would build
28 on the foundation of the 30-year-old Florida State University
29 Program in Medical Sciences (PIMS), would include: admission
30 of diverse types of students who possess good communication
31 skills and are compassionate individuals, representative of

1 the population of the state; basic and behavioral sciences
2 training utilizing medical problem-based teaching; and
3 clinical training at several dispersed sites throughout the
4 state in existing community hospitals, clinics, and doctors'
5 offices. The Legislature further intends that study of the
6 aging human be a continuing focus throughout the 4-year
7 curriculum and that use of information technology be a key
8 component of all parts of the educational program.

9 (3) PURPOSE.--The College of Medicine shall be
10 dedicated to: preparing physicians to practice primary care,
11 geriatric, and rural medicine, to make appropriate use of
12 emerging technologies, and to function successfully in a
13 rapidly changing health care environment; advancing knowledge
14 in the applied biomedical and behavioral sciences, geriatric
15 research, autism, cancer, and chronic diseases; training
16 future scientists to assume leadership in health care delivery
17 and academic medicine; and providing access to medical
18 education for groups which are underrepresented in the medical
19 profession.

20 (4) TRANSITION; ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE; ADMISSIONS
21 PROCESS.--The General Appropriations Act for fiscal year
22 1999-2000 included initial funding for facilities and
23 operations to provide a transition from the Program in Medical
24 Sciences (PIMS) to a College of Medicine at the Florida State
25 University. For transitional purposes, the Program in Medical
26 Sciences (PIMS) in the College of Arts and Sciences at the
27 Florida State University shall be reorganized and
28 restructured, as soon as practicable, as the Institute of
29 Human Medical Sciences. At such time as the 4-year educational
30 program development is underway and a sufficient number of
31 basic and behavioral sciences and clinical faculty are

1 recruited, the Institute of Human Medical Sciences shall
2 evolve into the Florida State University College of Medicine,
3 with appropriate departments. The current admissions procedure
4 utilized by the Program in Medical Sciences (PIMS) shall
5 provide the basis for the design of an admissions process for
6 the College of Medicine, with selection criteria that focus on
7 identifying future primary care physicians who have
8 demonstrated interest in serving underserved areas. Enrollment
9 levels at the College of Medicine are planned to not exceed
10 120 students per class, and shall be phased in from 30
11 students in the Program in Medical Sciences (PIMS), to 40
12 students admitted to the College of Medicine as the charter
13 class in Fall 2001, and 20 additional students admitted to the
14 College of Medicine in each class thereafter until the maximum
15 class size is reached.

16 (5) PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS FOR CLINICAL INSTRUCTION;
17 GRADUATE PROGRAMS.--To provide broad-based clinical
18 instruction in both rural and urban settings for students in
19 the community-based medical education program, the College of
20 Medicine, through creation of nonprofit corporations, shall
21 seek affiliation agreements with health care systems and
22 organizations, local hospitals, medical schools, and military
23 health care facilities in the following targeted communities:
24 Pensacola, Tallahassee, Orlando, Sarasota, Jacksonville, and
25 the rural areas of the state. Selected hospitals in the target
26 communities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 27 (a) Baptist Health Care in Pensacola.
28 (b) Sacred Heart Health System in Pensacola.
29 (c) West Florida Regional Medical Center in Pensacola.
30 (d) Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare in Tallahassee.
31 (e) Florida Hospital Health System in Orlando.

- 1 (f) Sarasota Memorial Health Care System in Sarasota.
2 (g) Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville.
3 (h) Lee Memorial Health System, Inc., in Fort Myers.
4 (i) Rural hospitals in the state.

5
6 The College of Medicine shall also explore all alternatives
7 for cooperation with established graduate medical education
8 programs in the state to develop a plan to retain its
9 graduates in residency programs in Florida.

10 (6) ACCREDITATION.--The College of Medicine shall
11 develop a program which conforms to the accreditation
12 standards of the Liaison Committee on Medical Education
13 (LCME).

14 (7) CURRICULA; CLINICAL ROTATION TRAINING SITES.--

15 (a) The preclinical curriculum shall draw on the
16 Florida State University's Program in Medical Sciences (PIMS)
17 experience and national trends in basic and behavioral
18 sciences instruction, including use of technology for
19 distributed and distance learning. First-year instruction
20 shall include a lecture mode and problem-based learning. In
21 the second year, a small-group, problem-based learning
22 approach shall provide more advanced treatment of each
23 academic subject in a patient-centered context. Various
24 short-term clinical exposures shall be programmed throughout
25 the preclinical years, including rural, geriatric, and
26 minority health, and contemporary practice patterns in these
27 areas.

28 (b) During the third and fourth years, the curriculum
29 shall follow a distributed, community-based model with a
30 special focus on rural health. Subgroups of students shall be
31

1 assigned to clinical rotation training sites in local
2 communities in roughly equal numbers, as follows:
3 1. Group 1 - Tallahassee.
4 2. Group 2 - Pensacola.
5 3. Group 3 - Orlando.
6 4. Group 4 - Sarasota.
7 5. Group 5 - Jacksonville.
8 6. Group 6 - To be determined prior to 2005, based on
9 emerging state needs.
10 7. Group 7 - Rural Physician Associate Program (RPAP).
11 (8) MEDICAL NEEDS OF THE ELDERLY.--The College of
12 Medicine shall develop a comprehensive program to ensure
13 training in the medical needs of the elderly and incorporate
14 principles embodied in the curriculum guidelines of the
15 American Geriatric Society. The College of Medicine shall
16 have as one of its primary missions the improvement of medical
17 education for physicians who will treat elder citizens. To
18 accomplish this mission, the College of Medicine shall
19 establish an academic leadership position in geriatrics,
20 create an external elder care advisory committee, and
21 implement an extensive faculty development plan. For student
22 recruitment purposes, the current Program in Medical Sciences
23 (PIMS) selection criteria shall be expanded to include
24 consideration of students who have expressed an interest in
25 elder care and who have demonstrated, through life choices, a
26 commitment to serve older persons.
27 (9) MEDICAL NEEDS OF UNDERSERVED AREAS.--To address
28 the medical needs of the state's rural and underserved
29 populations, the College of Medicine shall develop a
30 Department of Family Medicine with a significant rural
31 training track that provides students with early and frequent

1 clinical experiences in community-based settings to train and
2 produce highly skilled primary care physicians. The College
3 of Medicine shall consider developing new, rural-based family
4 practice clinical training programs and shall establish a
5 partnership with the West Florida Area Health Education Center
6 to assist in developing partnerships and programs to provide
7 incentives and support for physicians to practice in primary
8 care, geriatric, and rural medicine in underserved areas of
9 the state.

10 (10) INCREASING PARTICIPATION OF UNDERREPRESENTED
11 GROUPS.--To increase the participation of underrepresented
12 groups and socially and economically disadvantaged youth in
13 science and medical programs, the College of Medicine shall
14 continue the outreach efforts of the Program in Medical
15 Sciences (PIMS) to middle and high school minority students,
16 including the Science Students Together Reaching Instructional
17 Diversity and Excellence (SSTRIDE), and shall build an
18 endowment income to support recruitment programs and
19 scholarship and financial aid packages for these students. To
20 develop a base of qualified potential medical school
21 candidates from underrepresented groups, the College of
22 Medicine shall coordinate with the undergraduate premedical
23 and science programs currently offered at the Florida State
24 University, develop relationships with potential feeder
25 institutions, including 4-year institutions and community
26 colleges, and pursue grant funds to support programs, as well
27 as support scholarship and financial aid packages. The College
28 of Medicine shall develop plans for a postbaccalaureate,
29 1-year academic program that provides a second chance to a
30 limited number of students per year who have been declined
31 medical school admission, who are state residents, and who

1 meet established criteria as socially and economically
2 disadvantaged. The College of Medicine shall make every
3 effort, through recruitment and retention, to employ a faculty
4 and support staff that reflect the heterogeneous nature of the
5 state's general population.

6 (11) TECHNOLOGY.--To create technology-rich learning
7 environments, the College of Medicine shall build on the
8 considerable infrastructure that already supports the many
9 technology resources of the Florida State University and shall
10 expand the infrastructure to conduct an effective medical
11 education program, including connectivity between the main
12 campus, community-based training locations, and rural clinic
13 locations. Additional technology programs shall include
14 extensive professional development opportunities for faculty;
15 an on-line library of academic and medical resources for
16 students, faculty, and community preceptors; and
17 technology-sharing agreements with other medical schools to
18 allow for the exchange of technology applications among
19 medical school faculty for the purpose of enhancing medical
20 education. The College of Medicine shall explore the
21 opportunities afforded by Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville through
22 clerkships, visiting professors or lectures through the
23 existing telecommunications systems, and collaboration in
24 research activities at the Mayo Clinic's Jacksonville campus.

25 (12) ADMINISTRATION; FACULTY.--Each of the major
26 community-based clinical rotation training sites described in
27 subsection (7) shall have a community dean and a student
28 affairs/administrative officer. Teaching faculty for the
29 community-based clinical training component shall be community
30 physicians serving part-time appointments. Sixty faculty
31 members shall be recruited to serve in the basic and

1 behavioral sciences department. The College of Medicine shall
2 have a small core staff of on-campus, full-time faculty and
3 administrators at the Florida State University, including a
4 dean, a senior associate dean for educational programs, an
5 associate dean for clinical education, a chief
6 financial/administrative officer, an admissions/student
7 affairs officer, an instructional resources coordinator, a
8 coordinator for graduate and continuing medical education, and
9 several mission focus coordinators.

10 (13) COLLABORATION WITH OTHER PROFESSIONALS.--To
11 provide students with the skills, knowledge, and values needed
12 to practice medicine in the evolving national system of health
13 care delivery, the College of Medicine shall fully integrate
14 modern health care delivery concepts into its curriculum. For
15 this purpose, the College of Medicine shall develop a
16 partnership with one or more health care organizations in the
17 state and shall recruit faculty with strong health care
18 delivery competencies. Faculty from other disciplines at the
19 Florida State University shall be utilized to develop
20 team-based approaches to core competencies in the delivery of
21 health care.

22 (14) INDEMNIFICATION FROM LIABILITY.--This section
23 shall be construed to authorize the Florida State University
24 Board of Trustees to negotiate and purchase policies of
25 insurance to indemnify from any liability those individuals or
26 entities providing sponsorship or training to the students of
27 the medical school, professionals employed by the medical
28 school, and students of the medical school.

29 Section 187. Section 1004.43, Florida Statutes, is
30 created to read:
31

1 1004.43 H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research
2 Institute.--There is established the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer
3 Center and Research Institute at the University of South
4 Florida.

5 (1) The State Board of Education shall enter into an
6 agreement for the utilization of the facilities on the campus
7 of the University of South Florida to be known as the H. Lee
8 Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute, including all
9 furnishings, equipment, and other chattels used in the
10 operation of said facilities, with a Florida not-for-profit
11 corporation organized solely for the purpose of governing and
12 operating the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research
13 Institute. This not-for-profit corporation, acting as an
14 instrumentality of the State of Florida, shall govern and
15 operate the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research
16 Institute in accordance with the terms of the agreement
17 between the State Board of Education and the not-for-profit
18 corporation. The not-for-profit corporation may, with the
19 prior approval of the State Board of Education, create
20 not-for-profit corporate subsidiaries to fulfill its mission.
21 The not-for-profit corporation and its subsidiaries are
22 authorized to receive, hold, invest, and administer property
23 and any moneys received from private, local, state, and
24 federal sources, as well as technical and professional income
25 generated or derived from practice activities of the
26 institute, for the benefit of the institute and the
27 fulfillment of its mission. The affairs of the corporation
28 shall be managed by a board of directors who shall serve
29 without compensation. The President of the University of
30 South Florida and the chair of the State Board of Education,
31 or his or her designee, shall be directors of the

1 not-for-profit corporation, together with 5 representatives of
2 the state universities and no more than 14 nor fewer than 10
3 directors who are not medical doctors or state employees.
4 Each director shall have only one vote, shall serve a term of
5 3 years, and may be reelected to the board. Other than the
6 President of the University of South Florida and the chair of
7 the State Board of Education, directors shall be elected by a
8 majority vote of the board. The chair of the board of
9 directors shall be selected by majority vote of the directors.

10 (2) The State Board of Education shall provide in the
11 agreement with the not-for-profit corporation for the
12 following:

13 (a) Approval of the articles of incorporation of the
14 not-for-profit corporation by the State Board of Education.

15 (b) Approval of the articles of incorporation of any
16 not-for-profit corporate subsidiary created by the
17 not-for-profit corporation.

18 (c) Utilization of hospital facilities and personnel
19 by the not-for-profit corporation and its subsidiaries for
20 mutually approved teaching and research programs conducted by
21 the University of South Florida or other accredited medical
22 schools or research institutes.

23 (d) Preparation of an annual postaudit of the
24 not-for-profit corporation's financial accounts and the
25 financial accounts of any subsidiaries to be conducted by an
26 independent certified public accountant. The annual audit
27 report shall include management letters and shall be submitted
28 to the Auditor General and the State Board of Education for
29 review. The State Board of Education, the Auditor General,
30 and the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government
31 Accountability shall have the authority to require and receive

1 from the not-for-profit corporation and any subsidiaries or
2 from their independent auditor any detail or supplemental data
3 relative to the operation of the not-for-profit corporation or
4 subsidiary.

5 (e) Provision by the not-for-profit corporation and
6 its subsidiaries of equal employment opportunities to all
7 persons regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, or
8 national origin.

9 (3) The State Board of Education is authorized to
10 secure comprehensive general liability protection, including
11 professional liability protection, for the not-for-profit
12 corporation and its subsidiaries pursuant to s. 1004.24.

13 (4) In the event that the agreement between the
14 not-for-profit corporation and the State Board of Education is
15 terminated for any reason, the State Board of Education shall
16 resume governance and operation of said facilities.

17 (5) The institute shall be administered by a chief
18 executive officer who shall serve at the pleasure of the board
19 of directors of the not-for-profit corporation and who shall
20 have the following powers and duties subject to the approval
21 of the board of directors:

22 (a) The chief executive officer shall establish
23 programs which fulfill the mission of the institute in
24 research, education, treatment, prevention, and the early
25 detection of cancer; however, the chief executive officer
26 shall not establish academic programs for which academic
27 credit is awarded and which terminate in the conferment of a
28 degree without prior approval of the State Board of Education.

29 (b) The chief executive officer shall have control
30 over the budget and the dollars appropriated or donated to the
31 institute from private, local, state, and federal sources, as

1 well as technical and professional income generated or derived
2 from practice activities of the institute. However,
3 professional income generated by university faculty from
4 practice activities at the institute shall be shared between
5 the institute and the university as determined by the chief
6 executive officer and the appropriate university dean or vice
7 president.

8 (c) The chief executive officer shall appoint members
9 to carry out the research, patient care, and educational
10 activities of the institute and determine compensation,
11 benefits, and terms of service. Members of the institute
12 shall be eligible to hold concurrent appointments at
13 affiliated academic institutions. University faculty shall be
14 eligible to hold concurrent appointments at the institute.

15 (d) The chief executive officer shall have control
16 over the use and assignment of space and equipment within the
17 facilities.

18 (e) The chief executive officer shall have the power
19 to create the administrative structure necessary to carry out
20 the mission of the institute.

21 (f) The chief executive officer shall have a reporting
22 relationship to the Commissioner of Education.

23 (g) The chief executive officer shall provide a copy
24 of the institute's annual report to the Governor and Cabinet,
25 the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
26 Representatives, and the chair of the State Board of
27 Education.

28 (6) The board of directors of the not-for-profit
29 corporation shall create a council of scientific advisers to
30 the chief executive officer comprised of leading researchers,
31 physicians, and scientists. This council shall review programs

1 and recommend research priorities and initiatives so as to
2 maximize the state's investment in the institute. The council
3 shall be appointed by the board of directors of the
4 not-for-profit corporation and shall include five appointees
5 of the State Board of Education. Each member of the council
6 shall be appointed to serve a 2-year term and may be
7 reappointed to the council.

8 (7) In carrying out the provisions of this section,
9 the not-for-profit corporation and its subsidiaries are not
10 "agencies" within the meaning of s. 20.03(11).

11 (8)(a) Records of the not-for-profit corporation and
12 of its subsidiaries are public records unless made
13 confidential or exempt by law.

14 (b) Proprietary confidential business information is
15 confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1)
16 and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. However, the
17 Auditor General, the Office of Program Policy Analysis and
18 Government Accountability, and the State Board of Education,
19 pursuant to their oversight and auditing functions, must be
20 given access to all proprietary confidential business
21 information upon request and without subpoena and must
22 maintain the confidentiality of information so received. As
23 used in this paragraph, the term "proprietary confidential
24 business information" means information, regardless of its
25 form or characteristics, which is owned or controlled by the
26 not-for-profit corporation or its subsidiaries; is intended to
27 be and is treated by the not-for-profit corporation or its
28 subsidiaries as private and the disclosure of which would harm
29 the business operations of the not-for-profit corporation or
30 its subsidiaries; has not been intentionally disclosed by the
31 corporation or its subsidiaries unless pursuant to law, an

1 order of a court or administrative body, a legislative
2 proceeding pursuant to s. 5, Art. III of the State
3 Constitution, or a private agreement that provides that the
4 information may be released to the public; and which is
5 information concerning:
6 1. Internal auditing controls and reports of internal
7 auditors;
8 2. Matters reasonably encompassed in privileged
9 attorney-client communications;
10 3. Contracts for managed-care arrangements, including
11 preferred provider organization contracts, health maintenance
12 organization contracts, and exclusive provider organization
13 contracts, and any documents directly relating to the
14 negotiation, performance, and implementation of any such
15 contracts for managed-care arrangements;
16 4. Bids or other contractual data, banking records,
17 and credit agreements the disclosure of which would impair the
18 efforts of the not-for-profit corporation or its subsidiaries
19 to contract for goods or services on favorable terms;
20 5. Information relating to private contractual data,
21 the disclosure of which would impair the competitive interest
22 of the provider of the information;
23 6. Corporate officer and employee personnel
24 information;
25 7. Information relating to the proceedings and records
26 of credentialing panels and committees and of the governing
27 board of the not-for-profit corporation or its subsidiaries
28 relating to credentialing;
29 8. Minutes of meetings of the governing board of the
30 not-for-profit corporation and its subsidiaries, except
31

1 minutes of meetings open to the public pursuant to subsection
2 (9);

3 9. Information that reveals plans for marketing
4 services that the corporation or its subsidiaries reasonably
5 expect to be provided by competitors;

6 10. Trade secrets as defined in s. 688.002, including
7 reimbursement methodologies or rates; or

8 11. The identity of donors or prospective donors of
9 property who wish to remain anonymous or any information
10 identifying such donors or prospective donors. The anonymity
11 of these donors or prospective donors must be maintained in
12 the auditor's report.

13

14 As used in this paragraph, the term "managed care" means
15 systems or techniques generally used by third-party payors or
16 their agents to affect access to and control payment for
17 health care services. Managed-care techniques most often
18 include one or more of the following: prior, concurrent, and
19 retrospective review of the medical necessity and
20 appropriateness of services or site of services; contracts
21 with selected health care providers; financial incentives or
22 disincentives related to the use of specific providers,
23 services, or service sites; controlled access to and
24 coordination of services by a case manager; and payor efforts
25 to identify treatment alternatives and modify benefit
26 restrictions for high-cost patient care.

27 (9) Meetings of the governing board of the
28 not-for-profit corporation and meetings of the subsidiaries of
29 the not-for-profit corporation at which the expenditure of
30 dollars appropriated to the not-for-profit corporation by the
31 state are discussed or reported must remain open to the public

1 in accordance with s. 286.011 and s. 24(b), Art. I of the
2 State Constitution, unless made confidential or exempt by law.
3 Other meetings of the governing board of the not-for-profit
4 corporation and of the subsidiaries of the not-for-profit
5 corporation are exempt from s. 286.011 and s. 24(b), Art. I of
6 the State Constitution.

7 Section 188. Section 1004.435, Florida Statutes, is
8 created to read:

9 1004.435 Cancer control and research.--

10 (1) SHORT TITLE.--This section shall be known and may
11 be cited as the "Cancer Control and Research Act."

12 (2) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.--It is the finding of the
13 Legislature that:

14 (a) Advances in scientific knowledge have led to the
15 development of preventive and therapeutic capabilities in the
16 control of cancer. Such knowledge and therapy must be made
17 available to all citizens of this state through educational
18 and therapeutic programs.

19 (b) The present state of our knowledge concerning the
20 prevalence, cause or associated factors, and treatment of
21 cancer have resulted primarily from a vast federal investment
22 into basic and clinical research, some of which is expended in
23 this state. These research activities must continue, but
24 programs must be established to extend this knowledge in
25 preventive measures and patient treatment throughout the
26 state.

27 (c) Research in cancer has implicated the environment
28 as a causal factor for many types of cancer, i.e., sunshine, X
29 rays, diet, smoking, etc., and programs are needed to further
30 document such cause and effect relationships. Proven causes
31

1 of cancer should be publicized and be the subject of
2 educational programs for the prevention of cancer.

3 (d) An effective cancer control program would mobilize
4 the scientific, educational, and medical resources that
5 presently exist into an intense attack against this dread
6 disease.

7 (3) DEFINITIONS.--The following words and phrases when
8 used in this section have, unless the context clearly
9 indicates otherwise, the meanings given to them in this
10 subsection:

11 (a) "Cancer" means all malignant neoplasms, regardless
12 of the tissue of origin, including lymphoma and leukemia.

13 (b) "Council" means the Florida Cancer Control and
14 Research Advisory Council, which is an advisory body appointed
15 to function on a continuing basis for the study of cancer and
16 which recommends solutions and policy alternatives to the
17 State Board of Education and the secretary and which is
18 established by this section.

19 (c) "Department" means the Department of Health.

20 (d) "Fund" means the Florida Cancer Control and
21 Research Fund established by this section.

22 (e) "Qualified nonprofit association" means any
23 association, incorporated or unincorporated, that has received
24 tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service.

25 (f) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Health.

26 (4) FLORIDA CANCER CONTROL AND RESEARCH ADVISORY
27 COUNCIL; CREATION; COMPOSITION.--

28 (a) There is created within the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer
29 Center and Research Institute, Inc., the Florida Cancer
30 Control and Research Advisory Council. The council shall
31 consist of 35 members, which includes the chairperson, all of

1 whom must be residents of this state. All members, except
2 those appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives
3 and the President of the Senate, must be appointed by the
4 Governor. At least one of the members appointed by the
5 Governor must be 60 years of age or older. One member must be
6 a representative of the American Cancer Society; one member
7 must be a representative of the Florida Tumor Registrars
8 Association; one member must be a representative of the
9 Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center of the University of
10 Miami; one member must be a representative of the Department
11 of Health; one member must be a representative of the
12 University of Florida Shands Cancer Center; one member must be
13 a representative of the Agency for Health Care Administration;
14 one member must be a representative of the Florida Nurses
15 Association; one member must be a representative of the
16 Florida Osteopathic Medical Association; one member must be a
17 representative of the American College of Surgeons; one member
18 must be a representative of the School of Medicine of the
19 University of Miami; one member must be a representative of
20 the College of Medicine of the University of Florida; one
21 member must be a representative of NOVA Southeastern College
22 of Osteopathic Medicine; one member must be a representative
23 of the College of Medicine of the University of South Florida;
24 one member must be a representative of the College of Public
25 Health of the University of South Florida; one member must be
26 a representative of the Florida Society of Clinical Oncology;
27 one member must be a representative of the Florida Obstetric
28 and Gynecologic Society who has had training in the specialty
29 of gynecologic oncology; one member must be a representative
30 of the Florida Medical Association; one member must be a
31 member of the Florida Pediatric Society; one member must be a

1 representative of the Florida Radiological Society; one member
2 must be a representative of the Florida Society of
3 Pathologists; one member must be a representative of the H.
4 Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute, Inc.; three
5 members must be representatives of the general public acting
6 as consumer advocates; one member must be a member of the
7 House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House
8 of Representatives; one member must be a member of the Senate
9 appointed by the President of the Senate; one member must be a
10 representative of the Department of Education; one member must
11 be a representative of the Florida Dental Association; one
12 member must be a representative of the Florida Hospital
13 Association; one member must be a representative of the
14 Association of Community Cancer Centers; one member shall be a
15 representative from a statutory teaching hospital affiliated
16 with a community-based cancer center; one member must be a
17 representative of the Florida Association of Pediatric Tumor
18 Programs, Inc.; one member must be a representative of the
19 Cancer Information Service; one member must be a
20 representative of the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical
21 University Institute of Public Health; and one member must be
22 a representative of the Florida Society of Oncology Social
23 Workers. Of the members of the council appointed by the
24 Governor, at least 10 must be individuals who are minority
25 persons as defined by s. 288.703(3).

26 (b) The terms of the members shall be 4 years from
27 their respective dates of appointment.

28 (c) A chairperson shall be appointed by the Governor
29 for a term of 2 years. The chairperson shall appoint an
30 executive committee of no fewer than three persons to serve at
31

1 the pleasure of the chairperson. This committee will prepare
2 material for the council but make no final decisions.

3 (d) The council shall meet no less than semiannually
4 at the call of the chairperson or, in his or her absence or
5 incapacity, at the call of the secretary. Sixteen members
6 constitute a quorum for the purpose of exercising all of the
7 powers of the council. A vote of the majority of the members
8 present is sufficient for all actions of the council.

9 (e) The council members shall serve without pay.
10 Pursuant to the provisions of s. 112.061, the council members
11 may be entitled to be reimbursed for per diem and travel
12 expenses.

13 (f) No member of the council shall participate in any
14 discussion or decision to recommend grants or contracts to any
15 qualified nonprofit association or to any agency of this state
16 or its political subdivisions with which the member is
17 associated as a member of the governing body or as an employee
18 or with which the member has entered into a contractual
19 arrangement.

20 (g) The council may prescribe, amend, and repeal
21 bylaws governing the manner in which the business of the
22 council is conducted.

23 (h) The council shall advise the State Board of
24 Education, the secretary, and the Legislature with respect to
25 cancer control and research in this state.

26 (i) The council shall approve each year a program for
27 cancer control and research to be known as the "Florida Cancer
28 Plan" which shall be consistent with the State Health Plan and
29 integrated and coordinated with existing programs in this
30 state.

31

1 (j) The council shall formulate and recommend to the
2 secretary a plan for the care and treatment of persons
3 suffering from cancer and recommend the establishment of
4 standard requirements for the organization, equipment, and
5 conduct of cancer units or departments in hospitals and
6 clinics in this state. The council may recommend to the
7 secretary the designation of cancer units following a survey
8 of the needs and facilities for treatment of cancer in the
9 various localities throughout the state. The secretary shall
10 consider the plan in developing departmental priorities and
11 funding priorities and standards under chapter 395.

12 (k) The council is responsible for including in the
13 Florida Cancer Plan recommendations for the coordination and
14 integration of medical, nursing, paramedical, lay, and other
15 plans concerned with cancer control and research. Committees
16 shall be formed by the council so that the following areas
17 will be established as entities for actions:

18 1. Cancer plan evaluation: tumor registry, data
19 retrieval systems, and epidemiology of cancer in the state and
20 its relation to other areas.

21 2. Cancer prevention.

22 3. Cancer detection.

23 4. Cancer patient management: treatment,
24 rehabilitation, terminal care, and other patient-oriented
25 activities.

26 5. Cancer education: lay and professional.

27 6. Unproven methods of cancer therapy: quackery and
28 unorthodox therapies.

29 7. Investigator-initiated project research.

30 (l) In order to implement in whole or in part the
31 Florida Cancer Plan, the council shall recommend to the State

1 Board of Education or the secretary the awarding of grants and
2 contracts to qualified profit or nonprofit associations or
3 governmental agencies in order to plan, establish, or conduct
4 programs in cancer control or prevention, cancer education and
5 training, and cancer research.

6 (m) If funds are specifically appropriated by the
7 Legislature, the council shall develop or purchase
8 standardized written summaries, written in layperson's terms
9 and in language easily understood by the average adult
10 patient, informing actual and high-risk breast cancer
11 patients, prostate cancer patients, and men who are
12 considering prostate cancer screening of the medically viable
13 treatment alternatives available to them in the effective
14 management of breast cancer and prostate cancer; describing
15 such treatment alternatives; and explaining the relative
16 advantages, disadvantages, and risks associated therewith.
17 The breast cancer summary, upon its completion, shall be
18 printed in the form of a pamphlet or booklet and made
19 continuously available to physicians and surgeons in this
20 state for their use in accordance with s. 458.324 and to
21 osteopathic physicians in this state for their use in
22 accordance with s. 459.0125. The council shall periodically
23 update both summaries to reflect current standards of medical
24 practice in the treatment of breast cancer and prostate
25 cancer. The council shall develop and implement educational
26 programs, including distribution of the summaries developed or
27 purchased under this paragraph, to inform citizen groups,
28 associations, and voluntary organizations about early
29 detection and treatment of breast cancer and prostate cancer.

30 (n) The council shall have the responsibility to
31 advise the State Board of Education and the secretary on

1 methods of enforcing and implementing laws already enacted and
2 concerned with cancer control, research, and education.

3 (o) The council may recommend to the State Board of
4 Education or the secretary rules not inconsistent with law as
5 it may deem necessary for the performance of its duties and
6 the proper administration of this section.

7 (p) The council shall formulate and put into effect a
8 continuing educational program for the prevention of cancer
9 and its early diagnosis and disseminate to hospitals, cancer
10 patients, and the public information concerning the proper
11 treatment of cancer.

12 (q) The council shall be physically located at the H.
13 Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute, Inc., at the
14 University of South Florida.

15 (r) On February 15 of each year, the council shall
16 report to the Governor and to the Legislature.

17 (5) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION,
18 THE H. LEE MOFFITT CANCER CENTER AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE, INC.,
19 AND THE SECRETARY.--

20 (a) The State Board of Education or the secretary,
21 after consultation with the council, shall award grants and
22 contracts to qualified nonprofit associations and governmental
23 agencies in order to plan, establish, or conduct programs in
24 cancer control and prevention, cancer education and training,
25 and cancer research.

26 (b) The H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research
27 Institute, Inc., shall provide such staff, information, and
28 other assistance as reasonably necessary for the completion of
29 the responsibilities of the council.

30
31

1 (c) The State Board of Education or the secretary,
2 after consultation with the council, may adopt rules necessary
3 for the implementation of this section.

4 (d) The secretary, after consultation with the
5 council, shall make rules specifying to what extent and on
6 what terms and conditions cancer patients of the state may
7 receive financial aid for the diagnosis and treatment of
8 cancer in any hospital or clinic selected. The department may
9 furnish to citizens of this state who are afflicted with
10 cancer financial aid to the extent of the appropriation
11 provided for that purpose in a manner which in its opinion
12 will afford the greatest benefit to those afflicted and may
13 make arrangements with hospitals, laboratories, or clinics to
14 afford proper care and treatment for cancer patients in this
15 state.

16 (6) FLORIDA CANCER CONTROL AND RESEARCH FUND.--

17 (a) There is created the Florida Cancer Control and
18 Research Fund consisting of funds appropriated therefor from
19 the General Revenue Fund and any gifts, grants, or funds
20 received from other sources.

21 (b) The fund shall be used exclusively for grants and
22 contracts to qualified nonprofit associations or governmental
23 agencies for the purpose of cancer control and prevention,
24 cancer education and training, cancer research, and all
25 expenses incurred in connection with the administration of
26 this section and the programs funded through the grants and
27 contracts authorized by the State Board of Education or the
28 secretary.

29 Section 189. Section 1004.44, Florida Statutes, is
30 created to read:

31

1 1004.44 Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health
2 Institute.--There is established the Louis de la Parte Florida
3 Mental Health Institute within the University of South
4 Florida.

5 (1) The purpose of the institute is to strengthen
6 mental health services throughout the state by providing
7 technical assistance and support services to mental health
8 agencies and mental health professionals. Such assistance and
9 services shall include:

10 (a) Technical training and specialized education.

11 (b) Development, implementation, and evaluation of
12 mental health service programs.

13 (c) Evaluation of availability and effectiveness of
14 existing mental health services.

15 (d) Analysis of factors that influence the incidence
16 and prevalence of mental and emotional disorders.

17 (e) Dissemination of information about innovations in
18 mental health services.

19 (f) Consultation on all aspects of program development
20 and implementation.

21 (g) Provisions for direct client services, provided
22 for a limited period of time either in the institute facility
23 or in other facilities within the state, and limited to
24 purposes of research or training.

25 (2) The Department of Children and Family Services is
26 authorized to designate the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental
27 Health Institute a treatment facility for the purpose of
28 accepting voluntary and involuntary clients in accordance with
29 institute programs. Clients to be admitted are exempted from
30 prior screening by a community mental health center.

31

1 (3) The institute may provide direct services in
2 coordination with other agencies. The institute may also
3 provide support services to state agencies through joint
4 programs, collaborative agreements, contracts, and grants.

5 (4) The institute shall operate under the authority of
6 the President of the University of South Florida and shall
7 employ a mental health professional as director. The director
8 shall hold a faculty appointment in a university's college or
9 department related to mental health within the university.
10 The director has primary responsibility for establishing
11 active liaisons with the community of mental health
12 professionals and other related constituencies in the state
13 and may, with approval of the university president, establish
14 appropriate statewide advisory groups to assist in developing
15 these communication links.

16 Section 190. Section 1004.45, Florida Statutes, is
17 created to read:

18 1004.45 Ringling Center for Cultural Arts.--

19 (1) The Florida State University Ringling Center for
20 Cultural Arts is created. The center consists of the following
21 properties located in Sarasota County:

22 (a) The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art composed
23 of:

24 1. The art museum.

25 2. The Ca' d'Zan (the Ringling residence).

26 3. The Ringling Museum of the Circus.

27 (b) The Florida State University Center for the Fine
28 and Performing Arts, including the Asolo Theater and the
29 Florida State University Center for the Performing Arts, both
30 of which shall provide for academic programs in theatre,
31 dance, art, art history, and museum management.

1
2 The center shall be operated by the Florida State University,
3 which shall be charged with encouraging participation by K-12
4 schools and by other postsecondary educational institutions,
5 public and private, in the educational and cultural enrichment
6 programs of the center.

7 (2)(a) The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art is
8 designated as the official Art Museum of the State of Florida.
9 The purpose and function of the museum is to maintain and
10 preserve all objects of art and artifacts donated to the state
11 through the will of John Ringling; to acquire and preserve
12 objects of art or artifacts of historical or cultural
13 significance; to exhibit such objects to the public; to
14 undertake scholarly research and publication, including that
15 relating to the collection; to provide educational programs
16 for students at K-12 schools and those in college and graduate
17 school and enrichment programs for children and adults; to
18 assist other museums in the state and nation through education
19 programs and through loaning objects from the collection when
20 such loans do not threaten the safety and security of the
21 objects; to enhance knowledge and appreciation of the
22 collection; and to engage in other activities related to
23 visual arts which benefit the public. The museum shall also
24 engage in programs on the national and international level to
25 enhance further the cultural resources of the state.

26 (b) The Florida State University shall approve a John
27 and Mable Ringling Museum of Art direct-support organization.
28 Such direct-support organization shall consist of no more than
29 31 members appointed by the president of the university from a
30 list of nominees provided by the Ringling direct-support
31 organization. No fewer than one-third of the members must be

1 residents of Sarasota and Manatee Counties, and the remaining
2 members may reside elsewhere. The current members of the Board
3 of Trustees of the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art may
4 be members of the direct-support organization. They shall
5 develop a charter and bylaws to govern their operation, and
6 these shall be subject to approval by the Florida State
7 University.
8 (c) The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art
9 direct-support organization, operating under the charter and
10 bylaws and such contracts as are approved by the university,
11 shall set policies to maintain and preserve the collections of
12 the Art Museum; the Circus Museum; the furnishings and objects
13 in the Ringling home, referred to as the Ca' d'Zan; and other
14 objects of art and artifacts in the custody of the museum.
15 Title to all such collections, art objects, and artifacts of
16 the museums and its facilities shall remain with the Florida
17 State University, which shall assign state registration
18 numbers to, and conduct annual inventories of, all such
19 properties. The direct-support organization shall develop
20 policy for the museum, subject to the provisions of the John
21 Ringling will and the overall direction of the president of
22 the university; and it is invested with power and authority to
23 nominate a museum director who is appointed by and serves at
24 the pleasure of the president of the university and shall
25 report to the provost of the university or his or her
26 designee. The museum director, with the approval of the
27 provost or his or her designee, shall appoint other employees
28 in accordance with Florida Statutes and rules; remove the same
29 in accordance with Florida Statutes and rules; provide for the
30 proper keeping of accounts and records and budgeting of funds;
31 enter into contracts for professional programs of the museum

1 and for the support and maintenance of the museum; secure
2 public liability insurance; and do and perform every other
3 matter or thing requisite to the proper management,
4 maintenance, support, and control of the museum at the highest
5 efficiency economically possible, while taking into
6 consideration the purposes of the museum.

7 (d) Notwithstanding the provision of s. 287.057, the
8 John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art direct-support
9 organization may enter into contracts or agreements with or
10 without competitive bidding, in its discretion, for the
11 restoration of objects of art in the museum collection or for
12 the purchase of objects of art that are to be added to the
13 collection.

14 (e) Notwithstanding s. 273.055, the university may
15 sell any art object in the museum collection, which object has
16 been acquired after 1936, if the director and the
17 direct-support organization recommend such sale to the
18 president of the university and if they first determine that
19 the object is no longer appropriate for the collection. The
20 proceeds of the sale shall be deposited in the Ringling Museum
21 Art Acquisition, Restoration, and Conservation Trust Fund. The
22 university also may exchange any art object in the collection,
23 which object has been acquired after 1936, for an art object
24 or objects that the director and the museum direct-support
25 organization recommend to the university after judging these
26 to be of equivalent or greater value to the museum.

27 (f) An employee or member of the museum direct-support
28 organization may not receive a commission, fee, or financial
29 benefit in connection with the sale or exchange of a work of
30 art and may not be a business associate of any individual,
31 firm, or organization involved in the sale or exchange.

1 (g) The university, in consultation with the
2 direct-support organization, shall establish policies and may
3 adopt rules for the sale or exchange of works of art.

4 (h) The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art
5 direct-support organization shall provide for an annual
6 financial audit in accordance with s. 1004.28(5). Florida
7 State University is authorized to require and receive from the
8 direct-support organization, or from its independent auditor,
9 any detail or supplemental data relative to the operation of
10 such organization. Information that, if released, would
11 identify donors who desire to remain anonymous, is
12 confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1).
13 Information that, if released, would identify prospective
14 donors is confidential and exempt from the provisions of s.
15 119.07(1) when the direct-support organization has identified
16 the prospective donor itself and has not obtained the name of
17 the prospective donor by copying, purchasing, or borrowing
18 names from another organization or source. Identities of such
19 donors and prospective donors shall not be revealed in the
20 auditor's report.

21 (i) The direct-support organization is given authority
22 to make temporary loans of paintings and other objects of art
23 or artifacts belonging to the John and Mable Ringling Museum
24 of Art for the purpose of public exhibition in art museums,
25 other museums, or institutions of higher learning wherever
26 located, including such museums or institutions in other
27 states or countries. Temporary loans may also be made to the
28 executive mansion in Tallahassee, chapters and affiliates of
29 the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, and, for education
30 purposes, to schools, public libraries, or other institutions
31 in the state, if such exhibition will benefit the general

1 public as the university deems wise and for the best interest
2 of the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art and under
3 policies established by Florida State University for the
4 protection of the paintings and other objects of art and
5 artifacts. In making temporary loans, the direct-support
6 organization shall give first preference to art museums, other
7 museums, and institutions of higher learning.

8 (j) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the
9 John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art direct-support
10 organization is eligible to match state funds in the Major
11 Gifts Trust Fund established pursuant to s. 1011.94 as
12 follows:

13 1. For the first \$1,353,750, matching shall be on the
14 basis of 75 cents in state matching for each dollar of private
15 funds.

16 2. For additional funds, matching shall be provided on
17 the same basis as is authorized in s. 1011.94.

18 Section 191. Section 1004.46, Florida Statutes, is
19 created to read:

20 1004.46 Multidisciplinary Center for Affordable
21 Housing.--

22 (1) The Multidisciplinary Center for Affordable
23 Housing is established within the School of Building
24 Construction of the College of Architecture of the University
25 of Florida with the collaboration of other related disciplines
26 such as agriculture, business administration, engineering,
27 law, and medicine. The center shall work in conjunction with
28 other state universities. The Multidisciplinary Center for
29 Affordable Housing shall:

30 (a) Conduct research relating to the problems and
31 solutions associated with the availability of affordable

1 housing in the state for families who are below the median
2 income level and widely disseminate the results of such
3 research to appropriate public and private audiences in the
4 state. Such research shall emphasize methods to improve the
5 planning, design, and production of affordable housing,
6 including, but not limited to, the financial, maintenance,
7 management, and regulatory aspects of residential development.
8 (b) Provide public services to local, regional, and
9 state agencies, units of government, and authorities by
10 helping them create regulatory climates that are amenable to
11 the introduction of affordable housing within their
12 jurisdictions.
13 (c) Conduct special research relating to firesafety.
14 (d) Provide a focus for the teaching of new technology
15 and skills relating to affordable housing in the state.
16 (e) Develop a base of informational and financial
17 support from the private sector for the activities of the
18 center.
19 (f) Develop prototypes for both multifamily and
20 single-family units.
21 (g) Establish a research agenda and general work plan
22 in cooperation with the Department of Community Affairs which
23 is the state agency responsible for research and planning for
24 affordable housing and for training and technical assistance
25 for providers of affordable housing.
26 (h) Submit a report to the Governor, the President of
27 the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by
28 January 1 of each year. The annual report shall include
29 information relating to the activities of the center,
30 including collaborative efforts with public and private
31 entities, affordable housing models, and any other findings

1 and recommendations related to the production of safe, decent,
2 and affordable housing.

3 (2) The Director of the Multidisciplinary Center for
4 Affordable Housing shall be appointed by the Dean of the
5 College of Architecture of the University of Florida.

6 Section 192. Section 1004.47, Florida Statutes, is
7 created to read:

8 1004.47 Research activities relating to solid and
9 hazardous waste management.--Research, training, and service
10 activities related to solid and hazardous waste management
11 conducted by state universities shall be coordinated by the
12 State Board of Education. Proposals for research contracts and
13 grants; public service assignments; and responses to requests
14 for information and technical assistance by state and local
15 government, business, and industry shall be addressed by a
16 formal Type I Center process involving an advisory board of
17 university personnel appointed by the Commissioner of
18 Education and chaired and directed by an individual appointed
19 by the Commissioner of Education. The State Board of Education
20 shall consult with the Department of Environmental Protection
21 in developing the research programs and provide the department
22 with a copy of the proposed research program for review and
23 comment before the research is undertaken. Research contracts
24 shall be awarded to independent nonprofit colleges and
25 universities within the state which are accredited by the
26 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools on the same basis
27 as those research contracts awarded to the state universities.
28 Research activities shall include, but are not limited to, the
29 following areas:

30 (1) Methods and processes for recycling solid and
31 hazardous waste.

1 (2) Methods of treatment for detoxifying hazardous
2 waste.

3 (3) Technologies for disposing of solid and hazardous
4 waste.

5 Section 193. Section 1004.48, Florida Statutes, is
6 created to read:

7 1004.48 Research protocols to determine most
8 appropriate pollutant dispersal agents.--The Center for Solid
9 and Hazardous Waste Management shall coordinate the research
10 protocols for projects to determine the most appropriate
11 dispersal agents that can be used in an environmentally safe
12 manner in Florida waters as part of a pollutant cleanup
13 activity. Such research shall be used by the Department of
14 Environmental Protection in approving the use of such agents
15 by pollutant spill cleanup contractors and others who may be
16 required to use such agents in containing and cleaning up
17 pollutant spills in the waters of the state.

18 Section 194. Section 1004.49, Florida Statutes, is
19 created to read:

20 1004.49 Florida LAKEWATCH Program.--The Florida
21 LAKEWATCH Program is hereby created within the Department of
22 Fisheries and Aquaculture of the Institute of Food and
23 Agricultural Sciences at the University of Florida. The
24 purpose of the program is to provide public education and
25 training with respect to the water quality of Florida's lakes.
26 The Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture may, in
27 implementing the LAKEWATCH program:

28 (1) Train, supervise, and coordinate volunteers to
29 collect water quality data from Florida's lakes.

30 (2) Compile the data collected by volunteers.

31

1 (3) Disseminate information to the public about the
2 LAKEWATCH program.

3 (4) Provide or loan equipment to volunteers in the
4 program.

5 (5) Perform other functions as may be necessary or
6 beneficial in coordinating the LAKEWATCH program.

7
8 Data collected and compiled shall be used to establish trends
9 and provide general background information and shall in no
10 instance be used in a regulatory proceeding.

11 Section 195. Section 1004.50, Florida Statutes, is
12 created to read:

13 1004.50 Institute on Urban Policy and Commerce.--

14 (1) There is created the Institute on Urban Policy and
15 Commerce as a Type I Institute at Florida Agricultural and
16 Mechanical University to improve the quality of life in urban
17 communities through research, teaching, and outreach
18 activities.

19 (2) The major purposes of the institute are to pursue
20 basic and applied research on urban policy issues confronting
21 the inner-city areas and neighborhoods in the state; to
22 influence the equitable allocation and stewardship of federal,
23 state, and local financial resources; to train a new
24 generation of civic leaders and university students interested
25 in approaches to community planning and design; to assist with
26 the planning, development, and capacity building of urban area
27 nonprofit organizations and government agencies; to develop
28 and maintain a database relating to inner-city areas; and to
29 support the community development efforts of inner-city areas,
30 neighborhood-based organizations, and municipal agencies.

31

1 (3) The institute shall research and recommend
2 strategies concerning critical issues facing the underserved
3 population in urban communities, including, but not limited
4 to, transportation and physical infrastructure; affordable
5 housing; tourism and commerce; environmental restoration; job
6 development and retention; child care; public health; lifelong
7 learning; family intervention; public safety; and community
8 relations.

9 (4) The institute may establish regional urban centers
10 to be located in the inner cities of St. Petersburg, Tampa,
11 Jacksonville, Orlando, West Palm Beach, Fort Lauderdale,
12 Miami, Daytona Beach, and Pensacola to assist urban
13 communities on critical economic, social, and educational
14 problems affecting the underserved population.

15 (5) Before January 1 of each year, the institute shall
16 submit a report of its critical findings and recommendations
17 for the prior year to the President of the Senate, the Speaker
18 of the House of Representatives, and the appropriate
19 committees of the Legislature. The report shall be titled "The
20 State of Unmet Needs in Florida's Urban Communities" and shall
21 include, but is not limited to, a recommended list of
22 resources that could be made available for revitalizing urban
23 communities; significant accomplishments and activities of the
24 institute; and recommendations concerning the expansion,
25 improvement, or termination of the institute.

26 (6) The Governor shall submit an annual report to the
27 Legislature on the unmet needs in the state's urban
28 communities.

29 Section 196. Section 1004.51, Florida Statutes, is
30 created to read:

31

1 1004.51 Community and Faith-based Organizations
2 Initiative; Community and Library Technology Access
3 Partnership.--

4 (1) CREATION.--There is created the Community and
5 Faith-based Organizations Initiative which shall be
6 administered by the Institute on Urban Policy and Commerce at
7 Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University and the
8 Community and Library Technology Access Partnership which
9 shall be administered by the Division of Library and
10 Information Services of the Department of State.

11 (2) INTENT.--The purpose of the initiative is to
12 promote community development in low-income communities
13 through partnerships with not-for-profit community and
14 faith-based organizations. The purpose of the partnership is
15 to encourage public libraries eligible for e-rate discounted
16 telecommunications services to partner with community and
17 faith-based organizations to provide technology access and
18 training to assist other state efforts to close the digital
19 divide.

20 (3) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.--

21 (a) Authorized activities of the initiative.--The
22 Institute on Urban Policy and Commerce at Florida Agricultural
23 and Mechanical University may conduct the following activities
24 as part of the Community and Faith-based Organizations
25 Initiative:

26 1. Create and operate training programs to enhance the
27 professional skills of individuals in community and
28 faith-based organizations.

29 2. Create and operate a program to select and place
30 students and recent graduates from business and related
31 professional schools as interns with community and faith-based

1 organizations for a period not to exceed 1 year, and provide
2 stipends for such interns.

3 3. Organize an annual conference for community and
4 faith-based organizations to discuss and share information on
5 best practices regarding issues relevant to the creation,
6 operation, and sustainability of these organizations.

7 4. Provide funding for the development of materials
8 for courses on topics in the area of community development,
9 and for research on economic, operational, and policy issues
10 relating to community development.

11 5. Provide financial assistance to community and
12 faith-based organizations through small grants for
13 partnerships with universities and the operation of programs
14 to build strong communities and future community development
15 leaders. The Institute on Urban Policy and Commerce at Florida
16 Agricultural and Mechanical University shall develop selection
17 criteria for awarding such grants which are based on the goals
18 of the initiative.

19
20 The institute, to the maximum extent possible, shall leverage
21 state funding for the initiative with any federal funding that
22 the institute may receive to support similar community-based
23 activities.

24 (b) Authorized activities of the partnership.--The
25 Division of Library and Information Services of the Department
26 of State may conduct the following activities as part of the
27 Community and Library Technology Access Partnership:

28 1. Provide funding for e-rate eligible public
29 libraries to provide technology access and training to
30 community and faith-based organizations. Funding provided
31 under this subparagraph must be for eligible public libraries

1 in distressed communities in the state. The division shall
2 consult with the Institute on Urban Policy and Commerce to
3 identify such communities and to develop criteria to be used
4 in evaluating funding proposals. The division shall coordinate
5 with the institute to ensure that, to the maximum extent
6 possible, the division and the institute leverage their
7 resources under the programs authorized by this section in
8 order to focus efforts on addressing the most distressed
9 communities in the state. The division shall include a
10 representative of the institute on a review team to evaluate
11 funding proposals under this subparagraph.

12 2. Provide a method of assessment and outcome
13 measurement for e-rate eligible public libraries to assess
14 progress in closing the digital divide and in training for
15 individuals to succeed in the emerging information economy.

16 (4) ELIGIBILITY.--A community or faith-based
17 organization receiving funding or other assistance under the
18 Community and Faith-based Organizations Initiative or the
19 Community Library Technology Access Partnership must be a
20 nonprofit organization holding a current exemption from
21 federal taxation under s. 501(c)(3) or (4) of the Internal
22 Revenue Code. Funding under this section shall not be used for
23 religious or sectarian purposes.

24 Section 197. Section 1004.52, Florida Statutes, is
25 created to read:

26 1004.52 Community computer access grant program.--

27 (1) The Legislature finds that there is a growing
28 digital divide in the state, manifested in the fact that many
29 youths from distressed urban communities do not possess the
30 degree and ease of access to computers and information
31 technologies which youths in other communities in the state

1 possess. This disparity in access to rapidly changing and
2 commercially significant technologies has a negative impact on
3 the educational, workforce development, and employment
4 competitiveness of these needy youths, and thereby impedes the
5 economic development of the distressed urban communities in
6 which these youths reside. Although many public libraries
7 offer users access to computers and are increasingly making
8 library materials available to the public through electronic
9 means, many youths from distressed urban communities do not
10 live near a library that has such technology and do not have
11 computers to access Internet-based virtual libraries.
12 Neighborhood organizations, such as churches, are more likely,
13 however, to be located in closer proximity to the homes of
14 these youths than are educational institutions or libraries,
15 and these youths are more likely to gain the desirable
16 computer access at church-related or other neighborhood
17 facilities than at other institutions. The Legislature
18 therefore finds that a public purpose is served in enhancing
19 the ability of youths from these communities to have access to
20 computers and the Internet within the neighborhoods in which
21 they reside.

22 (2) Subject to legislative appropriation, there is
23 created the Community High-Technology Investment Partnership
24 (CHIP) program to assist distressed urban communities in
25 securing computers for access by youths between the ages of 5
26 years and 18 years who reside in these communities. The
27 program shall be administered by the Institute on Urban Policy
28 and Commerce at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
29 pursuant to a performance-based contract with the Division of
30 Library and Information Services of the Department of State.
31 The division shall develop performance measures, standards,

1 and sanctions for the program. Performance measures must
2 include, but are not limited to: the number of youths
3 obtaining access to computers purchased under this program;
4 the number of hours computers are made available to youths;
5 and the number of hours spent by youths on computers purchased
6 under this program for educational purposes. The
7 administrative costs for administration of this program cannot
8 exceed 10 percent of the amount appropriated to the division
9 for the program.

10 (3)(a) Under this program, neighborhood facilities,
11 through their governing bodies, may apply to the institute for
12 grants to purchase computers that will be available for use by
13 eligible youths who reside in the immediate vicinity of the
14 neighborhood facility. For purposes of this program, eligible
15 neighborhood facilities include, but are not limited to,
16 facilities operated by:

17 1. Units of local government, including school
18 districts.

19 2. Nonprofit, faith-based organizations, including
20 neighborhood churches.

21 3. Nonprofit civic associations or homeowners'
22 associations.

23 4. Nonprofit organizations, the missions of which
24 include improving conditions for residents of distressed urban
25 communities.

26
27 To be eligible for funding under this program, a nonprofit
28 organization or association must hold a current exemption from
29 federal taxation under s. 501(c)(3) or (4) of the Internal
30 Revenue Code.

31

1 (b) Notwithstanding the eligibility of the
2 organizations identified in paragraph (a), the institute shall
3 give priority consideration for funding under this program to
4 applications submitted by neighborhood churches or by
5 neighborhood-based, nonprofit organizations that have as a
6 principal part of their missions the improvement of conditions
7 for residents of the same neighborhoods in which the
8 organizations are located. The institute also shall give
9 priority consideration to organizations that demonstrate that
10 they have not been awarded community enhancement or similar
11 community support grants from state or local government on a
12 regular basis in the past. The institute shall develop
13 weighted criteria to be used in evaluating applications from
14 such churches or organizations. Funding under this section
15 shall not be used for religious or sectarian purposes.

16 (4) The institute shall develop guidelines governing
17 the administration of this program and shall establish
18 criteria to be used in evaluating an application for funding.
19 At a minimum, the institute must find that:

20 (a) The neighborhood that is to be served by the grant
21 suffers from general economic distress.

22 (b) Eligible youths who reside in the vicinity of the
23 neighborhood facility have difficulty obtaining access to a
24 library or schools that have sufficient computers.

25 (c) The neighborhood facility has developed a detailed
26 plan, as required under subsection (5), for:

27 1. Providing youths who reside in the vicinity of the
28 facility with access to any computer purchased with grant
29 funds, including evening and weekend access when libraries and
30 schools are closed.

31

1 2. Promoting the maximum participation of neighborhood
2 youths in use of any computers purchased with grant funds.

3 (5) As part of an application for funding, the
4 neighborhood facility must submit a plan that demonstrates:

5 (a) The manner in which eligible youths who reside in
6 the immediate vicinity of the facility will be provided with
7 access to any computer purchased with grant funds, including
8 access during hours when libraries and schools are closed.

9 (b) The existence of safeguards to ensure that any
10 computer purchased with grant funds is reserved for the
11 educational use of eligible youths who reside in the immediate
12 vicinity of the facility and is not used to support the
13 business operations of the neighborhood facility or its
14 governing body.

15 (c) The existence, in the neighborhood facility, of
16 telecommunications infrastructure necessary to guarantee
17 access to the Internet through any computer purchased with
18 grant funds.

19 (6) To the maximum extent possible, funding shall be
20 awarded under this program in a manner designed to ensure the
21 participation of distressed urban communities from regions
22 throughout the state.

23 (7) The maximum amount of a grant which may be awarded
24 to any single neighborhood facility under this program is
25 \$25,000.

26 (8) Before the institute may allocate funds for a
27 grant under this program, the institute and the eligible
28 neighborhood facility must execute a grant agreement that
29 governs the terms and conditions of the grant.

30 (9) The institute, based upon guidance from the State
31 Technology Office and the state's Chief Information Officer,

1 shall establish minimum requirements governing the
2 specifications and capabilities of any computers purchased
3 with funds awarded under this grant program.

4 Section 198. Section 1004.53, Florida Statutes, is
5 created to read:

6 1004.53 Interdisciplinary Center for Brownfield
7 Rehabilitation Assistance.--The Center for Brownfield
8 Rehabilitation Assistance in the Environmental Sciences and
9 Policy Program is established in the College of Arts and
10 Sciences at the University of South Florida with the
11 collaboration of other related disciplines such as business
12 administration, environmental science, and medicine. The
13 center shall work in conjunction with other state
14 universities. The Center for Brownfield Rehabilitation
15 Assistance shall:

16 (1) Conduct research relating to problems and
17 solutions associated with rehabilitation and restoration of
18 brownfield areas as defined in s. 376.79. The research must
19 include identifying innovative solutions to removing
20 contamination from brownfield sites to reduce the threats to
21 drinking water supplies and other potential public health
22 threats from contaminated sites.

23 (2) Provide public service to local, regional, and
24 state agencies, units of government, and authorities by
25 helping them to create workable mechanisms, partnerships with
26 public and private sectors, and other techniques for
27 rehabilitating brownfield areas.

28 (3) Conduct special research relating to risk-based
29 corrective actions for rehabilitation of brownfield areas.

30
31

1 (4) Develop a base of informational and financial
2 support from the private sector for the activities of the
3 center.

4 Section 199. Section 1004.54, Florida Statutes, is
5 created to read:

6 1004.54 Learning Development and Evaluation Center.--

7 (1) For the purpose of providing academic support for
8 learning disabled students, the verbal communications
9 laboratory at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
10 is established as the Learning Development and Evaluation
11 Center. The university shall provide housing, equipment, and
12 utilities for the center.

13 (2) The primary objective of the center shall be to
14 provide learning disabled students with accessibility to
15 learning by providing a program for building student
16 self-acceptance, self-esteem, and faculty acceptance. The
17 program shall also provide for diagnosing and clarifying the
18 nature of the disability and for identifying strategies that
19 can be used to enhance learning. Services shall include:

20 (a) Problem identification.

21 (b) Diagnostic evaluation, including neurological,
22 psychological, speech, and hearing diagnoses.

23 (c) Training, including tutoring and study.

24 (d) Academic, psychological, social, and career
25 counseling.

26 (e) Followup.

27 (f) Maintenance of academic course requirements with
28 provision for support services to identified students.

29 (g) Modifications of methods of reaching course
30 requirements which do not detract from the course purpose.

31

1 (3) Participants in the program shall be students with
2 specific learning disabilities who meet eligibility criteria
3 as defined by Rule 6A-6.03018.

4 (4) An outreach component shall be established which
5 shall include:

6 (a) Notifying secondary schools, community colleges,
7 career education centers, and community agencies of the
8 program.

9 (b) Working with community colleges, technical
10 centers, and community agencies to identify students who may
11 benefit from the program.

12 (c) Providing secondary schools, community colleges,
13 technical centers, and community agencies with a description
14 of methods used by the program for identification of students
15 who have learning disabilities.

16 (d) Providing secondary schools, community colleges,
17 technical centers, and community agencies with a description
18 of program services and the support services available.

19 (e) Providing on-campus and off-campus activities for
20 students, administrators, faculty, and staff to enhance
21 learning of the disabled secondary students.

22 (f) Providing training for school district personnel
23 to enable them to develop a better understanding of the needs
24 of learning disabled students.

25 (g) Designing, developing, and implementing, in
26 cooperation with Florida Agricultural and Mechanical
27 University, public school districts, community colleges, and
28 technical centers within the Department of Education, model
29 programs for the learning disabled student.

30
31

1 (h) Providing assistance to community colleges and
2 state universities in designing, developing, and evaluating
3 model programs for learning disabled students.

4 (i) Establishing a procedure for the annual review and
5 update of model programs developed for the learning disabled.

6 (j) Providing precollegiate residential experiences.

7 (5) On or before November 1, the president of the
8 university shall submit to the State Board of Education and
9 the Legislature a report on program effectiveness, which
10 report shall include:

11 (a) The number of students participating in the
12 program.

13 (b) An ongoing analysis of overall student performance
14 as a result of participation in the program.

15 (c) A description of the methods used in identifying
16 students with learning disabilities.

17 (d) A description of methods and materials prescribed
18 to meet the specific learning needs of each participant.

19 (e) The number and types of disabilities of students
20 in the program.

21 (f) How the program accomplished its objectives.

22 (g) Procedures used to counsel and advise students
23 that would build self-acceptance and enhance learning.

24 (h) Procedures for promoting faculty acceptance of the
25 program and its participants.

26 (i) A detailed description of each program objective
27 and the results.

28 (j) Projections of future participation by learning
29 disabled students based on enrollment, queries, and program
30 results.

31

1 (k) The number of postsecondary and secondary students
2 participating in the program and the type of service provided.

3 (6) Funding of this program shall be provided for in
4 the General Appropriations Act.

5 Section 200. Section 1004.55, Florida Statutes, is
6 created to read:

7 1004.55 Regional autism centers.--

8 (1) Six regional autism centers are established to
9 provide nonresidential resource and training services for
10 persons of all ages and of all levels of intellectual
11 functioning who have autism, as defined in s. 393.063; who
12 have a pervasive developmental disorder that is not otherwise
13 specified; who have an autistic-like disability; who have a
14 dual sensory impairment; or who have a sensory impairment with
15 other handicapping conditions. Each center shall be
16 operationally and fiscally independent and shall provide
17 services within its geographical region of the state. Each
18 center shall coordinate services within and between state and
19 local agencies and school districts but may not duplicate
20 services provided by those agencies or school districts. The
21 respective locations and service areas of the centers are:

22 (a) The Department of Communication Disorders at
23 Florida State University, which serves Bay, Calhoun, Escambia,
24 Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon,
25 Liberty, Madison, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Taylor, Wakulla,
26 Walton, and Washington Counties.

27 (b) The College of Medicine at the University of
28 Florida, which serves Alachua, Bradford, Citrus, Columbia,
29 Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Hernando, Lafayette, Levy, Marion,
30 Putnam, Suwannee, and Union Counties.

31

1 (c) The University of Florida Health Science Center at
2 Jacksonville, which serves Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler,
3 Nassau, and St. Johns Counties.

4 (d) The Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health
5 Institute at the University of South Florida, which serves
6 Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands,
7 Hillsborough, Indian River, Lee, Manatee, Martin, Okeechobee,
8 Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, St. Lucie, and Sarasota Counties.

9 (e) The Mailman Center for Child Development at the
10 University of Miami, which serves Broward, Dade, Monroe, and
11 Palm Beach Counties.

12 (f) The College of Health and Public Affairs at the
13 University of Central Florida, which serves Brevard, Lake,
14 Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Sumter, and Volusia Counties.

15 (2) There is established for each center a
16 constituency board, which shall work collaboratively with the
17 center. Each board shall consist of no fewer than six
18 members, each of whom is either an individual who has a
19 disability that is described in subsection (1) or is a member
20 of a family that includes a person who has such a disability,
21 who are selected by each university president from a list that
22 has been developed by the Autism Society of Florida and other
23 relevant constituency groups that represent persons who have
24 sensory impairments as described in subsection (1). As
25 representatives of the center's constituencies, these boards
26 shall meet quarterly with the staff of each of the centers to
27 provide advice on policies, priorities, and activities. Each
28 board shall submit to the university president and to the
29 Department of Education an annual report that evaluates the
30 activities and accomplishments of its center during the year.

31

1 (3) To promote statewide planning and coordination, a
2 conference must be held annually for staff from each of the
3 five centers and representatives from each center's
4 constituency board. The purpose of the conference is to
5 facilitate coordination, networking, cross-training, and
6 feedback among the staffs and constituency boards of the
7 centers.

8 (4) Each center shall provide:

9 (a) A staff that has expertise in autism and
10 autistic-like behaviors and in sensory impairments.

11 (b) Individual and direct family assistance in the
12 home, community, and school. A center's assistance should not
13 supplant other responsibilities of state and local agencies,
14 and each school district is responsible for providing an
15 appropriate education program for clients of a center who are
16 school age.

17 (c) Technical assistance and consultation services,
18 including specific intervention and assistance for a client of
19 the center, the client's family, and the school district, and
20 any other services that are appropriate.

21 (d) Professional training programs that include
22 developing, providing, and evaluating preservice and inservice
23 training in state-of-the-art practices for personnel who work
24 with the populations served by the centers and their families.

25 (e) Public education programs to increase awareness of
26 the public about autism, autistic-related disabilities of
27 communication and behavior, dual sensory impairments, and
28 sensory impairments with other handicapping conditions.

29 (5) The State Board of Education, in cooperation with
30 the regional autism centers, shall adopt the necessary rules
31 to carry out the purposes of this section.

1 Section 201. Section 1004.56, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1004.56 Florida Museum of Natural History;
4 functions.--

5 (1) The functions of the Florida Museum of Natural
6 History, located at the University of Florida, are to make
7 scientific investigations toward the sustained development of
8 natural resources and a greater appreciation of human cultural
9 heritage, including, but not limited to, biological surveys,
10 ecological studies, environmental impact assessments, in-depth
11 archaeological research, and ethnological analyses, and to
12 collect and maintain a depository of biological,
13 archaeological, and ethnographic specimens and materials in
14 sufficient numbers and quantities to provide within the state
15 and region a base for research on the variety, evolution, and
16 conservation of wild species; the composition, distribution,
17 importance, and functioning of natural ecosystems; and the
18 distribution of prehistoric and historic archaeological sites
19 and an understanding of the aboriginal and early European
20 cultures that occupied them. State institutions, departments,
21 and agencies may deposit type collections from archaeological
22 sites in the museum, and it shall be the duty of each state
23 institution, department, and agency to cooperate by depositing
24 in the museum voucher and type biological specimens collected
25 as part of the normal research and monitoring duties of its
26 staff and to transfer to the museum those biological specimens
27 and collections in its possession but not actively being
28 curated or used in the research or teaching of that
29 institution, department, or agency. The Florida Museum of
30 Natural History is empowered to accept, preserve, maintain, or
31 dispose of these specimens and materials in a manner which

1 makes each collection and its accompanying data available for
2 research and use by the staff of the museum and by cooperating
3 institutions, departments, agencies, and qualified independent
4 researchers. The biological, archaeological, and ethnographic
5 collections shall belong to the state with the title vested in
6 the Florida Museum of Natural History, except as provided in
7 s. 267.12(3). In collecting or otherwise acquiring these
8 collections, the museum shall comply with pertinent state
9 wildlife, archaeological, and agricultural laws and rules.
10 However, all collecting, quarantine, and accreditation permits
11 issued by other institutions, departments, and agencies shall
12 be granted routinely for said museum research study or
13 collecting effort on state lands or within state jurisdiction
14 which does not pose a significant threat to the survival of
15 endangered wild species, habitats, or ecosystems. In
16 addition, the museum shall develop exhibitions and conduct
17 programs which illustrate, interpret, and explain the natural
18 history of the state and region and shall maintain a library
19 of publications pertaining to the work as herein provided.
20 The exhibitions, collections, and library of the museum shall
21 be open, free to the public, under suitable rules to be
22 promulgated by the director of the museum and approved by the
23 University of Florida.

24 (2) Any gifts, transfers, bequests, or other
25 conveyances made to the Florida State Museum are deemed to
26 have been made to the Florida Museum of Natural History.

27 Section 202. Section 1004.57, Florida Statutes, is
28 created to read:

29 1004.57 Vertebrate paleontological sites and remains;
30 legislative intent and state policy.--

31

1 (1) It is the declared intention of the Legislature
2 that vertebrate paleontological sites be protected and
3 preserved and that, pursuant thereto, vertebrate
4 paleontological field investigation activities, including, but
5 not limited to, collection, excavation, salvage, restoration,
6 and cataloging of fossils, be discouraged except when such
7 activities are carried on in accordance with both the
8 provisions and the spirit of this act. However, it is not the
9 intention of the Legislature that the provisions of this act
10 impede mining or quarrying for rock, gravel, fill, phosphate,
11 and other minerals, or the construction of canals or similar
12 excavations, when such activities are permitted by law.
13 Rather, it is the intent of the Legislature that mine and
14 heavy equipment operators be encouraged to cooperate with the
15 state in preserving its vertebrate paleontological heritage
16 and vertebrate fossils by notifying the Florida Museum of
17 Natural History whenever vertebrate fossils are discovered
18 during mining or digging operations and by allowing such
19 fossils to be properly salvaged and that persons having
20 knowledge of vertebrate paleontological sites be encouraged to
21 communicate such information to the museum.

22 (2) It is hereby declared to be the public policy of
23 this state to protect and preserve vertebrate paleontological
24 sites containing vertebrate fossils, including bones, teeth,
25 natural casts, molds, impressions, and other remains of
26 prehistoric fauna, and to provide for the collection,
27 acquisition, and study of the vertebrate fossils of the state
28 which offer documentation of the diversity of life on this
29 planet.

30 (3) It is further declared to be the public policy of
31 the state that all vertebrate fossils found on state-owned

1 lands, including submerged lands and uplands, belong to the
2 state with title to the fossils vested in the Florida Museum
3 of Natural History for the purpose of administration of this
4 section and ss. 1004.575-1004.577.

5 Section 203. Section 1004.575, Florida Statutes, is
6 created to read:

7 1004.575 Program of vertebrate paleontology within
8 Florida Museum of Natural History.--There is established
9 within the Florida Museum of Natural History a program of
10 vertebrate paleontology, which program has the following
11 responsibilities:

12 (1) Encouraging the study of the vertebrate fossils
13 and vertebrate paleontological heritage of the state and
14 providing exhibits and other educational materials on the
15 vertebrate fauna to the universities and schools of the state.

16 (2) Developing a statewide plan, to be submitted to
17 the director of the Florida Museum of Natural History, for
18 preserving the vertebrate paleontological resources of the
19 state in a manner which is consistent with the state policies
20 in s. 1004.57 and which will not unduly hamper development in
21 this state, including mining and excavating operations.

22 (3) Locating, surveying, acquiring, collecting,
23 salvaging, conserving, and restoring vertebrate fossils;
24 conducting research on the history and systematics of the
25 fossil fauna of the state; and maintaining the official state
26 depository of vertebrate fossils.

27 (4) Locating, surveying, acquiring, excavating, and
28 operating vertebrate paleontological sites and properties
29 containing vertebrate fossils, which sites and properties have
30 great significance to the scientific study of such vertebrate
31

1 fossils or to public representation of the faunal heritage of
2 the state.

3 (5) Enlisting the aid of professional vertebrate
4 paleontologists, mine and quarry operators, heavy digging
5 equipment operators, and qualified amateurs in carrying out
6 the provisions of subsections (1)-(4), and authorizing their
7 active support and cooperation by issuing permits to them as
8 provided in s. 1004.576.

9 (6) Cooperating and coordinating activities with the
10 Department of Environmental Protection under the provisions of
11 ss. 375.021 and 375.031 and the Department of State under
12 chapter 267 in the acquisition, preservation, and operation of
13 significant vertebrate paleontological sites and properties of
14 great and continuing scientific value, so that such sites and
15 properties may be utilized to conserve the faunal heritage of
16 this state and to promote an appreciation of that heritage.

17 (7) Designating areas as "state vertebrate
18 paleontological sites" pursuant to the provisions of this
19 section, which areas are of great and continuing significance
20 to the scientific study and public understanding of the faunal
21 history of the state. However, no privately owned site or
22 grouping of sites shall be so designated without the express
23 written consent of the private owner of the site or group of
24 sites. Upon designation of a state vertebrate paleontological
25 site, the owners and occupants of such site shall be given
26 written notification of such designation by the program. Once
27 such site has been so designated, no person may conduct
28 paleontological field investigation activities on the site
29 without first securing a permit for such activities as
30 provided in s. 1004.576.

31

1 (8) Arranging for the disposition of the vertebrate
2 fossils by accredited institutions and for the temporary or
3 permanent loan of such fossils for the purpose of further
4 scientific study, interpretative display, and curatorial
5 responsibilities by such institutions.

6 Section 204. Section 1004.576, Florida Statutes, is
7 created to read:

8 1004.576 Destruction, purchase, and sale of vertebrate
9 fossils prohibited, exceptions; field investigation permits
10 required; penalty for violation.--

11 (1) The destruction, defacement, purchase, and sale of
12 vertebrate fossils found on or under land owned or leased by
13 the state and on land in state-designated vertebrate
14 paleontological sites are prohibited, except that the Florida
15 Museum of Natural History may sell vertebrate fossils and may
16 adopt rules defining "nonessential vertebrate fossils" and
17 prescribing the conditions under which such fossils may be
18 sold or otherwise disposed of by a person holding a permit
19 issued by the Florida Museum of Natural History. Field
20 investigations of vertebrate fossils, including, but not
21 limited to, the systematic collection, acquisition,
22 excavation, salvage, exhumation, or restoration of such
23 fossils, are prohibited on all lands owned or leased by the
24 state and on lands in state-designated vertebrate
25 paleontological sites, unless such activities are conducted
26 under the authority of permits issued by the Florida Museum of
27 Natural History. A permit may be granted by the Florida
28 Museum of Natural History upon application for the permit
29 accompanied by an application fee not to exceed \$5. The
30 privileges authorized pursuant to the grant of a permit as
31

1 provided in this subsection may not be assigned or sublet to
2 any other party.

3 (2) Any person who, in violation of this section,
4 engages in any of the activities described in subsection (1)
5 without first having obtained a permit to engage in such
6 activity commits a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not to
7 exceed \$500 or by imprisonment in the county jail for a period
8 not to exceed 6 months, or both; and, in addition, he or she
9 shall forfeit to the state all specimens, objects, and
10 materials collected and excavated in violation of this
11 section, together with all photographs and records relating to
12 such materials.

13 (3) The Florida Museum of Natural History may
14 institute a civil action in the appropriate circuit court for
15 recovery of any unlawfully taken vertebrate fossil. The
16 fossil shall be forfeited to the state if the Florida Museum
17 of Natural History shows by the greater weight of the evidence
18 that the fossil has been taken from a particular site within
19 this state and that the person found in possession of the
20 fossil is not authorized by law to possess such fossil.

21 Section 205. Section 1004.577, Florida Statutes, is
22 created to read:

23 1004.577 Certain rights of mine or quarry operators
24 and dragline or heavy equipment operators preserved.--Nothing
25 in ss. 1004.57-1004.576 shall infringe upon the right of a
26 legitimate mine or quarry operator to extract rock, gravel,
27 fill, phosphate, or other minerals or infringe upon the right
28 of a legitimate operator of draglines or similar heavy
29 dredging, trenching, or digging equipment to construct
30 drainage canals or other excavations because of the actual or
31 potential destruction of vertebrate fossils.

1 Section 206. Section 1004.58, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1004.58 Leadership Board for Applied Research and
4 Public Service.--

5 (1) There is created the Leadership Board for Applied
6 Research and Public Service to be staffed by the Institute of
7 Science and Public Affairs at Florida State University. The
8 purpose of the board is to focus, coordinate, and maximize
9 university resources on current issues and events affecting
10 Florida's residents and elected officials. Emphasis shall be
11 placed on being responsive to and providing accurate, timely,
12 useful, and relevant information to decisionmakers in state
13 and local governments. The board shall set forth a process to
14 provide comprehensive guidance and advice for improving the
15 types and quality of services to be delivered by the state
16 universities. Specifically, the board shall better identify
17 and define the missions and roles of existing institutes and
18 centers at each state university, work to eliminate
19 duplication and confusion over conflicting roles and missions,
20 involve more students in learning with applied research and
21 public service activities, and be organizationally separate
22 from academic departments. The board shall meet at least
23 quarterly. The board may create internal management councils
24 that may include working institute and center directors. The
25 board is responsible for, but is not limited to:

26 (a) Providing strategic direction, planning, and
27 accompanying decisions that support a coordinated applied
28 public service and research approach in the state.

29 (b) Addressing state university policy matters and
30 making recommendations to the State Board of Education as they
31 relate to applied public service and research.

1 (c) Serving as a clearinghouse for services requested
2 by public officials.

3 (d) Providing support for funding and fiscal
4 initiatives involving applied public service and research.

5 (2) Membership of the board shall be:

6 (a) The Commissioner of Education, or the
7 commissioner's designee, who shall serve as chair.

8 (b) The director of the Office of Planning and
9 Budgeting of the Executive Office of the Governor.

10 (c) The secretary of the Department of Management
11 Services.

12 (d) The director of Economic and Demographic Research.

13 (e) The director of the Office of Program Policy
14 Analysis and Government Accountability.

15 (f) The President of the Florida League of Cities.

16 (g) The President for the Florida Association of
17 Counties.

18 (h) The President of the Florida School Board
19 Association.

20 (i) Five additional university president members,
21 designated by the commissioner, to rotate annually.

22 (3) The board shall prepare a report for the State
23 Board of Education to be submitted to the Governor and the
24 Legislature by January 1 of each year which summarizes the
25 work and recommendations of the board in meeting its purpose
26 and mission.

27 Section 207. Section 1004.59, Florida Statutes, is
28 created to read:

29 1004.59 Florida Conflict Resolution Consortium.--It is
30 the intent of the Legislature to reduce the public and private
31 costs of litigation; resolve public disputes, including those

1 related to growth management issues, more quickly and
2 effectively; and improve intergovernmental communications,
3 cooperation, and consensus building. The Legislature hereby
4 formally establishes the Florida Conflict Resolution
5 Consortium as a statewide center based at Florida State
6 University, or at another campus as may be designated by the
7 Commissioner of Education. The purpose of the consortium is
8 to serve as a neutral resource to assist citizens and public
9 and private interests in Florida to seek cost-effective
10 solutions to public disputes and problems through the use of
11 alternative dispute resolution and consensus building.

12 Section 208. Section 1004.60, Florida Statutes, is
13 created to read:

14 1004.60 Research of Rosewood incident.--State
15 universities shall continue the research of the Rosewood
16 incident and the history of race relations in Florida and
17 develop materials for the educational instruction of these
18 events.

19 Section 209. Section 1004.61, Florida Statutes, is
20 created to read:

21 1004.61 Partnerships to develop child protection
22 workers.--The Department of Children and Family Services is
23 directed to form partnerships with the schools of social work
24 of the state universities in order to encourage the
25 development of graduates trained to work in child protection.
26 The department shall give hiring preferences for child
27 protection jobs to graduates who have earned bachelor's and
28 master's degrees from these programs with a concentration in
29 child protection. The partnership between the Department of
30 Children and Family Services and the schools of social work
31 shall include, but not be limited to, modifying existing

1 graduate and undergraduate social work curricula, providing
2 field placements for students into child protection
3 internships in the department, and collaborating in the design
4 and delivery of advanced levels of social work practice.

5 Section 210. Section 1004.62, Florida Statutes, is
6 created to read:

7 1004.62 Incentives for urban or socially and
8 economically disadvantaged area internships.--The Legislature
9 establishes incentives for urban or socially and economically
10 disadvantaged area internships to give university students the
11 opportunity to study the social, economic, educational, and
12 political life of inner cities in metropolitan or socially and
13 economically disadvantaged areas of the state. The incentives
14 are for internships that are open to students in all
15 disciplines, including business, education, physical science,
16 social science, the liberal arts, and the fine arts.

17 Incentives may be given to any state university. Incentives
18 must be for one semester's duration, or more, in which an
19 intern may earn up to 12 hours of credit for the internship.
20 Student interns must work in teams to address a specific urban
21 or socially and economically disadvantaged area social problem
22 or carry out an urban or socially and economically
23 disadvantaged area social program. The results of each team's
24 work must be published in a report and distributed to the
25 colleges of education at each state university.

26 Section 211. Part III of chapter 1004, Florida
27 Statutes, shall be entitled "Community Colleges" and shall
28 consist of ss. 1004.65-1004.81.

29 Section 212. Part III.a. of chapter 1004, Florida
30 Statutes, shall be entitled "General Provisions" and shall
31 consist of ss. 1004.65-1004.726.

1 Section 213. Section 1004.65, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1004.65 Community colleges; definition, mission, and
4 responsibilities.--

5 (1) Community colleges shall consist of all public
6 educational institutions operated by community college
7 district boards of trustees under statutory authority and
8 rules of the State Board of Education.

9 (2) Each community college district authorized by law
10 and the Department of Education is an independent, separate,
11 legal entity created for the operation of a community college.

12 (3) A community college may provide adult education
13 services, including adult basic education, adult general
14 education, adult secondary education, and general educational
15 development test instruction.

16 (4) The community colleges are locally based and
17 governed entities with statutory and funding ties to state
18 government. As such, the community colleges' mission reflects
19 a commitment to be responsive to local educational needs and
20 challenges. In achieving this mission, the community colleges
21 strive to maintain sufficient local authority and flexibility
22 while preserving appropriate legal accountability to the
23 state.

24 (5) As comprehensive institutions, the community
25 colleges shall provide high-quality, affordable education and
26 training opportunities, shall foster a climate of excellence,
27 and shall provide opportunities to all while combining high
28 standards with an open-door admission policy. The community
29 colleges shall, as open-access institutions, serve all who can
30 benefit, without regard to age, race, gender, creed, or ethnic
31 or economic background, while emphasizing the achievement of

1 social and educational equity so that all can be prepared for
2 full participation in society.

3 (6) The primary mission and responsibility of
4 community colleges is responding to community needs for
5 postsecondary academic education and technical degree
6 education. This mission and responsibility includes being
7 responsible for:

8 (a) Providing lower level undergraduate instruction
9 and awarding associate degrees.

10 (b) Preparing students directly for vocations
11 requiring less than baccalaureate degrees. This may include
12 preparing for job entry, supplementing of skills and
13 knowledge, and responding to needs in new areas of technology.
14 Career and technical education in the community college shall
15 consist of technical certificates, credit courses leading to
16 associate in science degrees and associate in applied science
17 degrees, and other programs in fields requiring substantial
18 academic work, background, or qualifications. A community
19 college may offer career and technical education programs in
20 fields having lesser academic or technical requirements.

21 (c) Providing student development services, including
22 assessment, student tracking, support for disabled students,
23 advisement, counseling, financial aid, career development, and
24 remedial and tutorial services, to ensure student success.

25 (d) Promoting economic development for the state
26 within each community college district through the provision
27 of special programs, including, but not limited to, the:

28 1. Enterprise Florida-related programs.

29 2. Technology transfer centers.

30 3. Economic development centers.

31 4. Workforce literacy programs.

- 1 (e) Providing dual enrollment instruction.
2 (7) A separate and secondary role for community
3 colleges includes:
4 (a) Providing upper level instruction and awarding
5 baccalaureate degrees as specifically authorized by law.
6 (b) The offering of programs in:
7 1. Community services that are not directly related to
8 academic or occupational advancement.
9 2. Adult general education.
10 3. Recreational and leisure services.
11 (8) Funding for community colleges shall reflect their
12 mission as follows:
13 (a) Postsecondary academic and career and technical
14 education programs and adult general education programs shall
15 have first priority in community college funding.
16 (b) Community service programs shall be presented to
17 the Legislature with rationale for state funding. The
18 Legislature may identify priority areas for use of these
19 funds.
20 (9) Community colleges are authorized to offer such
21 programs and courses as are necessary to fulfill their mission
22 and are authorized to grant associate in arts degrees,
23 associate in science degrees, associate in applied science
24 degrees, certificates, awards, and diplomas. Each community
25 college is also authorized to make provisions for the general
26 educational development test. Each community college may
27 provide access to baccalaureate degrees in accordance with
28 law.
29 Section 214. Section 1004.66, Florida Statutes, is
30 created to read:
31

1 1004.66 "Community college" and "junior college" used
2 interchangeably.--Whenever the terms "community college" and
3 "junior college" appear in the Florida Statutes in reference
4 to a tax-supported institution, they shall be construed
5 identically.

6 Section 215. Section 1004.67, Florida Statutes, is
7 created to read:

8 1004.67 Community colleges; legislative intent.--It is
9 the legislative intent that community colleges, constituted as
10 political subdivisions of the state, continue to be operated
11 by community college boards of trustees as provided in s.
12 1001.63 and that no department, bureau, division, agency, or
13 subdivision of the state exercise any responsibility and
14 authority to operate any community college of the state except
15 as specifically provided by law or rules of the State Board of
16 Education.

17 Section 216. Section 1004.68, Florida Statutes, is
18 created to read:

19 1004.68 Community college; degrees and certificates;
20 tests for certain skills.--

21 (1) Each community college board of trustees shall
22 adopt rules establishing student performance standards for the
23 award of degrees and certificates.

24 (2) Each community college board of trustees shall
25 require the use of scores on tests for college-level
26 communication and computation skills provided in s.
27 1008.345(8) as a condition for graduation with an associate in
28 arts degree.

29 Section 217. Section 1004.70, Florida Statutes, is
30 created to read:

31

1 1004.70 Community college direct-support
2 organizations.--
3 (1) DEFINITIONS.--For the purposes of this section:
4 (a) "Community college direct-support organization"
5 means an organization that is:
6 1. A Florida corporation not for profit, incorporated
7 under the provisions of chapter 617 and approved by the
8 Department of State.
9 2. Organized and operated exclusively to receive,
10 hold, invest, and administer property and to make expenditures
11 to, or for the benefit of, a community college in this state.
12 3. An organization that the community college board of
13 trustees, after review, has certified to be operating in a
14 manner consistent with the goals of the community college and
15 in the best interest of the state. Any organization that is
16 denied certification by the board of trustees may not use the
17 name of the community college that it serves.
18 (b) "Personal services" includes full-time or
19 part-time personnel as well as payroll processing.
20 (2) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.--The chair of the board of
21 trustees shall appoint a representative to the board of
22 directors and the executive committee of each direct-support
23 organization established under this section, including those
24 established before July 1, 1998. The president of the
25 community college for which the direct-support organization is
26 established, or the president's designee, shall also serve on
27 the board of directors and the executive committee of the
28 direct-support organization, including any direct-support
29 organization established before July 1, 1998.
30 (3) USE OF PROPERTY.--
31

1 (a) The board of trustees is authorized to permit the
2 use of property, facilities, and personal services at any
3 community college by any community college direct-support
4 organization, subject to the provisions of this section.

5 (b) The board of trustees is authorized to prescribe
6 by rule any condition with which a community college
7 direct-support organization must comply in order to use
8 property, facilities, or personal services at any community
9 college.

10 (c) The board of trustees may not permit the use of
11 property, facilities, or personal services at any community
12 college by any community college direct-support organization
13 that does not provide equal employment opportunities to all
14 persons regardless of race, color, national origin, gender,
15 age, or religion.

16 (4) ACTIVITIES; RESTRICTIONS.--

17 (a) A direct-support organization may, at the request
18 of the board of trustees, provide residency opportunities on
19 or near campus for students.

20 (b) A direct-support organization that constructs
21 facilities for use by a community college or its students must
22 comply with all requirements of law relating to the
23 construction of facilities by a community college, including
24 requirements for competitive bidding.

25 (c) Any transaction or agreement between one
26 direct-support organization and another direct-support
27 organization or between a direct-support organization and a
28 center of technology innovation designated under s. 1004.77
29 must be approved by the board of trustees.

30 (d) A community college direct-support organization is
31 prohibited from giving, either directly or indirectly, any

1 gift to a political committee or committee of continuous
2 existence as defined in s. 106.011 for any purpose other than
3 those certified by a majority roll call vote of the governing
4 board of the direct-support organization at a regularly
5 scheduled meeting as being directly related to the educational
6 mission of the community college.

7 (5) ANNUAL BUDGETS AND REPORTS.--Each direct-support
8 organization shall submit to the board of trustees its federal
9 Internal Revenue Service Application for Recognition of
10 Exemption form (Form 1023) and its federal Internal Revenue
11 Service Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax form
12 (Form 990).

13 (6) ANNUAL AUDIT.--Each direct-support organization
14 shall provide for an annual financial audit in accordance with
15 rules adopted by the Auditor General pursuant to s. 11.45(8).
16 The annual audit report must be submitted, within 9 months
17 after the end of the fiscal year, to the Auditor General, the
18 State Board of Education, and the board of trustees for
19 review. The board of trustees, the Auditor General, and the
20 Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government
21 Accountability may require and receive from the organization
22 or from its independent auditor any detail or supplemental
23 data relative to the operation of the organization. The
24 identity of donors who desire to remain anonymous shall be
25 protected, and that anonymity shall be maintained in the
26 auditor's report. All records of the organization, other than
27 the auditor's report, any information necessary for the
28 auditor's report, any information related to the expenditure
29 of funds, and any supplemental data requested by the board of
30 trustees, the Auditor General, and the Office of Program

31

1 Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, shall be
2 confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1).
3 Section 218. Section 1004.71, Florida Statutes, is
4 created to read:
5 1004.71 Statewide community college direct-support
6 organizations.--
7 (1) DEFINITIONS.--For the purposes of this section:
8 (a) "Statewide community college direct-support
9 organization" means an organization that is:
10 1. A Florida corporation not for profit, incorporated
11 under the provisions of chapter 617 and approved by the
12 Department of State.
13 2. Organized and operated exclusively to receive,
14 hold, invest, and administer property and to make expenditures
15 to, or for the benefit of, the community colleges in this
16 state.
17 3. An organization that the State Board of Education,
18 after review, has certified to be operating in a manner
19 consistent with the goals of the community colleges and in the
20 best interest of the state.
21 (b) "Personal services" includes full-time or
22 part-time personnel as well as payroll processing.
23 (2) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.--The chair of the State Board
24 of Education may appoint a representative to the board of
25 directors and the executive committee of any statewide,
26 direct-support organization established under this section or
27 s. 1004.70. The chair of the State Board of Education, or the
28 chair's designee, shall also serve on the board of directors
29 and the executive committee of any direct-support organization
30 established to benefit the community colleges of Florida.
31 (3) USE OF PROPERTY.--

1 (a) The State Board of Education may permit the use of
2 property, facilities, and personal services of the Department
3 of Education by any statewide community college direct-support
4 organization, subject to the provisions of this section.

5 (b) The State Board of Education may prescribe by rule
6 any condition with which a statewide community college
7 direct-support organization must comply in order to use
8 property, facilities, or personal services of the Department
9 of Education.

10 (c) The State Board of Education may not permit the
11 use of property, facilities, or personal services of the
12 Department of Education by any statewide community college
13 direct-support organization that does not provide equal
14 employment opportunities to all persons regardless of race,
15 color, national origin, gender, age, or religion.

16 (4) RESTRICTIONS.--

17 (a) A statewide, direct-support organization may not
18 use public funds to acquire, construct, maintain, or operate
19 any facilities.

20 (b) Any transaction or agreement between a statewide,
21 direct-support organization and any other direct-support
22 organization or between a statewide, direct-support
23 organization and a center of technology innovation designated
24 under s. 1004.77 must be approved by the State Board of
25 Education.

26 (c) A statewide community college direct-support
27 organization is prohibited from giving, either directly or
28 indirectly, any gift to a political committee or committee of
29 continuous existence as defined in s. 106.011 for any purpose
30 other than those certified by a majority roll call vote of the
31 governing board of the direct-support organization at a

1 regularly scheduled meeting as being directly related to the
2 educational mission of the State Board of Education.

3 (5) ANNUAL BUDGETS AND REPORTS.--Each direct-support
4 organization shall submit to the State Board of Education its
5 federal Internal Revenue Service Application for Recognition
6 of Exemption form (Form 1023) and its federal Internal Revenue
7 Service Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax form
8 (Form 990).

9 (6) ANNUAL AUDIT.--A statewide community college
10 direct-support organization shall provide for an annual
11 financial audit in accordance with s. 1004.70. The identity of
12 a donor or prospective donor who desires to remain anonymous
13 and all information identifying such donor or prospective
14 donor are confidential and exempt from the provisions of s.
15 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. Such
16 anonymity shall be maintained in the auditor's report.

17 Section 219. Section 1004.725, Florida Statutes, is
18 created to read:

19 1004.725 Expenditures for self-insurance services;
20 special account.--

21 (1) The community college boards of trustees, singly
22 or collectively, are authorized to contract with an
23 administrator or service company approved by the Department of
24 Insurance pursuant to chapter 626 to provide self-insurance
25 services, including, but not limited to, the evaluation,
26 settlement, and payment of self-insurance claims on behalf of
27 the board of trustees or a consortium of boards of trustees.

28 (2) Pursuant to such a contract, a board of trustees
29 may advance moneys to the administrator or service company to
30 be deposited in a special account for paying claims against
31 the board of trustees under its self-insurance program. The

1 special account shall be maintained in a designated depository
2 as provided by s. 136.01. The board of trustees may replenish
3 such account as often as necessary upon the presentation by
4 the administrator or service company of documentation for
5 claims paid in an amount equal to the amount of the requested
6 reimbursement. Any contract for disbursement of funds from the
7 special account shall ensure that the payments are subject to
8 proper disbursement controls and accounting procedures.

9 Section 220. Section 1004.726, Florida Statutes, is
10 created to read:

11 1004.726 Trademarks, copyrights, or patents.--Each
12 community college board of trustees may develop and produce
13 work products relating to educational endeavors that are
14 subject to trademark, copyright, or patent statutes. To this
15 end, the board of trustees shall consider the relative
16 contribution by the personnel employed in the development of
17 such work products and shall enter into binding agreements
18 with such personnel, organizations, corporations, or
19 government entities, which agreements shall establish the
20 percentage of ownership of such trademarks, copyrights, or
21 patents. Any other law to the contrary notwithstanding, the
22 board of trustees may in its own name:

23 (1) Perform all things necessary to secure letters of
24 patent, copyrights, and trademarks on any such work products
25 and enforce its rights therein.

26 (2) License, lease, assign, or otherwise give written
27 consent to any person, firm, or corporation for the
28 manufacture or use of its work products on a royalty basis or
29 for such other consideration as the board of trustees deems
30 proper.

31

1 (3) Take any action necessary, including legal action,
2 to protect its work products against improper or unlawful use
3 of infringement.

4 (4) Enforce the collection of any sums due the board
5 of trustees for the manufacture or use of its work products by
6 any other party.

7 (5) Sell any of its work products and execute all
8 instruments necessary to consummate any such sale.

9 (6) Do all other acts necessary and proper for the
10 execution of powers and duties provided by this section.

11 Section 221. Part III.b. of chapter 1004, Florida
12 Statutes, shall be entitled "Special Programs; Centers" and
13 shall consist of ss. 1004.73-1004.81.

14 Section 222. Section 1004.73, Florida Statutes, is
15 created to read:

16 1004.73 St. Petersburg College.--

17 (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.--The Legislature intends to
18 create an innovative means to increase access to baccalaureate
19 degree level education in populous counties that are
20 underserved by public baccalaureate degree granting
21 institutions. This education is intended to address the
22 state's workforce needs, especially the need for teachers,
23 nurses, and business managers in agencies and firms that
24 require expertise in technology.

25 (2) ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE; MISSION; POLICIES.--St.
26 Petersburg College shall immediately seek accreditation from
27 the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools as a
28 baccalaureate degree granting college.

29 (a) The primary mission of St. Petersburg College is
30 to provide high-quality undergraduate education at an
31 affordable price for students and the state. The purpose is to

1 promote economic development by preparing people for
2 occupations that require a bachelor's degree and are in demand
3 by existing or emerging public and private employers in this
4 state.

5 (b) St. Petersburg College shall maintain the mission
6 and policies of a Florida community college, including the
7 open-door admissions policy and the authority to offer all
8 programs consistent with a community college's authority.

9 (c) St. Petersburg College shall maintain the
10 distinction between the college and its university center. St.
11 Petersburg College is limited to community college programs
12 and to selected baccalaureate degree level programs that meet
13 community needs and are authorized as provided by this
14 section. The University Center may make available more diverse
15 program offerings, but those programs are offered by a
16 participating college or university and are not to be
17 classified or funded as programs of St. Petersburg College.

18 (d) The academic policies of the upper-division
19 program at St. Petersburg College must be in accordance with
20 policies of the State Board of Education.

21 (e) Sections 1013.39 and 1013.82 apply to St.
22 Petersburg College.

23 (3) STUDENTS; FEES.--

24 (a) St. Petersburg College shall maintain separate
25 records for students who are enrolled in courses classified in
26 the upper division and lower division of a baccalaureate
27 program, according to the statewide course numbering system. A
28 student shall be reported as a community college student for
29 enrollment in a lower-division course and as a baccalaureate
30 degree program student for enrollment in an upper-division
31 course.

1 (b) The Board of Trustees of St. Petersburg College
2 shall establish the level of tuition and other authorized
3 student fees consistent with law and proviso in the General
4 Appropriations Act.

5 1. For each credit hour of enrollment in a certificate
6 level course or lower-division level college credit course,
7 tuition and fees must be within the range authorized in law
8 and rule for a community college student at that level.

9 2. For each credit hour of enrollment in an
10 upper-division level course, matriculation and tuition fees
11 must be in an amount established by the Board of Trustees of
12 St. Petersburg College. However, fees for upper-division
13 students must reflect the fact that the college does not incur
14 the costs of major research programs. Therefore, the board of
15 trustees shall establish fees for upper-division students
16 within a range that is lower than the fees established for
17 students at a state university but higher than the fees for
18 community college students.

19 3. Other mandatory fees and local fees must be at the
20 same level for all lower-division students. For upper-division
21 students, other mandatory fees and local fees must be at a
22 level less than fees established for University of South
23 Florida students, regardless of program enrollment or level.
24 However, students in workforce development education courses
25 maintain the authorized fee exemptions described in s. 1009.25
26 and may be exempt from local fees imposed by the board of
27 trustees, at the board's discretion.

28 (4) DEGREES.--

29 (a) In addition to the certificates, diplomas, and
30 degrees authorized in s. 1004.65, St. Petersburg College may
31 offer selected baccalaureate degrees. Initially, the college

1 may offer programs that lead to a baccalaureate degree in the
2 following fields:
3 1. Bachelor of Science in Nursing. This program must
4 be designed to articulate with the associate in science degree
5 in nursing. St. Petersburg College shall continue to offer the
6 associate in science degree in nursing.
7 2. Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in
8 Elementary Education.
9 3. Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Special
10 Education.
11 4. Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in
12 Secondary Education.
13 5. Bachelor of Applied Science in fields selected by
14 the Board of Trustees of St. Petersburg College. The board of
15 trustees shall base the selection on an analysis of workforce
16 needs and opportunities in the following counties: Pinellas,
17 Pasco, Hernando, and other counties approved by the Department
18 of Education. For each program selected, St. Petersburg
19 College must offer a related associate in science or associate
20 in applied science degree program, and the baccalaureate
21 degree level program must be designed to articulate fully with
22 at least one associate in science degree program. The college
23 is encouraged to develop articulation agreements for
24 enrollment of graduates of related associate in applied
25 science degree programs.
26 (b) St. Petersburg College may offer courses that
27 enable teachers to qualify for certification and
28 recertification as required by law or rule.
29 (c) St. Petersburg College may offer programs to
30 provide opportunities for a person who holds a baccalaureate
31

1 degree, but is not certified to teach, to obtain any
2 additional courses required for teacher certification.

3 (d) Master's degree level programs and doctoral
4 programs may be provided by agreement with a college or
5 university participating in the University Center of St.
6 Petersburg College.

7 (e) For those students living outside Pinellas County,
8 St. Petersburg College shall recruit for the upper division
9 only those students who have earned an associate degree. In
10 recruiting upper-division students in Pasco and Hernando
11 Counties, St. Petersburg College shall work cooperatively with
12 Pasco-Hernando Community College and shall seek to offer
13 courses and programs at Pasco-Hernando Community College when
14 feasible. The nursing programs, in particular, must be
15 conducted cooperatively, and programs at St. Petersburg
16 College shall not conflict with Pasco-Hernando Community
17 College's and the University of South Florida's cooperative
18 nursing program.

19 (5) BOARDS.--

20 (a) The Board of Trustees of St. Petersburg College
21 serves as the college's governing board. The Governor shall
22 appoint members as provided in s. 1001.61, and the board has
23 the duties and authorities granted in ss. 1001.63 and 1001.64
24 and by rules of the State Board of Education.

25 (b) The Board of Trustees of St. Petersburg College
26 may authorize direct-support organizations as authorized in
27 ss. 1004.28 and 1004.70.

28 (c) The Board of Trustees of St. Petersburg College
29 may continue to award degrees, diplomas, and certificates as
30 authorized for St. Petersburg Junior College, and in the name
31

1 of St. Petersburg Junior College, until St. Petersburg College
2 receives its accreditation.

3 (d) A coordinating board shall assist the board of
4 trustees in its deliberations concerning issues that affect
5 the upper division of St. Petersburg College. The coordinating
6 board consists of the President of the University of South
7 Florida, the President of St. Petersburg College, the
8 President of Pasco-Hernando Community College, and the chairs
9 of the boards of trustees of those institutions.

10 (e) Beginning 4 years after the college receives
11 accreditation to offer baccalaureate degrees, the Board of
12 Trustees of St. Petersburg College may determine additional
13 programs to be offered, with the approval of the coordinating
14 board. The determination must consider community needs and
15 economic opportunities.

16 (f) The coordinating board shall meet at the request
17 of the President of the University of South Florida or the
18 President of St. Petersburg College.

19 (g) If the coordinating board cannot decide an issue
20 of importance to the programs designed for upper-division
21 students, the State Board of Education shall resolve the
22 issue.

23 (6) EMPLOYEES.--

24 (a) Employment at St. Petersburg College is governed
25 by the same laws that govern community colleges, except that
26 upper-division faculty are eligible for continuing contracts
27 upon the completion of the fifth year of teaching.

28 (b) Employee records for all personnel shall be
29 maintained as required by s. 1012.81.

30 (7) FACILITIES.--St. Petersburg College may request
31 funding from the Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt

1 Service Trust Fund as a community college and as a university.
2 The municipalities in Pinellas County, the Board of County
3 Commissioners of Pinellas County, and all other governmental
4 entities are authorized to cooperate with the Board of
5 Trustees of St. Petersburg College in establishing this
6 institution. The acquisition and donation of lands, buildings,
7 and equipment for the use of St. Petersburg College are
8 authorized as a public purpose. The Board of County
9 Commissioners of Pinellas County and all municipalities in
10 Pinellas County may exercise the power of eminent domain to
11 acquire lands, buildings, and equipment for the use of St.
12 Petersburg College, regardless of whether such lands,
13 buildings, and equipment are located in a community
14 redevelopment area.

15 (8) STATE FUNDING.--

16 (a) The Legislature intends to fund St. Petersburg
17 College as a community college for its workforce development
18 education programs and for its lower-division level college
19 credit courses and programs.

20 (b) The Legislature intends to fund St. Petersburg
21 College as a baccalaureate degree level institution for its
22 upper-division level courses and programs.

23 Section 223. Section 1004.74, Florida Statutes, is
24 created to read:

25 1004.74 Florida School of the Arts.--

26 (1) As the state strives to achieve excellence in all
27 aspects of public education, it is the intent of the
28 Legislature that specific attention be given to the needs of
29 artistically talented high school and college students. It is
30 further intended that such students who are occupationally
31 oriented to the arts be provided with the means for achieving

1 both an academic education and artistic training appropriate
2 to their gifts.

3 (2) There is created the Florida School of the Arts.
4 The school shall offer a program of academic and artistic
5 studies in the visual and performing arts, which program shall
6 be available to talented high school and college students in
7 the state.

8 (3) The Florida School of the Arts is assigned to the
9 District Board of Trustees of the St. Johns River Community
10 College for purposes of administration and governance; but the
11 Florida School of the Arts, within appropriations and
12 limitations established annually by the Legislature, shall
13 serve as a professional school on a statewide basis for all
14 qualified students.

15 (4) The Council for the Florida School of the Arts
16 shall be established to advise the community college district
17 board of trustees on matters pertaining to the operation of
18 the school. The council shall consist of nine members,
19 appointed by the Commissioner of Education for 4-year terms. A
20 member may serve three terms and may serve until replaced.

21 Section 224. Section 1004.75, Florida Statutes, is
22 created to read:

23 1004.75 Training school consolidation pilot
24 projects.--

25 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.--To consolidate and more
26 efficiently use state and taxpayer resources by combining
27 training programs, pilot training centers are established to
28 provide public criminal justice training in Leon and St. Johns
29 Counties. The following pilot training centers are
30 established:

31

1 (a) The Pat Thomas Center at Tallahassee Community
2 College.
3 (b) The Criminal Justice Academy at St. Johns River
4 Community College.
5 (2) EXISTING PUBLIC CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING
6 PROGRAMS.--Notwithstanding ss. 1001.31, 1001.33, and 1007.25,
7 or any other provision of law to the contrary, criminal
8 justice training programs in the pilot counties will transfer
9 to community colleges, effective July 1, 1999, at which time
10 responsibility for the provision of basic recruit, advanced,
11 career development, and continuing training courses and
12 programs offered in public criminal justice training programs
13 and for the operation of existing public criminal justice
14 training programs will be shifted from the school district to
15 the community college in whose service area the public
16 criminal justice training program is located. Certification of
17 the program granted by the Criminal Justice Standards and
18 Training Commission will be transferred to the respective
19 community college and the college must continue to meet the
20 requirements of the commission.
21 (3) FACILITIES.--
22 (a) Criminal justice training program educational
23 facilities, educational plants, and related equipment as
24 defined in s. 1013.01(6) and (7) which are owned by the state
25 and paid for with only state funds shall be transferred to the
26 community college, except that, if such an educational
27 facility or educational plant or part of such facility or
28 plant is used for other purposes in addition to public
29 criminal justice training, the Criminal Justice Standards and
30 Training Commission shall mediate the transfer or a suitable
31 multiuse arrangement.

1 (b) Criminal justice training program educational
2 facilities, educational plants, and related equipment as
3 defined in s. 1013.01(6) and (7) which are owned by the school
4 district and paid for in whole or in part with local tax funds
5 shall be leased to the community college. However, if such an
6 educational facility or educational plant, or part of such
7 facility or plant, is used for other purposes in addition to
8 public criminal justice training, the Criminal Justice
9 Standards and Training Commission shall mediate a suitable
10 lease agreement. If a school district and a community college
11 cannot agree on the terms and conditions of the lease
12 agreement, the Criminal Justice Standards and Training
13 Commission shall finalize the agreement and report its
14 decision to the Legislature. The Department of Education,
15 Office of Educational Facilities, shall conduct an analysis,
16 by December 31, 1999, to determine the amount of local tax
17 contribution used in the construction of a
18 school-district-owned criminal justice training program,
19 educational facility, or educational plant affected by the
20 transfer. This analysis shall be used to establish a purchase
21 price for the facility or plant. The community college board
22 of trustees may make a legislative budget request through the
23 State Board of Education to purchase the facility or plant, or
24 it may continue to lease the facility or plant.

25 (4) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.--Each pilot training center
26 will be regional in nature, as defined by the Criminal Justice
27 Standards and Training Commission. Each community college with
28 responsibility for a public criminal justice training program
29 must:

30
31

1 (a) Establish a pilot training center advisory
2 committee made up of professionals from the field of each
3 training program included in the pilot project.

4 (b) Provide certificate and noncredit options for
5 students and training components of the pilot training center
6 that so require.

7 (c) Develop an articulation agreement with state
8 universities to facilitate the transfer of graduates of a
9 community college degree training program to the upper
10 division of a state university with a corresponding program.

11 (5) STAFFING.--The community college board of trustees
12 may provide for school district public criminal justice
13 training staff employed in full-time budgeted positions to be
14 transferred into the community college personnel system at the
15 same rate of salary. Retirement and leave provisions will be
16 transferred according to law.

17 (6) FUNDING.--The Department of Education shall shift
18 funds generated by students in the pilot training centers
19 established by this section, including workforce development
20 recurring and nonrecurring funds, from the appropriate school
21 district to the respective community college. The community
22 college shall qualify for future facilities funding upon
23 transfer of the facility.

24 (a) Consistent with s. 1011.62(7), school districts
25 that transfer programs will receive an amount equal to 15
26 percent of the funding generated for the program under the
27 FEFP in 1996-1997.

28 (b) Reflecting the lower program costs in community
29 colleges, notwithstanding the funding generated in paragraph
30 (a), community colleges will receive 90 percent of the funding
31

1 generated for the program under the FEFP in 1996-1997. The
2 school district will retain the remaining 10 percent.

3 (c) Notwithstanding ss. 1011.80(5)(a) and
4 1009.22(3)(a), or any other provision of law to the contrary,
5 fees for continuing workforce education for public law
6 enforcement officers at these pilot centers shall not exceed
7 25 percent of the cost of the course, and state funding shall
8 not under any circumstances exceed 50 percent of the cost of
9 the course.

10 Section 225. Section 1004.76, Florida Statutes, is
11 created to read:

12 1004.76 Florida Martin Luther King, Jr., Institute for
13 Nonviolence.--

14 (1) As used in this section:

15 (a) "Board" means the advisory board of the institute.

16 (b) "Institute" means the Florida Martin Luther King,
17 Jr., Institute for Nonviolence.

18 (2) There is hereby created the Florida Martin Luther
19 King, Jr., Institute for Nonviolence to be established at
20 Miami-Dade Community College. The institute shall have an
21 advisory board consisting of 13 members as follows: the
22 Attorney General, the Commissioner of Education, and 11
23 members to be appointed by the Governor, such members to
24 represent the population of the state based on its ethnic,
25 gender, and socioeconomic diversity. Of the members appointed
26 by the Governor, one shall be a member of the Senate appointed
27 by the Governor on the recommendation of the President of the
28 Senate; one shall be a member of the Senate appointed by the
29 Governor on the recommendation of the minority leader; one
30 shall be a member of the House of Representatives appointed by
31 the Governor on the recommendation of the Speaker of the House

1 of Representatives; one shall be a member of the House of
2 Representatives appointed by the Governor on the
3 recommendation of the minority leader; and seven shall be
4 members appointed by the Governor, no more than three of whom
5 shall be members of the same political party. The following
6 groups shall be represented by the seven members: the Florida
7 Sheriffs Association; the Florida Association of Counties; the
8 Florida League of Cities; state universities human services
9 agencies; community relations or human relations councils; and
10 youth. A chairperson shall be elected by the members and
11 shall serve for a term of 3 years. Members of the board shall
12 serve the following terms of office which shall be staggered:

13 (a) A member of the Legislature appointed to the board
14 shall serve for a single term not to exceed 5 years and shall
15 serve as a member only while he or she is a member of the
16 Legislature.

17 (b) Of the seven members who are not members of the
18 Legislature, three shall serve for terms of 4 years, two shall
19 serve for terms of 3 years, and one shall serve for a term of
20 1 year. Thereafter, each member, except for a member
21 appointed to fill an unexpired term, shall serve for a 5-year
22 term. No member shall serve on the board for more than 10
23 years.

24
25 In the event of a vacancy occurring in the office of a member
26 of the board by death, resignation, or otherwise, the Governor
27 shall appoint a successor to serve for the balance of the
28 unexpired term.

29 (3)(a) The board shall provide for the holding of
30 regular and special meetings. A majority of the members shall
31 constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business, and

1 the acts of a majority of the members present at a meeting at
2 which a quorum is present shall be deemed to be the acts of
3 the board.

4 (b) An executive director shall be appointed by the
5 board and shall be the chief administrative and operational
6 officer of the board. The executive director shall direct and
7 supervise administrative affairs and the general management of
8 the board. The executive director may contract with or employ
9 legal and technical experts and such other employees,
10 permanent and temporary, as shall be authorized by the board.

11 (c) Members of the board shall serve without
12 compensation, but shall be reimbursed for per diem and travel
13 expenses in accordance with s. 112.061.

14 (4) The institute shall have the following powers and
15 duties:

16 (a) To conduct training, provide symposia, and develop
17 continuing education and programs to promote skills in
18 nonviolent conflict resolution for persons in government,
19 private enterprise, community groups, and voluntary
20 associations.

21 (b) To enter into formal and informal relationships
22 with other public or private institutions for purposes of
23 fulfilling the goals of the institute and to ensure geographic
24 dispersion of services to all regions of the state.

25 (c) To establish a clearinghouse to provide materials,
26 including publications, handbooks, training manuals, and
27 audiovisual materials, on the programs, studies, research,
28 training, and educational opportunities of the institute.

29 (d) To adopt, amend, and alter bylaws not inconsistent
30 with the laws of the state.

31

1 (e) To charge and collect subscription and other
2 participation costs and fees for its services, including
3 publications and courses of study.

4 (f) To receive and accept from any federal, state, or
5 local agency grants, or advances for, or in aid of, the
6 purposes of this act and to receive and accept contributions
7 from any source of either money, property, labor, or other
8 things of value, to be held, used, and applied for said
9 purposes.

10 (g) To do any and all lawful acts and things necessary
11 or desirable to carry out the objectives and purposes of this
12 act.

13 (5) The institute may establish fellowships through
14 the awarding of financial assistance to individuals and
15 organizations to enable them to pursue scholarly inquiry and
16 study other appropriate forms of strategies for peace and
17 nonviolent conflict resolution.

18 Section 226. Section 1004.77, Florida Statutes, is
19 created to read:

20 1004.77 Centers of technology innovation.--

21 (1) The State Board of Education may designate centers
22 of technology innovation at single community colleges,
23 consortia of community colleges, or consortia of community
24 colleges with other educational institutions. The state board
25 shall adopt rules necessary to implement the provisions of
26 this section. The state board shall cooperate with the
27 Workforce Florida, Inc., in the designation of the centers as
28 it relates to the centers of applied technology.

29 (2) Centers shall be designated when a community
30 college or consortia provides evidence that it has developed
31 expertise in one or more specialized technologies. To be

1 designated, the community college or consortia must provide
2 benefits to the state, which may include, but are not limited
3 to:
4 (a) Curriculum development.
5 (b) Faculty development.
6 (c) Research, testing, and technology transfer.
7 (d) Instructional equipment and materials
8 identification and development.
9 (e) Partnerships with industries dependent upon
10 staying current in the related technologies and in the
11 development of workforce capabilities.
12 (f) Partnerships with industries needing to convert
13 their existing technology base to other technologies in order
14 to continue conducting business in Florida, including
15 converting defense-related technologies to other technologies.
16 (3) Centers may provide services to their service area
17 and receive funding through:
18 (a) Serving as a technology transfer center, as
19 created in s. 1004.78.
20 (b) Serving as an incubator facility for small
21 business concerns, as created in s. 1004.79.
22 (c) Serving as an economic development center, as
23 created in s. 1004.80.
24 (4) Centers may provide instruction, as follows:
25 (a) To students enrolled in the community college,
26 especially for purposes of providing training for technicians
27 in areas that support the employers involved in the technology
28 specialization.
29 (b) To students enrolled at the undergraduate and
30 graduate level in a university, college, or community college
31

1 which is a member of the designated consortia. Such enrollment
2 shall be funded by the enrolling institution.

3 (c) To employees in the service area needing training
4 and retraining in the technology of specialization, which may
5 include, but is not limited to, the retraining necessary to
6 convert defense-related technologies to other technologies.

7 (d) To secondary school students and teachers where
8 such instruction will stimulate interest in further education.

9 (5) The State Board of Education shall give priority
10 in the designation of centers to those community colleges that
11 specialize in technology in environmental areas and in areas
12 related to target industries of Enterprise Florida. Priority
13 in designation shall also be given to community colleges that
14 develop new and improved manufacturing techniques and related
15 business practices.

16 (6) Centers, including the facilities of the center,
17 may be made available to the public agencies of the state, the
18 counties and cities of the service area, and the employers of
19 the state and service area. Centers may also be used for
20 applied research in the area of specialization.

21 (7) Each center shall have a board of directors with
22 at least five members who shall be appointed by the district
23 board of trustees. The board of directors is responsible for
24 overseeing the operation of the center, approval of the annual
25 budget, and setting policy to guide the director in the
26 operation of the center. The board of directors shall consist
27 of at least the following:

28 (a) The director of the center.

29 (b) The vice president of academic affairs, or the
30 equivalent, of the community college.

31

1 (c) The vice president of business affairs, or the
2 equivalent, of the community college.

3 (d) Two members designated by the president of the
4 community college.

5 (8) Each center shall establish a schedule of fees or
6 rates to be charged to all who use the facilities of the
7 center. In addition, each center may negotiate user contracts
8 with governmental users, industrial users, researchers, public
9 or private educational institutions, or individuals for use of
10 the facilities. It is the intent of the Legislature that the
11 centers of technology innovation established pursuant to this
12 act shall not seek any additional state funding. Centers may
13 solicit and accept grants and donations, including, but not
14 limited to, federal and state grants to assist companies in
15 converting defense-related technologies to other technologies.

16 (9) The State Board of Education may award grants to
17 designated centers for the purposes of this section. Grants
18 awarded shall be in accordance with rules established by the
19 State Board of Education, which rules shall require an annual
20 report.

21 Section 227. Section 1004.78, Florida Statutes, is
22 created to read:

23 1004.78 Technology transfer centers at community
24 colleges.--

25 (1) Each community college may establish a technology
26 transfer center for the purpose of providing institutional
27 support to local business and industry and governmental
28 agencies in the application of new research in technology.
29 The primary responsibilities of such centers may include:
30 identifying technology research developed by universities,
31 research institutions, businesses, industries, the United

1 States Armed Forces, and other state or federal governmental
2 agencies; determining and demonstrating the application of
3 technologies; training workers to integrate advanced equipment
4 and production processes; and determining for business and
5 industry the feasibility and efficiency of accommodating
6 advanced technologies.

7 (2) The community college board of trustees shall set
8 such policies to regulate the activities of the technology
9 transfer center as it may consider necessary to effectuate the
10 purposes of this section and to administer the programs of the
11 center in a manner which assures efficiency and effectiveness,
12 producing the maximum benefit for the educational programs and
13 maximum service to the state. To this end, materials that
14 relate to methods of manufacture or production, potential
15 trade secrets, potentially patentable material, actual trade
16 secrets, business transactions, or proprietary information
17 received, generated, ascertained, or discovered during the
18 course of activities conducted within the community colleges
19 shall be confidential and exempt from the provisions of s.
20 119.07(1), except that a community college shall make
21 available upon request the title and description of a project,
22 the name of the investigator, and the amount and source of
23 funding provided for such project.

24 (3) A technology transfer center created under the
25 provisions of this section shall be under the supervision of
26 the board of trustees of that community college, which is
27 authorized to appoint a director; to employ full-time and
28 part-time staff, research personnel, and professional
29 services; to employ on a part-time basis personnel of the
30 community college; and to employ temporary employees whose
31 salaries are paid entirely from the permanent technology

1 transfer fund or from that fund in combination with other
2 nonstate sources, with such positions being exempt from the
3 requirements of the Florida Statutes relating to salaries,
4 except that no such appointment shall be made for a total
5 period of longer than 1 year.

6 (4) The board of trustees of the community college in
7 which a technology transfer center is created, or its
8 designee, may negotiate, enter into, and execute contracts;
9 solicit and accept grants and donations; and fix and collect
10 fees, other payments, and donations that may accrue by reason
11 thereof for technology transfer activities. The board of
12 trustees or its designee may negotiate, enter into, and
13 execute contracts on a cost-reimbursement basis and may
14 provide temporary financing of such costs prior to
15 reimbursement from moneys on deposit in the technology
16 transfer fund, except as may be prohibited elsewhere by law.

17 (5) A technology transfer center shall be financed
18 from the Academic Improvement Program or from moneys of a
19 community college which are on deposit or received for use in
20 the activities conducted in the center. Such moneys shall be
21 deposited by the community college in a permanent technology
22 transfer fund in a depository or depositories approved for the
23 deposit of state funds and shall be accounted for and
24 disbursed subject to regular audit by the Auditor General.

25 (6) The fund balance in any existing research trust
26 fund of a community college at the time a technology transfer
27 center is created shall be transferred to a permanent
28 technology transfer fund established for the community
29 college, and thereafter the fund balance of the technology
30 transfer fund at the end of any fiscal period may be used
31 during any succeeding period pursuant to this section.

1 (7) Moneys deposited in the permanent technology
2 transfer fund of a community college shall be disbursed in
3 accordance with the terms of the contract, grant, or donation
4 under which they are received. Moneys received for overhead
5 or indirect costs and other moneys not required for the
6 payment of direct costs shall be applied to the cost of
7 operating the technology transfer center.

8 (8) All purchases of a technology transfer center
9 shall be made in accordance with the policies and procedures
10 of the community college.

11 (9) The community college board of trustees may
12 authorize the construction, alteration, or remodeling of
13 buildings when the funds used are derived entirely from the
14 technology transfer fund of a community college or from that
15 fund in combination with other nonstate sources, provided that
16 such construction, alteration, or remodeling is for use
17 exclusively by the center. It also may authorize the
18 acquisition of real property when the cost is entirely from
19 said funds. Title to all real property shall vest in the
20 board of trustees.

21 (10) The State Board of Education may award grants to
22 community colleges, or consortia of public and private
23 colleges and universities and other public and private
24 entities, for the purpose of supporting the objectives of this
25 section. Grants awarded pursuant to this subsection shall be
26 in accordance with rules of the State Board of Education.
27 Such rules shall include the following provisions:

28 (a) The number of centers established with state funds
29 provided expressly for the purpose of technology transfer
30 shall be limited, but shall be geographically located to
31 maximize public access to center resources and services.

1 (b) Grants to centers funded with state revenues
2 appropriated specifically for technology transfer activities
3 shall be reviewed and approved by the State Board of Education
4 using proposal solicitation, evaluation, and selection
5 procedures established by the state board in consultation with
6 Enterprise Florida, Inc. Such procedures may include
7 designation of specific areas or applications of technology as
8 priorities for the receipt of funding.

9 (c) Priority for the receipt of state funds
10 appropriated specifically for the purpose of technology
11 transfer shall be given to grant proposals developed jointly
12 by community colleges and public and private colleges and
13 universities.

14 (11) Each technology transfer center established under
15 the provisions of this section shall establish a technology
16 transfer center advisory committee. Each committee shall
17 include representatives of a university or universities
18 conducting research in the area of specialty of the center.
19 Other members shall be determined by the community college
20 board of trustees.

21 Section 228. Section 1004.79, Florida Statutes, is
22 created to read:

23 1004.79 Incubator facilities for small business
24 concerns.--

25 (1) Each community college established pursuant to s.
26 1004.02(2) may provide incubator facilities to eligible small
27 business concerns. As used in this section, "small business
28 concern" shall be defined as an independently owned and
29 operated business concern incorporated in Florida which is not
30 an affiliate or a subsidiary of a business dominant in its
31 field of operation, and which employs 25 or fewer full-time

1 employees. "Incubator facility" shall be defined as a facility
2 in which small business concerns share common space,
3 equipment, and support personnel and through which such
4 concerns have access to professional consultants for advice
5 related to the technical and business aspects of conducting a
6 commercial enterprise. The community college board of trustees
7 shall authorize concerns for inclusion in the incubator
8 facility.

9 (2) Each community college that provides an incubator
10 facility shall provide the following:

11 (a) Management and maintenance of the incubator
12 facility.

13 (b) Secretarial and other support personnel,
14 equipment, and utilities.

15 (c) Mechanisms to assist with the acquisition of
16 technical, management, and entrepreneurial expertise to
17 resident and other local small business concerns.

18 (3) The incubator facility and any improvements to the
19 facility shall be owned or leased by the community college.
20 The community college may charge residents of the facility all
21 or part of the cost for facilities, utilities, and support
22 personnel and equipment. No small business concern shall
23 reside in the incubator facility for more than 5 calendar
24 years. The state shall not be liable for any act or failure
25 to act of any small business concern residing in an incubator
26 facility pursuant to this section or of any such concern
27 benefiting from the incubator facilities program.

28 (4) Community colleges are encouraged to establish
29 incubator facilities through which emerging small businesses
30 supportive of spaceport endeavors and other high-technology
31 enterprises may be served.

1 (5) Community colleges are encouraged to establish
2 incubator facilities through which emerging small businesses
3 supportive of development of content and technology for
4 digital broadband media and digital broadcasting may be
5 served.

6 Section 229. Section 1004.80, Florida Statutes, is
7 created to read:

8 1004.80 Economic development centers.--

9 (1) Community colleges may establish economic
10 development centers for the purpose of serving as liaisons
11 between community colleges and the business sector. The
12 responsibilities of each center shall include:

13 (a) Promoting the economic well-being of businesses
14 and industries.

15 (b) Coordinating, with chambers of commerce,
16 government agencies, district school boards, and other
17 organizations, efforts to provide educational programs which
18 promote economic development, including, but not limited to,
19 business incubators, industrial development and research
20 parks, industry recruitment efforts, publication of business
21 research and resource guides, and sponsorship of workshops,
22 conferences, seminars, and consultation services.

23 (2) The board of trustees of a community college in
24 which an economic development center is created, or its
25 designee, may negotiate, enter into, and execute contracts;
26 solicit and accept grants and donations; and fix and collect
27 fees, other payments, and donations that may accrue by reason
28 of activities of the center and its staff.

29 (3) Economic development centers shall operate under
30 policies and procedures established by the community college
31 board of trustees.

1 (4) The State Board of Education may award grants to
2 economic development centers for the purposes of this section.
3 Grants awarded pursuant to this subsection shall be in
4 accordance with rules established by the State Board of
5 Education.

6 Section 230. Section 1004.81, Florida Statutes, is
7 created to read:

8 1004.81 Establishment of child development training
9 centers at community colleges.--

10 (1) The Legislature recognizes the importance of
11 preschool developmental education and the need for adult
12 students with limited economic resources to have access to
13 high-quality, affordable child care at variable hours for
14 their children. It is therefore the intent of the Legislature
15 that community colleges provide high-quality, affordable child
16 care to the children of adult students enrolled in community
17 colleges. The primary purpose of these child development
18 training centers is to provide affordable child care for
19 children of adult students, particularly those who demonstrate
20 financial need, as well as for employees and staff of the
21 institution. Further, the child development training centers
22 are intended to provide both preschool instruction to the
23 children and clinical experiences for prospective child care
24 and early childhood instructional and administrative
25 personnel. A secondary mission of the centers shall be to
26 provide instruction in parenting skills for the clients of the
27 center as well as for the community.

28 (2) In consultation with the student government
29 association or a recognized student group representing the
30 student body, a community college board of trustees may
31 establish a child development training center in accordance

1 with this section. Each child development training center
2 shall be a child care center established to provide child care
3 during the day and at variable hours, including evenings and
4 weekends, for the children of students. Emphasis should be
5 placed on serving students who demonstrate financial need as
6 defined by the board of trustees. At least 50 percent of the
7 child care slots must be made available to students, and
8 financially needy students, as defined by the board of
9 trustees, shall receive child care slots first. The center may
10 serve the children of staff, employees, and faculty; however,
11 a designated number of child care slots shall not be allocated
12 for employees. Whenever possible, the center shall be located
13 on the campus of the community college. However, the board may
14 elect to provide child care services for students through
15 alternative mechanisms, which may include contracting with
16 private providers.

17 (3) There shall be a board of directors of each child
18 development training center, consisting of the president or
19 his or her designee, the student government president or his
20 or her designee, the chair of the department participating in
21 the center or his or her designee, and one parent for each 25
22 children enrolled in the center, elected by the parents of the
23 children enrolled in the center. There shall be a director of
24 each center, selected by the board of directors of the center.
25 The director shall be an ex officio, nonvoting member of the
26 board. The board of trustees shall establish local policies
27 and perform local oversight and operational guidance for the
28 center.

29 (4) Each center may charge fees for the care and
30 services it provides. Each board of trustees shall establish
31 mechanisms to facilitate access to center services for

1 students with financial need, which shall include a sliding
2 fee scale and other methods adopted by the board of trustees
3 to reduce or defray payment of fees for students. The board of
4 trustees is authorized to seek and receive grants and other
5 resources to support the operation of the child development
6 center.

7 (5) In addition to revenues derived from child care
8 fees charged to parents and other external resources, each
9 child development training center may be funded by a portion
10 of funds from the student activity and service fee authorized
11 by s. 1009.23(7) and the capital improvement fee authorized by
12 s. 1009.23(11). Community colleges are authorized to transfer
13 funds as necessary from the community college's general fund
14 to support the operation of the child development training
15 center.

16 (6) This section does not preclude the continuation of
17 or in any way affect child care centers operated by community
18 colleges that were established by the district board of
19 trustees prior to July 1, 1994.

20 Section 231. Part IV of chapter 1004, Florida
21 Statutes, shall be entitled "Workforce Development Education"
22 and shall consist of ss. 1004.91-1004.98.

23 Section 232. Section 1004.91, Florida Statutes, is
24 created to read:

25 1004.91 Vocational-preparatory instruction.--

26 (1) The State Board of Education shall adopt, by rule,
27 standards of basic skill mastery for certificate technical
28 education programs. Each school district and community college
29 that conducts programs that confer technical credit shall
30 provide vocational-preparatory instruction through which
31

1 students receive the basic skills instruction required
2 pursuant to this section.

3 (2) Students who enroll in a program offered for
4 technical credit of 450 hours or more shall complete an
5 entry-level examination within the first 6 weeks of admission
6 into the program. The State Board of Education shall
7 designate examinations that are currently in existence, the
8 results of which are comparable across institutions, to assess
9 student mastery of basic skills. Any student found to lack the
10 required level of basic skills for such program shall be
11 referred to vocational-preparatory instruction or adult basic
12 education for a structured program of basic skills
13 instruction. Such instruction may include English for speakers
14 of other languages. A student may not receive a technical
15 certificate of completion without first demonstrating the
16 basic skills required in the state curriculum frameworks for
17 the program.

18 (3) An adult student with a disability may be exempted
19 from the provisions of this section. A student who possesses a
20 college degree at the associate in applied science level or
21 higher is exempt from this section. A student who has
22 completed or who is exempt from the college-level
23 communication and computation skills examination pursuant to
24 s. 1008.29, or who is exempt from the college entry-level
25 examination pursuant to s. 1008.29 is exempt from the
26 provisions of this section. Students who have passed a state,
27 national or industry licensure exam are exempt from this
28 section.

29 Section 233. Section 1004.92, Florida Statutes, is
30 created to read:

31

1 1004.92 Purpose and responsibilities for career and
2 technical education.--

3 (1) The purpose of career and technical education is
4 to enable students who complete career and technical programs
5 to attain and sustain employment and realize economic
6 self-sufficiency. The purpose of this section is to identify
7 issues related to career and technical education for which
8 school boards and community college boards of trustees are
9 accountable. It is the intent of the Legislature that the
10 standards articulated in subsection (2) be considered in the
11 development of accountability standards for public schools
12 pursuant to ss. 1000.03, 1008.345, and 1001.42(16) and for
13 community colleges pursuant to s. 1008.45.

14 (2) School board, superintendent, and technical
15 center, and community college board of trustees and president,
16 accountability for career and technical education programs
17 includes, but is not limited to:

18 1. Student demonstration of the academic skills
19 necessary to enter an occupation.

20 2. Student preparation to enter an occupation in an
21 entry-level position or continue postsecondary study.

22 3. Career and technical program articulation with
23 other corresponding postsecondary programs and job training
24 experiences.

25 4. Employer satisfaction with the performance of
26 students who complete career and technical education or reach
27 occupational completion points.

28 5. Student completion, placement, and retention rates
29 pursuant to s. 1008.43.

30 (c) Department of Education accountability for career
31 and technical education includes, but is not limited to:

1 1. The provision of timely, accurate technical
2 assistance to school districts and community colleges.

3 2. The provision of timely, accurate information to
4 the State Board of Education, the Legislature, and the public.

5 3. The development of policies, rules, and procedures
6 that facilitate institutional attainment of the accountability
7 standards and coordinate the efforts of all divisions within
8 the department.

9 4. The development of program standards and
10 industry-driven benchmarks for career and technical, adult,
11 and community education programs, which must be updated every
12 3 years. The standards must include technical, academic, and
13 workplace skills; viability of distance learning for
14 instruction; and work/learn cycles that are responsive to
15 business and industry.

16 5. Overseeing school district and community college
17 compliance with the provisions of this chapter.

18 6. Ensuring that the educational outcomes for the
19 technical component of career and technical programs and are
20 uniform and designed to provide a graduate who is capable of
21 entering the workforce on an equally competitive basis
22 regardless of the institution of choice.

23 (3) Each technical center operated by a district
24 school board shall establish a center advisory council
25 pursuant to s. 1001.452. The center advisory council shall
26 assist in the preparation and evaluation of center improvement
27 plans required pursuant to s. 1001.42(16) and may provide
28 assistance, upon the request of the center director, in the
29 preparation of the center's annual budget and plan as required
30 by s. 1008.385(1).

31

1 Section 234. Section 1004.93, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1004.93 Adult general education.--

4 (1)(a) The intent of this section is to encourage the
5 provision of educational services that will enable adults to
6 acquire:

7 1. The basic skills necessary to attain basic and
8 functional literacy.

9 2. A high school diploma or successfully complete the
10 general educational development test.

11 3. An educational foundation that will enable them to
12 become more employable, productive, and self-sufficient
13 citizens.

14 (b) It is further intended that educational
15 opportunities be available for adults who have earned a
16 diploma or high school equivalency diploma but who lack the
17 basic skills necessary to function effectively in everyday
18 situations, to enter the job market, or to enter technical
19 certificate instruction.

20 (2) The adult education program must provide academic
21 services to students in the following priority:

22 (a) Students who demonstrate skills at less than a
23 fifth grade level, as measured by tests approved for this
24 purpose by the State Board of Education, and who are studying
25 to achieve basic literacy.

26 (b) Students who demonstrate skills at the fifth grade
27 level or higher, but below the ninth grade level, as measured
28 by tests approved for this purpose by the State Board of
29 Education, and who are studying to achieve functional
30 literacy.

31

1 (c) Students who are earning credit required for a
2 high school diploma or who are preparing for the general
3 educational development test.

4 (d) Students who have earned high school diplomas and
5 require specific improvement in order to:

6 1. Obtain or maintain employment or benefit from
7 certificate technical education programs;

8 2. Pursue a postsecondary degree; or

9 3. Develop competence in the English language to
10 qualify for employment.

11 (e) Students who enroll in lifelong learning courses
12 or activities that seek to address community social and
13 economic issues that consist of health and human relations,
14 government, parenting, consumer economics, and senior
15 citizens.

16 (f) Students who enroll in courses that relate to the
17 recreational or leisure pursuits of the students. The cost of
18 courses conducted pursuant to this paragraph shall be borne by
19 the enrollees.

20 (3)(a) Each district school board or community college
21 board of trustees shall negotiate with the regional workforce
22 board for basic and functional literacy skills assessments for
23 participants in the welfare transition employment and training
24 programs. Such assessments shall be conducted at a site
25 mutually acceptable to the district school board or community
26 college board of trustees and the regional workforce board.

27 (b) State employees who are employed in local or
28 regional offices of state agencies shall inform clients of the
29 availability of adult basic and secondary programs in the
30 region. The identities of clients who do not possess high
31 school diplomas or who demonstrate skills below the level of

1 functional literacy shall be conveyed, with their consent, to
2 the local school district or community college, or both.

3 (c) To the extent funds are available, the Department
4 of Children and Family Services shall provide for day care and
5 transportation services to clients who enroll in adult basic
6 education programs.

7 (4)(a) Adult general education shall be evaluated and
8 funded as provided in s. 1011.80.

9 (b) Fees adult basic instruction are to be charged in
10 accordance with chapter 1009.

11 (c) The State Board of Education shall define, by
12 rule, the levels and courses of instruction to be funded
13 through the college-preparatory program. The state board shall
14 coordinate the establishment of costs for college-preparatory
15 courses, the establishment of statewide standards that define
16 required levels of competence, acceptable rates of student
17 progress, and the maximum amount of time to be allowed for
18 completion of college-preparatory instruction.

19 College-preparatory instruction is part of an associate in
20 arts degree program and may not be funded as an adult and
21 technical education program.

22 (d) Expenditures for college-preparatory and lifelong
23 learning students shall be reported separately. Allocations
24 for college-preparatory courses shall be based on proportional
25 full-time equivalent enrollment. Program review results shall
26 be included in the determination of subsequent allocations. A
27 student shall be funded to enroll in the same
28 college-preparatory class within a skill area only twice,
29 after which time the student shall pay 100 percent of the full
30 cost of instruction to support the continuous enrollment of
31 that student in the same class; however, students who withdraw

1 or fail a class due to extenuating circumstances may be
2 granted an exception only once for each class, provided
3 approval is granted according to policy established by the
4 board of trustees. Each community college shall have the
5 authority to review and reduce payment for increased fees due
6 to continued enrollment in a college-preparatory class on an
7 individual basis contingent upon the student's financial
8 hardship, pursuant to definitions and fee levels established
9 by the State Board of Education. College-preparatory and
10 lifelong learning courses do not generate credit toward an
11 associate or baccalaureate degree.

12 (e) A district school board or a community college
13 board of trustees may negotiate a contract with the regional
14 workforce board for specialized services for participants in
15 the welfare transition program, beyond what is routinely
16 provided for the general public, to be funded by the regional
17 workforce board.

18 (5) If students who have been determined to be adults
19 with disabilities are enrolled in workforce development
20 programs, the funding formula must provide additional
21 incentives for their achievement of performance outputs and
22 outcomes.

23 (6) The commissioner shall recommend the level of
24 funding for public school and community college adult
25 education within the legislative budget request and make other
26 recommendations and reports considered necessary or required
27 by rules of the State Board of Education.

28 (7) Buildings, land, equipment, and other property
29 owned by a district school board or community college board of
30 trustees may be used for the conduct of the adult education
31 program. Buildings, land, equipment, and other property owned

1 or leased by cooperating public or private agencies,
2 organizations, or institutions may also be used for the
3 purposes of this section.

4 (8) The State Board of Education may adopt rules
5 necessary for the implementation of this section.

6 Section 235. Section 1004.94, Florida Statutes, is
7 created to read:

8 1004.94 Adult literacy.--

9 (1)(a) An adult, individualized literacy instruction
10 program is created for adults who possess literacy skills
11 below the ninth grade level. The purpose of the program is to
12 provide self-paced, competency-based, individualized tutorial
13 instruction. The commissioner shall administer this section in
14 coordination with community college boards of trustees, local
15 school boards, and the Division of Library and Information
16 Services of the Department of State.

17 (b) Local adult, individualized literacy instruction
18 programs may be coordinated with local public library systems
19 and with public or private nonprofit agencies, organizations,
20 or institutions. A local public library system and a public
21 or private nonprofit agency, organization, or institution may
22 use funds appropriated for the purposes of this section to
23 hire program coordinators. Such coordinators shall offer
24 training activities to volunteer tutors and oversee the
25 operation of local literacy programs. A local public library
26 system and a public or private nonprofit agency, organization,
27 or institution may also purchase student instructional
28 materials and modules that instruct tutors in the teaching of
29 basic and functional literacy and English for speakers of
30 other languages. To the extent funds are appropriated,
31 cooperating local library systems shall purchase, and make

1 available for loan, reading materials of high interest and
2 with a vocabulary appropriate for use by students who possess
3 literacy skills below the ninth grade level and students of
4 English for speakers of other languages.

5 (2)(a) The adult literacy program is intended to
6 increase adult literacy as prescribed in the agency functional
7 plan of the Department of Education. The commissioner shall
8 establish guidelines for the purpose of determining
9 achievement of this goal.

10 (b) Each participating local sponsor shall submit an
11 annual report to the commissioner which must contain
12 information to demonstrate the extent to which there has been
13 progress toward increasing the percentage of adults within the
14 service area who possess literacy skills.

15 (c) Based on the information provided from the local
16 reports, the commissioner shall develop an annual status
17 report on literacy and adult education.

18 (3) Funds appropriated for the purposes of this
19 section shall be allocated as grants for implementing adult
20 literacy programs. Such funds may not be used to supplant
21 funds used for activities that would otherwise be conducted in
22 the absence of literacy funding. A grant awarded pursuant to
23 this section may not exceed \$50,000. Priority for the use of
24 such funds shall be given to paying expenses related to the
25 instruction of volunteer tutors, including materials and the
26 salary of the program coordinator. Local sponsors may also
27 accept funds from private sources for the purposes of this
28 section.

29 (4)(a) The commissioner shall submit a state adult
30 literacy plan to the State Board of Education to serve as a
31 reference for district school boards and community colleges

1 boards of trustees to increase adult literacy in their service
2 areas as prescribed in the agency functional plan of the
3 Department of Education. The plan must include, at a minimum:
4 1. Policies and objectives for adult literacy
5 programs, including evaluative criteria.
6 2. Strategies for coordinating adult literacy
7 activities with programs and services provided by other state
8 and local nonprofit agencies, as well as strategies for
9 maximizing other funding, resources, and expertise.
10 3. Procedures for identifying, recruiting, and
11 retaining adults who possess literacy skills below the ninth
12 grade level.
13 4. Sources of relevant demographic information and
14 methods of projecting the number of adults who possess
15 literacy skills below the ninth grade level.
16 5. Acceptable methods of demonstrating compliance with
17 the provisions of this section.
18 6. Guidelines for the development and implementation
19 of local adult literacy plans. At a minimum, such guidelines
20 must address:
21 a. The recruitment and preparation of volunteer
22 tutors.
23 b. Interagency and intraagency cooperation and
24 coordination, especially with public libraries and other
25 sponsors of literacy programs.
26 c. Desirable learning environments, including class
27 size.
28 d. Program evaluation standards.
29 e. Methods for identifying, recruiting, and retaining
30 adults in literacy programs.
31

1 f. Adult literacy through family literacy and
2 workforce literacy programs.

3 (b) Every 3 years, the district school board or
4 community college board of trustees shall develop and maintain
5 a local adult literacy plan.

6 Section 236. Section 1004.95, Florida Statutes, is
7 created to read:

8 1004.95 Adult literacy centers.--

9 (1) The Commissioner of Education shall select
10 community colleges and public school districts to establish
11 and operate adult literacy centers to complement existing
12 public and private instructional adult literacy programs. The
13 centers shall identify, contact, counsel, and refer persons
14 considered to be lacking basic or functional literacy skills
15 or competencies related to prose, document, and quantitative
16 literacy skills to the appropriate private and public
17 agencies, including human service agencies. The centers may
18 not duplicate or supplant the existing services provided by
19 public and private agencies operating within the district.

20 (2) In selecting program participants, the
21 Commissioner of Education shall, at a minimum, consider the
22 extent to which:

23 (a) Cooperative arrangements with other state and
24 local agreements and innovative approaches will be used for
25 carrying out the role of the center;

26 (b) Similar services are provided within the service
27 delivery area;

28 (c) The program objectives may be accomplished within
29 the budget request;

30 (d) Provisions are made for monitoring program
31 performance; and

1 (e) Fiscal controls and fund accounting procedures
2 exist to ensure proper use of, and accounting for, the program
3 funds.

4 (3) The activities and funding of center operations
5 shall be reported in a separate and distinct manner.

6 (4) The State Board of Education shall develop rules
7 for implementing this section, including criteria for
8 evaluating the performance of the centers, and shall submit an
9 evaluation report of the centers to the Legislature on or
10 before February 1 of each year.

11 Section 237. Section 1004.96, Florida Statutes, is
12 created to read:

13 1004.96 Community education.--

14 (1) Pursuant to this section and State Board of
15 Education rule, each school board and the Board of Trustees
16 for the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind may apply to the
17 Department of Education for a community education grant. An
18 applicant shall include in the grant application a description
19 of the community education program and process through which
20 the program is developed.

21 (2) The department shall give priority to applications
22 that include:

23 (a) Centers that serve the most students within
24 available resources.

25 (b) Programs for which funds are matched by the
26 Federal Government or other nonstate sources and which are
27 appropriate within the context of community education.

28 (c) Programs that provide before-school and
29 after-school activities for children.

30 Section 238. Section 1004.97, Florida Statutes, is
31 created to read:

1 1004.97 Florida Literacy Corps.--
2 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature that eligible
3 postsecondary students be offered an opportunity to perform
4 public service by serving as volunteer tutors for adults who
5 do not possess basic or functional literacy skills.
6 (2) There is created a Florida Literacy Corps to be
7 administered by the Department of Education pursuant to this
8 section and rules of the State Board of Education.
9 Participating students earn college credit for tutoring adults
10 who do not possess basic or functional literacy skills
11 pursuant to an agreement between the institution in which the
12 student is enrolled and the district school board, community
13 college board of trustees, public library, or nonprofit
14 organization offering literacy instruction to adults pursuant
15 to s. 1004.94. The district school board, community college
16 board of trustees, public library, or nonprofit organization
17 is solely responsible for providing literacy programs and
18 instructing participating postsecondary students.
19 (3) In order to be eligible to participate in the
20 Florida Literacy Corps, a student must:
21 (a) Be enrolled in an eligible state university or
22 community college at least half time and be in good standing,
23 as defined by the institution.
24 (b) Have completed at least 12 semester hours of
25 college-level coursework that applies toward an associate in
26 arts or baccalaureate degree.
27 (c) Have attained a passing score on one of the
28 postsecondary entry-level examinations approved pursuant to
29 State Board of Education rule, be exempt from the
30 administration of such examination, or have successfully
31 completed any required college-preparatory instruction.

1 (4) In order to be eligible to participate in the
2 Florida Literacy Corps, a state university or community
3 college must:

4 (a) Establish one or more undergraduate or graduate
5 courses, or both, in which participating students may earn a
6 maximum of 3 credit hours per semester, and a maximum of 6
7 credit hours over two or more semesters, by tutoring adults
8 who do not possess basic or functional literacy skills. The
9 institution shall establish such courses in the common course
10 designation and numbering system. The courses must require
11 students to complete instruction for prospective tutors, tutor
12 adults for at least 25 hours per semester for each hour of
13 credit awarded, and satisfy any other requirements imposed by
14 the institution.

15 (b) Submit a proposal to the Department of Education
16 for review and approval. The proposal must include, but is not
17 limited to:

18 1. Identification of the school district, community
19 college, public library, or nonprofit organization with which
20 participating students will be working.

21 2. Demonstration of the need for literacy tutors by
22 the school district, community college, public library, or
23 nonprofit organization.

24 3. Demonstration of commitment by the public school,
25 community college, public library, or nonprofit organization
26 to provide instruction for tutors.

27 4. Description of the literacy program.

28 5. Demonstration of student interest in program
29 participation.

30
31

1 6. Designation of one or more faculty to conduct the
2 Florida Literacy Corps course and identification of the
3 qualifications of such faculty.

4 (5) From funds appropriated for the purposes of this
5 section, the department shall allocate an amount for each
6 approved proposal based on the number of students approved for
7 enrollment and subsequently enrolled in Florida Literacy Corps
8 courses.

9 (6) Each participating state university and community
10 college shall submit an annual report to the Commissioner of
11 Education which includes, but is not limited to:

12 (a) The number of hours of tutoring conducted by
13 participating students.

14 (b) The number of students enrolled in the courses.

15 (c) The number of students who successfully complete
16 the courses.

17 (d) An evaluation of the tutors' effectiveness as
18 judged by the participating school district, community
19 college, public library, or nonprofit organization. The
20 department shall develop a common evaluation form for this
21 purpose.

22 (e) The number of full-time equivalent enrollments
23 generated by the participating students.

24 (7) The department shall compile the annual reports
25 into a single, annual programmatic report to be submitted to
26 the State Board of Education by December 1 of each year.

27 Section 239. Section 1004.98, Florida Statutes, is
28 created to read:

29 1004.98 Workforce literacy programs.--

30 (1) The workforce literacy program is established
31 within the community colleges and school districts to ensure

1 the existence of sufficient numbers of employees who possess
2 the skills necessary to perform in entry-level occupations and
3 to adapt to technological advances in the workplace.

4 Workforce literacy programs are intended to support economic
5 development by increasing adult literacy and producing an
6 educated workforce.

7 (2) Each community college and school district may
8 conduct courses and programs through which adults gain the
9 communication and computation skills necessary to complete a
10 career and technical program, to gain or maintain entry-level
11 employment, or to upgrade employment. Courses may not be
12 conducted until the community college or school district
13 identifies current and prospective employees who do not
14 possess the skills necessary to enter career and technical
15 programs or to obtain or maintain employment.

16 (3) A community college or school district may be
17 eligible to fund a workforce literacy program pursuant to the
18 provisions of s. 1004.94.

19 Section 240. Chapter 1005, Florida Statutes, shall be
20 entitled "Nonpublic Postsecondary Education" and shall consist
21 of ss. 1005.01-1005.39.

22 Section 241. Part I of chapter 1005, Florida Statutes,
23 shall be entitled "General Provisions" and shall consist of
24 ss. 1005.01-1005.06.

25 Section 242. Section 1005.01, Florida Statutes, is
26 created to read:

27 1005.01 Purpose.--

28 (1) The Legislature encourages privately supported
29 higher education and intends to aid in protecting the health,
30 education, and welfare of persons who receive educational
31 services from independent postsecondary educational

1 institutions in this state; to aid in protecting employers and
2 others who depend upon people whose educational credentials
3 are from independent postsecondary educational institutions in
4 this state; and to aid in protecting independent postsecondary
5 educational institutions that currently operate or intend to
6 begin operating in this state. The Legislature finds that both
7 individuals and independent postsecondary educational
8 institutions benefit from a state system that assures that all
9 institutions satisfactorily meet minimum educational
10 standards. The Legislature further recognizes the role of
11 federally recognized accrediting associations in setting
12 standards for independent postsecondary educational
13 institutions and encourages the use of recognized
14 accreditation standards as general guidelines for the
15 licensure of independent postsecondary educational
16 institutions.

17 (2) The Legislature recognizes that a degree, diploma,
18 or other educational credential serves several purposes.
19 Employers rely upon a person's educational credentials in
20 judging that person's qualifications for employment. Educators
21 rely upon a person's educational credentials to assess the
22 adequacy of that person's preparation for the pursuit of
23 further education. Therefore, the Legislature intends that the
24 provisions of this chapter aid in protecting the integrity of
25 degrees, diplomas, and other educational credentials offered
26 by independent postsecondary educational institutions by
27 providing for the evaluation of minimum educational
28 requirements.

29 (3) The Legislature intends to prohibit the granting
30 of false or misleading educational credentials and to prohibit
31 misleading literature, advertising, solicitation, or

1 representations by independent postsecondary educational
2 institutions or their agents.

3 Section 243. Section 1005.02, Florida Statutes, is
4 created to read:

5 1005.02 Definitions.--As used in this chapter, the
6 term:

7 (1) "Accreditation" means accredited status awarded to
8 an institution by an accrediting agency or association that is
9 recognized by the United States Department of Education and
10 that has standards comparable to the minimum standards
11 required to operate an educational institution at that level
12 in this state.

13 (2) "Agent" means a person who is employed by an
14 independent postsecondary educational institution under the
15 jurisdiction of the Commission for Independent Education, or
16 by an out-of-state independent postsecondary educational
17 institution, and who secures an application or accepts payment
18 of fees from prospective students for the institution at any
19 place other than the legal place of business of the
20 institution.

21 (3) "Avocational" means a course or program the
22 objective of which is not occupational but is only for
23 personal enrichment or enjoyment. To be classified as
24 avocational, a program must:

25 (a) Prior to enrollment, provide to each enrollee, and
26 maintain a record copy of, a written statement that includes
27 the following or substantially similar language: "This program
28 is not designed or intended to qualify its participants and
29 graduates for employment. It is intended solely for the
30 avocation, personal enrichment, and enjoyment of its
31 participants."

1 (b) Not make any other verbal or written statement
2 that negates the required written statement by stating or
3 implying that people who enroll in or complete the program
4 have a more substantial likelihood of obtaining employment in
5 the field to which the training pertains than people who do
6 not.

7 (4) "College" or "university" means any incorporated
8 postsecondary educational entity, and its additional
9 locations, offering a substantially complete program that
10 confers or offers to confer at least an associate degree
11 requiring at least 15 semester hours or the equivalent of
12 general education, or that furnishes or offers to furnish
13 instruction leading toward, or prerequisite to, college
14 credit. The terms include any college-credit-granting
15 independent educational institution that is chartered in this
16 state and any center or branch campus within this state of an
17 out-of-state institution at the college-credit level.

18 (5) "Commission" means the Commission for Independent
19 Education.

20 (6) "Contract training" means instruction or training
21 provided through a written contract with an independent
22 contractor whose fees and any other charges are entirely paid
23 by a company, trade or professional association, or group of
24 employers to provide the instruction exclusively to bona fide
25 employees of the entity that engaged the contractor. The term
26 applies only when those receiving training are selected by
27 their employer and are not recruited by the contractor.

28 (7) "Degree" means any educational credential that is
29 generally taken to signify satisfactory completion of the
30 requirements of an undergraduate, graduate, academic,
31 educational, or professional program of study or any honorary

1 credential conferred for meritorious recognition. At the
2 undergraduate level, an institution may not award a degree for
3 a program unless it includes a general education component as
4 established by rule and at least 60 semester hours or 90
5 quarter hours of study or the equivalent.

6 (8) "Diploma" means a credential that is not a degree
7 but is any of the following: a certificate, transcript,
8 report, document, or title; a designation, mark, or
9 appellation; or a series of letters, numbers, or words that
10 generally are taken to signify satisfactory completion of the
11 requirements of an educational, technical, or career program
12 of study or training or course of study.

13 (9) "Examination preparation course" means a course or
14 program that does not offer to confer a diploma, that is
15 offered by a person or entity that discloses in all
16 advertising that the course or program is for test
17 preparation, and that does not include any expression or
18 implication in writing or orally regarding salaries, job
19 placement, or career advancement.

20 (10) "Governmental" means an institution provided,
21 operated, and supported by a federal, state, or county
22 government or any of its political subdivisions.

23 (11) "Independent postsecondary educational
24 institution" means any postsecondary educational institution
25 that operates in this state or makes application to operate in
26 this state, and is not provided, operated, and supported by
27 the State of Florida, its political subdivisions, or the
28 Federal Government.

29 (12) "In-service, continuing education, or
30 professional development" means training provided by:

31

1 (a) A trade or professional association or a group of
2 employers in the same or related business who offer training
3 and provide only professional-development programs to bona
4 fide employees or contractors of an employer who is a member
5 of the association or employers who qualify for membership;

6 (b) A labor union or group of labor unions that offer
7 training to and trains only those persons who are dues-paying
8 members of the participating labor union;

9 (c) An independent contractor engaged by the labor
10 union or group of labor unions, by written contract, to
11 provide the training on its behalf exclusively to those who
12 are selected by the labor union or group of labor unions that
13 engaged the contractor and who are dues-paying members of that
14 union; or

15 (d) A person or entity offering only
16 continuing-education programs to persons who engage in an
17 occupation or profession whose practitioners are subject to
18 licensure, certification, or registration by a state agency
19 that recognizes the programs for continuing-education purposes
20 and provides a written statement of the recognition.

21 (13) "License" means a certificate signifying that an
22 independent postsecondary educational institution meets
23 standards prescribed in statute or rule and is permitted to
24 operate in this state.

25 (14) "Operating in this state" means any of the
26 following:

27 (a) Maintaining for any purpose related to offering a
28 degree, diploma, or credit a physical location in this state,
29 a mailing address in this state, a telephone or facsimile
30 number in this state, or a mail forwarding service or
31

1 telephone answering or relay service in this state or
2 advertising any such presence; or
3 (b) By any means or device, facilitating in this state
4 any part of a scheme to offer a degree, diploma, or credit, or
5 any activity connected with the administration, promotion,
6 recruitment, placement, instruction, fee collection or
7 receipt, or any other function of a purported independent
8 postsecondary educational institution, other than periodic and
9 customary contact with the institution's own alumni.
10 (15) "Out-of-state college" or "out-of-state school"
11 means any independent postsecondary educational institution
12 where the place of instruction, the legal place of residence,
13 or the place of evaluation of instruction or work by
14 correspondence or distance education is not within the legal
15 boundaries of this state.
16 (16) "School" means any nonpublic postsecondary
17 noncollegiate educational institution, association,
18 corporation, person, partnership, or organization of any type
19 which:
20 (a) Offers to provide or provides any complete, or
21 substantially complete, postsecondary program of instruction
22 through the student's personal attendance; in the presence of
23 an instructor; in a classroom, clinical, or other practicum
24 setting; or through correspondence or other distance
25 education;
26 (b) Represents, directly or by implication, that the
27 instruction will qualify the student for employment in an
28 occupation for which a degree is not required in order to
29 practice in this state;
30
31

1 (c) Receives remuneration from the student or any
2 other source based on the enrollment of a student or the
3 number of students enrolled; or
4 (d) Offers to award or awards a diploma, regardless of
5 whether it conducts instruction or receives remuneration.
6 Section 244. Section 1005.03, Florida Statutes, is
7 created to read:
8 1005.03 Designation "college" or "university".--
9 (1) The use of the designation "college" or
10 "university" in combination with any series of letters,
11 numbers, or words is restricted in this state to colleges or
12 universities as defined in s. 1005.02 that offer degrees as
13 defined in s. 1005.02 and fall into at least one of the
14 following categories:
15 (a) A Florida public college.
16 (b) A Florida or out-of-state college that has been in
17 active operation and using the designation "college" or
18 "university" since April 1, 1970.
19 (c) A college for which the commission has issued a
20 license pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.
21 (d) A college that is under the jurisdiction of the
22 Division of Colleges and Universities of the Department of
23 Education, whose students are eligible for the William L.
24 Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant, and that is a
25 nonprofit independent college or university located and
26 chartered in this state and accredited by the Commission on
27 Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
28 to grant baccalaureate degrees.
29 (e) A college that meets the description of either s.
30 1005.06(1)(e) or s. 1005.06(1)(f).
31

1 (2) If a college is approved under subsection (1) to
2 use the designation "college" or "university," a branch or
3 extension of that college may use the name of the parent
4 college, but shall include an indication of the location of
5 the branch or extension.

6 (3) Any entity offering postsecondary educational
7 courses or programs of study in Florida, whether or not
8 college credit is awarded, shall be subject to the provisions
9 of this section.

10 (4) An entity shall not use the destination "college"
11 or "university" in its name in Florida without approval by the
12 commission, unless the commission determines that its name is
13 clearly and accurately descriptive of the services provided by
14 the entity and is not one that may mislead the public.

15 Section 245. Section 1005.04, Florida Statutes, is
16 created to read:

17 1005.04 Fair consumer practices.--

18 (1) Every institution that is under the jurisdiction
19 of the commission or is exempt from the jurisdiction or
20 purview of the commission pursuant to s. 1005.06(1)(c) or
21 (1)(f) and that either directly or indirectly solicits for
22 enrollment any student shall:

23 (a) Disclose to each prospective student a statement
24 of the purpose of such college, its educational programs and
25 curricula, a description of its physical facilities, its
26 status regarding licensure, its fee schedule and policies
27 regarding retaining student fees if a student withdraws, and a
28 statement regarding the transferability of credits to and from
29 other colleges. The college shall make the required
30 disclosures in writing at least 1 week prior to enrollment or
31 collection of any tuition from the prospective student. The

1 required disclosures may be made in the institution's current
2 catalog.
3 (b) Use a reliable method to assess, before accepting
4 a student into a program, the student's ability to complete
5 successfully the course of study for which he or she has
6 applied;
7 (c) Inform each student accurately about financial
8 assistance and obligations for repayment of loans; describe
9 any employment placement services provided and the limitations
10 thereof; and refrain from promising or implying guaranteed
11 placement, market availability, or salary amounts;
12 (d) Provide to prospective and enrolled students
13 accurate information regarding the relationship of its
14 programs to state licensure requirements for practicing
15 related occupations and professions in Florida;
16 (e) Ensure that all advertisements are accurate and
17 not misleading;
18 (f) Publish and follow an equitable prorated refund
19 policy for all students, and follow both the federal refund
20 guidelines for students receiving federal financial assistance
21 and the minimum refund guidelines set by commission rule;
22 (g) Follow the requirements of state and federal laws
23 that require annual reporting with respect to crime statistics
24 and physical plant safety and make those reports available to
25 the public; and
26 (h) Publish and follow procedures for handling student
27 complaints, disciplinary actions, and appeals.
28 (2) In addition, colleges that are required to be
29 licensed by the commission shall disclose to prospective
30 students that additional information regarding the college may
31

1 be obtained by contacting the Commission for Independent
2 Education, Department of Education, Tallahassee.

3 Section 246. Section 1005.05, Florida Statutes, is
4 created to read:

5 1005.05 Certificate and diploma programs.--No
6 nonpublic college shall continue to conduct or begin to
7 conduct any diploma program as defined in s. 1005.02, unless
8 the college applies for and obtains approval for such program.
9 Colleges under the jurisdiction of the Commission for
10 Independent Education shall apply to the commission. Colleges
11 that are not under the jurisdiction of the commission shall
12 apply to the Department of Education.

13 Section 247. Section 1005.06, Florida Statutes, is
14 created to read:

15 1005.06 Institutions not under the jurisdiction or
16 purview of the commission.--

17 (1) Except as otherwise provided in law, the following
18 institutions are not under the jurisdiction or purview of the
19 commission and are not required to obtain licensure:

20 (a) Any postsecondary educational institution
21 provided, operated, or supported by this state, its political
22 subdivisions, or the Federal Government.

23 (b) Any college, school, or course licensed or
24 approved for establishment and operation under part I of
25 chapter 464, chapter 466, or chapter 475, or any other chapter
26 of the Florida Statutes requiring licensing or approval as
27 defined in this chapter.

28 (c) Any institution that is under the jurisdiction of
29 the Division of Colleges and Universities of the Department of
30 Education, whose students are eligible for the William L.
31 Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant, and that is a

1 nonprofit independent college or university located and
2 chartered in this state and accredited by the Commission on
3 Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
4 to grant baccalaureate degrees.

5 (d) Any institution that offers only avocational
6 programs or courses, examination preparation programs or
7 courses, contract training programs or courses, continuing
8 education, or professional development programs or courses.

9 (e) Any institution that was exempt from licensure in
10 2001 under s. 246.085(1)(b), Florida Statutes 2001, as long as
11 it maintains these qualifying criteria: the institution is
12 incorporated in this state, the institution's credits or
13 degrees are accepted for credit by at least three colleges
14 that are fully accredited by an agency recognized by the
15 United States Department of Education, the institution was
16 exempt under that category prior to July 1, 1982, and the
17 institution does not enroll any students who receive state or
18 federal financial aid for education. Such an institution shall
19 notify the commission and apply for licensure if it no longer
20 meets these criteria.

21 (f) A religious college may operate without
22 governmental oversight if the college annually verifies by
23 sworn affidavit to the commission that:

24 1. The name of the institution includes a religious
25 modifier or the name of a religious patriarch, saint, person,
26 or symbol of the church.

27 2. The institution offers only educational programs
28 that prepare students for religious vocations as ministers,
29 professionals, or laypersons in the categories of ministry,
30 counseling, theology, education, administration, music, fine
31 arts, media communications, or social work.

1 3. The titles of degrees issued by the institution
2 cannot be confused with secular degree titles. For this
3 purpose, each degree title must include a religious modifier
4 that immediately precedes, or is included within, any of the
5 following degrees: Associate of Arts, Associate of Science,
6 Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Master of Arts, Master
7 of Science, Doctor of Philosophy, and Doctor of Education. The
8 religious modifier must be placed on the title line of the
9 degree, on the transcript, and whenever the title of the
10 degree appears in official school documents or publications.

11 4. The duration of all degree programs offered by the
12 institution is consistent with the standards of the
13 commission.

14 5. The institution's consumer practices are consistent
15 with those required by s. 1005.04.

16
17 The commission may provide such a religious institution a
18 letter stating that the institution has met the requirements
19 of state law and is not subject to governmental oversight.

20 (g) Any institution that is regulated by the Federal
21 Aviation Administration, another agency of the Federal
22 Government, or an agency of the state whose regulatory laws
23 are similar in nature and purpose to those of the commission
24 and require minimum educational standards, for at least
25 curriculum, instructors, and academic progress and provide
26 protection against fraudulent, deceptive, and substandard
27 education practices.

28 (2) The Department of Education may contract with the
29 Commission on Independent Education to provide services for
30 independent postsecondary educational institutions not under
31 the jurisdiction of the commission relating to licensure of

1 postsecondary technical certificate and diploma programs that
2 such institutions may wish to offer and preliminary review of
3 programs such institutions may wish to offer which are beyond
4 the scope of the institutions's current accreditation status.
5 Upon completion of its review, the commission shall forward
6 its recommendation to the department for final action. The
7 department shall assess the institution seeking such services
8 the cost to the commission of providing such services.
9 Revenues collected pursuant to this provision shall be
10 deposited in the Institutional Assessment Trust Fund.

11 Section 248. Part II of chapter 1005, Florida
12 Statutes, shall be entitled "Commission for Independent
13 Education" and shall consist of ss. 1005.21-1005.22.

14 Section 249. Section 1005.21, Florida Statutes, is
15 created to read:

16 1005.21 Commission for Independent Education.--

17 (1) There is established in the Department of
18 Education the Commission for Independent Education. The
19 department shall serve as the administrative agent of the
20 commission by providing services, including payroll,
21 procurement, and legal counsel. The commission shall exercise
22 independently all powers, duties, and functions prescribed by
23 law. The commission shall authorize the granting of diplomas
24 and degrees by any independent postsecondary educational
25 institution under its jurisdiction.

26 (2) The Commission for Independent Education shall
27 consist of seven members who are residents of this state. The
28 commission shall function in matters concerning independent
29 postsecondary educational institutions in consumer protection,
30 program improvement, and licensure for institutions under its
31 purview. The Governor shall appoint the members of the

1 commission who are subject to confirmation by the Senate. The
2 membership of the commission shall consist of:

3 (a) Two representatives of independent colleges or
4 universities licensed by the commission.

5 (b) Two representatives of independent,
6 nondegree-granting schools licensed by the commission.

7 (c) One member from a public school district or
8 community college who is an administrator of career and
9 technical education.

10 (d) One representative of a college that meets the
11 criteria of s. 1005.06(1)(f).

12 (e) One lay member who is not affiliated with an
13 independent postsecondary educational institution.

14 (3) The members of the commission shall be appointed
15 to 3-year terms and until their successors are appointed and
16 qualified. If a vacancy on the commission occurs before the
17 expiration of a term, the Governor shall appoint a successor
18 to serve the unexpired portion of the term.

19 (4) The commission shall meet at least four times each
20 fiscal year.

21 (5) Members of the commission are entitled to
22 reimbursement for travel and per diem expenses, as provided in
23 s. 112.061, while performing their duties.

24 (6) Each member is accountable to the Governor for the
25 proper performance of the duties of his or her office. The
26 Governor may remove from office any member for cause.

27 Section 250. Section 1005.22, Florida Statutes, is
28 created to read:

29 1005.22 Powers and duties of commission.--

30 (1) The commission shall:
31

1 (a) Hold meetings as necessary to administer its
2 duties.

3 (b) Annually select a chairperson and a vice
4 chairperson, appoint and review an executive director, and
5 authorize the executive director to appoint employees of the
6 commission.

7 (c) Adopt and use an official seal in the
8 authentication of its acts.

9 (d) Make rules for its own governance.

10 (e) Administer the provisions of this chapter. To this
11 end, the commission has the following administrative powers
12 and responsibilities:

13 1. The commission shall adopt rules pursuant to ss.
14 120.536(1) and 120.54 for the operation and establishment of
15 independent postsecondary educational institutions. The
16 commission shall submit the rules to the State Board of
17 Education for approval or disapproval. If the state board does
18 not act on a rule within 60 days after receiving it, the rule
19 shall be filed immediately with the Department of State.

20 2. The commission shall submit an annual budget to the
21 State Board of Education.

22 3. The commission shall transmit all fees, donations,
23 and other receipts of money to the Institutional Assessment
24 Trust Fund.

25 4. The commission shall expend funds as necessary to
26 assist in the application and enforcement of its powers and
27 duties. The Chief Financial Officer shall pay out all moneys
28 and funds as directed under this chapter upon vouchers
29 approved by the Department of Education for all lawful
30 purposes necessary to administering this chapter. The
31 commission shall make annual reports to the State Board of

1 Education showing in detail amounts received and all
2 expenditures. The commission shall include in its annual
3 report to the State Board of Education a statement of its
4 major activities during the period covered by the report.
5 (f) Maintain a record of its proceedings.
6 (g) Cooperate with other state and federal agencies
7 and other nongovernmental agencies in administering its
8 duties.
9 (h) Cause to be investigated criminal justice
10 information, as defined in s. 943.045, for each owner,
11 administrator, and agent employed by an institution applying
12 for licensure from the commission.
13 (i) Serve as a central agency for collecting and
14 distributing current information regarding institutions
15 licensed by the commission.
16 (j) Inform independent postsecondary educational
17 institutions of laws adopted by the Legislature and rules
18 adopted by the State Board of Education and the commission and
19 of their responsibility to follow those laws and rules.
20 (k) Establish and publicize the procedures for
21 receiving and responding to complaints from students, faculty,
22 and others concerning institutions or programs under the
23 purview of the commission, and keep records of such complaints
24 in order to determine the frequency and nature of complaints
25 with respect to specific institutions of higher education.
26 (l) Provide annually to the Office of Student
27 Financial Assistance of the Department of Education
28 information and documentation that can be used to determine an
29 institution's eligibility to participate in state student
30 financial assistance programs.
31

1 (m) Coordinate and convey annual reports to the
2 Commissioner of Education relating to campus crime statistics,
3 the assessment of physical plant safety, and the antihazing
4 policies of nonpublic postsecondary educational institutions
5 eligible to receive state-funded student assistance, as
6 required by law.

7 (n) Identify and report to the Office of Student
8 Financial Assistance the accrediting associations recognized
9 by the United States Department of Education which have
10 standards that are comparable to the minimum standards
11 required to operate an institution at that level in this
12 state.

13 (o) Assure that an institution is not required to
14 operate without a current license because of the schedule of
15 commission meetings or application procedures, if the
16 institution has met the commission's requirements for
17 licensure or license renewal.

18 (2) The commission may:

19 (a) Sue or be sued.

20 (b) Enter into contracts with the Federal Government,
21 with other departments of the state, or with individuals.

22 (c) Receive bequests and gifts, subject to any
23 restrictions upon which the commission and the donor agree.

24 (d) Appoint standing or special committees to assist
25 it in carrying out its responsibilities. Committees may
26 include members who are not commission members or
27 representatives of licensed postsecondary institutions.

28 (e) Advise the Governor, the Legislature, the State
29 Board of Education, the Council for Education Policy Research
30 and Improvement, and the Commissioner of Education on issues
31 relating to private postsecondary education.

1 (f) Delegate to the chairperson of the commission the
2 responsibility for signing final orders.

3 (g) Assist independent postsecondary educational
4 institutions in formulating articulation agreements with
5 public and other independent institutions.

6 (h) Establish and operate additional offices in the
7 central and southern part of the state if the concentration of
8 licensed institutions renders such an office economically
9 feasible.

10 (i) Establish and administer the Student Protection
11 Fund pursuant to s. 1005.37.

12 Section 251. Part III of chapter 1005, Florida
13 Statutes, shall be entitled "Licensure of Nonpublic
14 Postsecondary Educational Institutions" and shall consist of
15 ss. 1005.31-1005.39.

16 Section 252. Section 1005.31, Florida Statutes, is
17 created to read:

18 1005.31 Licensure of institutions.--

19 (1) Each college or school operating within this state
20 must obtain licensure from the commission unless the
21 institution is not under the commission's purview or
22 jurisdiction as provided in s. 1005.06.

23 (2) The commission shall develop minimum standards by
24 which to evaluate institutions for licensure. These standards
25 must include at least the institution's name, financial
26 stability, purpose, administrative organization, admissions
27 and recruitment, educational programs and curricula,
28 retention, completion, career placement, faculty, learning
29 resources, student personnel services, physical plant and
30 facilities, publications, and disclosure statements about the
31 status of the institution with respect to professional

1 certification and licensure. The commission may adopt rules to
2 ensure that institutions licensed under this section meet
3 these standards in ways that are appropriate to achieve the
4 stated intent of this chapter, including provisions for
5 nontraditional or distance education programs and delivery.

6 (3) The commission shall recognize an institution
7 based on the institution's highest educational offering and
8 shall adopt rules for licensure that include reporting
9 requirements for each level of licensure.

10 (4) Approved-applicant status shall be extended to all
11 institutions that have submitted a complete application, as
12 defined in rule, for provisional licensure and paid all
13 attendant fees. In granting approved-applicant status, the
14 commission shall provide to commission staff and the
15 institution a list of specific omissions or deficiencies.
16 Institutions granted approved-applicant status may not
17 advertise, offer programs of study, collect tuition or fees,
18 or engage in any other activities not specifically approved by
19 the commission. If the commission, or the commission staff if
20 specifically directed by the commission, determines that the
21 omissions or deficiencies have been provided for or corrected,
22 the institution may be awarded a provisional license.

23 (5) Provisional licensure shall be granted to an
24 applicant for initial licensure for a period not to exceed 1
25 year when the commission determines that the applicant is in
26 substantial compliance with the standards for licensure. A
27 provisional license granted for initial licensure may be
28 extended for up to 1 additional year. A licensed institution
29 that has undergone a substantive change, as defined by rule,
30 must be granted a provisional license for a period of time
31 determined by the commission, after which period the

1 institution may apply for a different status. A provisional
2 license may include conditions required by the commission, and
3 all conditions must be met before the institution may receive
4 a different licensure status.

5 (6) An annual license shall be granted to an
6 institution holding a provisional license, or seeking a
7 renewal of an annual license, upon demonstrating full
8 compliance with licensure standards. An annual license may be
9 extended for up to 1 year if the institution meets the
10 requirements set by rule for such an extension.

11 (7) An institution may not conduct a program unless
12 specific authority is granted in its license.

13 (8) A license granted by the commission is not
14 transferable to another institution or to another agent, and
15 an institution's license does not transfer when the
16 institution's ownership changes.

17 (a) A licensed institution must notify the commission
18 prior to a change of ownership or control. The commission
19 shall adopt procedures for interim executive approval of a
20 change of ownership or control if the next scheduled meeting
21 of the commission occurs after the scheduled date of the
22 change of ownership or control.

23 (b) The commission may adopt rules governing changes
24 of ownership or control.

25 (9) An independent postsecondary educational
26 institution or any person acting on behalf of such an
27 institution may not publish any advertisement soliciting
28 students or offering a credential before the institution is
29 duly licensed by the commission or while the institution is
30 under an injunction against operating, soliciting students, or
31 offering an educational credential.

1 (10) The commission shall establish minimum standards
2 for the approval of agents. The commission may adopt rules to
3 ensure that licensed agents meet these standards and uphold
4 the intent of this chapter. An agent may not solicit
5 prospective students in this state for enrollment in any
6 independent postsecondary educational institution under the
7 commission's purview or in any out-of-state independent
8 postsecondary educational institution unless the agent has
9 received a license as prescribed by the commission.

10 (11) A student of a foreign medical school may not
11 engage in a clinical clerkship in this state unless the
12 foreign medical school has received a license, in the case of
13 a core clerkship or an ongoing regular program of clerkships,
14 or has received individual approval, in the case of an
15 occasional elective clerkship. The commission may adopt rules
16 to administer this subsection.

17 (12) The granting of a license is not an
18 accreditation.

19 (13) As a condition of licensure, an independent
20 college or university must provide the commission with a copy
21 of its antihazing policy.

22 Section 253. Section 1005.32, Florida Statutes, is
23 created to read:

24 1005.32 Licensure by means of accreditation.--

25 (1) An independent postsecondary educational
26 institution that meets the following criteria may apply for a
27 license by means of accreditation from the commission:

28 (a) The institution has operated legally in this state
29 for at least 5 consecutive years.

30 (b) The institution holds institutional accreditation
31 by an accrediting agency evaluated and approved by the

1 commission as having standards substantially equivalent to the
2 commission's licensure standards.

3 (c) The institution has no unresolved complaints or
4 actions in the past 12 months.

5 (d) The institution meets minimum requirements for
6 financial responsibility as determined by the commission.

7 (e) The institution is a Florida corporation.

8 (2) An institution that was exempt from licensure in
9 2001 under s. 246.085(1)(a), Florida Statutes 2001, may retain
10 an exemption until the commission issues it a license by means
11 of accreditation as provided in this section.

12 (3) The commission may not require an institution
13 granted a license by means of accreditation to submit reports
14 that differ from the reports required by its accrediting
15 association, except that each institution must file with the
16 commission an annual audit and follow the commission's
17 requirements for orderly closing, including provisions for
18 trainout or refunds and arranging for the proper disposition
19 of student and institutional records.

20 (4) An institution granted a license by means of
21 accreditation must apply for and receive another level of
22 licensure before the institution may offer courses or programs
23 that exceed the scope or level of its accreditation.

24 (5) Institutions granted a license by means of
25 accreditation must comply with the standards of fair consumer
26 practices as established in rule by the commission.

27 (6) A license by means of accreditation is valid for
28 the same period as the qualifying grant of accreditation.

29 (7) A license by means of accreditation may be denied,
30 placed on probation, or revoked for repeated failure to comply
31 with the requirements of this section. The commission shall

1 adopt rules for these actions. Revocation or denial of a
2 license by means of accreditation requires that the
3 institution immediately obtain an annual license.

4 Section 254. Section 1005.33, Florida Statutes, is
5 created to read:

6 1005.33 License period and renewal.--

7 (1) As required by rule, the commission shall
8 periodically review each license to determine if the
9 institution is in compliance with this chapter and should have
10 its license renewed. The commission may extend an annual or
11 provisional license if a good-faith effort has been made by
12 the institution and agent. The commission shall determine what
13 constitutes compliance or a good-faith effort and may adopt
14 rules to administer this section.

15 (2) A licensed independent postsecondary educational
16 institution that seeks to expand or modify its programs or
17 degrees to be conferred or to add new locations must seek
18 prior approval from the commission. The commission shall adopt
19 rules for the approval of modified or additional programs,
20 degrees, and locations.

21 (3) On the effective date of this act, an institution
22 that, in 2002, held the status of "Permission to Operate"
23 under s. 246.093, Florida Statutes 2001, has 90 days to seek
24 and obtain licensure from the commission. Ninety days after
25 this act takes effect, that status no longer authorizes an
26 institution to operate in Florida.

27 Section 255. Section 1005.34, Florida Statutes, is
28 created to read:

29 1005.34 Fair consumer practices; condition of
30 operation.--The commission shall adopt rules to ensure the
31

1 protection of students, including rules establishing fair
2 consumer practices pursuant to s. 1005.04.

3 (1) The commission may not grant or renew a license
4 unless the institution seeking the action provides the
5 commission with a sworn statement of compliance with rules
6 regarding fair consumer practices.

7 (2) The commission may examine any complaint against
8 an institution under its jurisdiction and, if the institution
9 is found to be routinely handling these matters correctly, the
10 complaint shall be considered closed. Complaints under this
11 subsection against accredited institutions, if not resolved,
12 shall be forwarded to the accrediting agency for any
13 appropriate action. The institution shall notify the
14 commission of any and all actions taken by the accrediting
15 agency in response to the complaint.

16 (3) Failure to comply with this section is cause for
17 denial or revocation of a license.

18 Section 256. Section 1005.35, Florida Statutes, is
19 created to read:

20 1005.35 Fees.--

21 (1) The Commission for Independent Education shall
22 annually establish a fee schedule to generate, from fees, the
23 amount of revenue appropriated for its operation.

24 (2) The commission shall include, as a part of its
25 legislative budget request, a proposed fee schedule to
26 generate the appropriated fee revenue required in the General
27 Appropriations Act. The commission may adjust the fee amounts
28 to generate the fee revenue required in the General
29 Appropriations Act but may not add fee categories without the
30 Legislature's approval. The fee schedule proposed in the
31

1 legislative budget request takes effect unless the Legislature
2 requires changes.

3 (3) The commission shall charge each licensed
4 institution a base fee to cover the cost of routine services,
5 such as data collection and dissemination. The base fee may be
6 higher for institutions with a large enrollment but may not
7 exceed one-half of 1 percent of the amount appropriated for
8 the commission.

9 (4) The commission shall assess workload fees to
10 institutions for specific services that relate to:

11 (a) Licensure.

12 (b) Annual reviews.

13 (c) Special reviews.

14 (d) Site visits.

15 (e) Resolution of complaints.

16 (f) Approval to use the term "college" or
17 "university."

18 (g) Participation in the Student Protection Fund
19 established pursuant to s. 1005.37.

20 (h) Other workload activities as allowed by law.

21 (5) The commission may assess late fees for an
22 institution's failure to timely submit required materials.

23 (6) All fees shall be submitted through the Department
24 of Education to the Chief Financial Officer, to be deposited
25 in the Institutional Assessment Trust Fund.

26 (7) All fees authorized in this section are
27 administrative fees and are not refundable unless paid in
28 error. The commission may deduct from an institution's future
29 fee collection any unintentional overpayment.

30 Section 257. Section 1005.36, Florida Statutes, is
31 created to read:

1 1005.36 Institutional closings.--
2 (1) The Legislature intends to protect students and
3 the independent sector of postsecondary education from the
4 detriment caused by licensed institutions that cease operation
5 without providing for the proper completion of student
6 training or for the appropriate refund of student fees. To
7 serve this intention, the Commission for Independent Education
8 may prevent the operation in this state of a licensed
9 independent postsecondary educational institution by an owner
10 who has unlawfully closed another institution and the
11 commission may exercise control over student records upon
12 closure of a licensed institution if the institution does not
13 provide an orderly closure.

14 (2) At least 30 days prior to closing an institution,
15 its owners, directors, or administrators shall notify the
16 commission in writing of the closure of the institution. The
17 owners, directors, and administrators must organize an orderly
18 closure of the institution, which means at least providing for
19 the completion of training of its students. The commission
20 must approve any such plan. An owner, director, or
21 administrator who fails to notify the commission at least 30
22 days prior to the institution's closure, or who fails to
23 organize the orderly closure of the institution and the
24 trainout of the students, commits a misdemeanor of the second
25 degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

26 (3) If the commission finds that an institution has
27 ceased operating without providing for the proper access to
28 student records, the commission may require the institution to
29 convey all student records to the commission office or to
30 another location designated by the commission or its staff.
31 The commission shall make copies of records available to

1 bankruptcy trustees upon request and to the student or those
2 designated by the student. Confidentiality of the records
3 shall be maintained to the extent required by law. The
4 commission may seek civil penalties not to exceed \$10,000 from
5 any owner, director, or administrator of an institution who
6 knowingly destroys, abandons, or fails to convey or provide
7 for the safekeeping of institutional and student records. The
8 commission may use moneys in the Student Protection Fund to
9 facilitate the retrieval or safekeeping of records from an
10 institution that has closed.

11 (4) The commission may refer matters it deems
12 appropriate to the Department of Legal Affairs or the state
13 attorney for investigation and prosecution.

14 Section 258. Section 1005.37, Florida Statutes, is
15 created to read:

16 1005.37 Student Protection Fund.--

17 (1) The commission shall establish and administer a
18 statewide, fee-supported financial program through which funds
19 will be available to complete the training of a student who
20 enrolls in a nonpublic school that terminates a program or
21 ceases operation before the student has completed his or her
22 program of study. The financial program is named the Student
23 Protection Fund.

24 (2) The commission is authorized to assess a fee from
25 the schools within its jurisdiction for such purpose. The
26 commission shall assess a licensed school an additional fee
27 for its eligibility for the Student Protection Fund.

28 (3) If a licensed school terminates a program before
29 all students complete it, the commission shall also assess
30 that school a fee adequate to pay the full cost to the Student
31 Protection Fund of completing the training of students.

1 (4) The fund shall consist entirely of fees assessed
2 to licensed schools and shall not be funded under any
3 circumstances by public funds, nor shall the commission make
4 payments or be obligated to make payments in excess of the
5 assessments actually received from licensed schools and
6 deposited in the Institutional Assessment Trust Fund to the
7 credit of the Student Protection Fund.

8 (5) At each commission meeting, the commission shall
9 consider the need for and shall make required assessments,
10 shall review the collection status of unpaid assessments and
11 take all necessary steps to collect them, and shall review all
12 moneys in the fund and expenses incurred since the last
13 reporting period. This review must include administrative
14 expenses, moneys received, and payments made to students or to
15 lending institutions.

16 (6) Staff of the commission must immediately inform
17 the commission upon learning of the closing of a licensed
18 school or the termination of a program that could expose the
19 fund to liability.

20 (7) The Student Protection Fund must be actuarially
21 sound, periodically audited, and reviewed to determine if
22 additional fees must be charged to schools eligible to
23 participate in the fund.

24 Section 259. Section 1005.38, Florida Statutes, is
25 created to read:

26 1005.38 Actions against a licensee and other
27 penalties.--

28 (1) The commission may deny, place on probation, or
29 revoke any provisional license, annual license, licence by
30 means of accreditation, agent's license, or other
31 authorization required by this chapter. The commission shall

1 adopt rules for taking these actions. The commission may
2 impose an administrative fine of not more than \$5,000 if an
3 institution is on probation for a period under conditions that
4 require oversight by the commission or its staff. The fine
5 shall be deposited into the Institutional Assessment Trust
6 Fund.

7 (2) The commission may conduct an investigation to
8 determine if an applicant for a new institutional license, or
9 the owners, directors, or administrators of the institution,
10 previously closed an institution, failed to arrange for
11 completion of student training or issue appropriate refunds,
12 or had its license to operate an institution revoked or denied
13 in this state or in another state or jurisdiction.

14 (3) Any person who has been convicted of, or entered a
15 plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, a crime that relates to
16 the unlawful operation or management of an institution is
17 ineligible to own, operate, manage, or be a registered agent
18 for a licensed institution in this state, and may not be a
19 director or an officer in a corporation that owns or operates
20 a licensed institution. Such a person may not operate or serve
21 in a management or supervisory position in a licensed
22 institution.

23 (4) The commission may deny an application for any
24 operating status if the commission determines that the
25 applicant or its owners, officers, directors, or
26 administrators were previously operating an institution in
27 this state or in another state or jurisdiction in a manner
28 contrary to the health, education, or welfare of the public.
29 The commission may consider factors such as the previous
30 denial or revocation of an institutional license; prior
31 criminal or civil administrative proceedings regarding the

1 operation and management of an institution; other types of
2 criminal proceedings involving fraud, deceit, dishonesty, or
3 moral turpitude; failure of the institution to be properly
4 closed, including completing the training or providing for the
5 trainout of its students; and failure to issue appropriate
6 refunds. The commission may require an applicant or its
7 owners, officers, directors, or administrators to provide the
8 commission with information under oath regarding the prior
9 operation of an institution and to provide criminal justice
10 information, the cost of which must be borne by the applicant
11 in addition to license fees.

12 (5) The commission may obtain an injunction or take
13 any action it deems necessary against any institution or agent
14 in violation of this chapter, but such proceedings and orders
15 do not bar the imposition of any other penalties that may be
16 imposed for the violation.

17 (6) The commission may conduct disciplinary
18 proceedings through an investigation of any suspected
19 violation of this chapter, including a finding of probable
20 cause and making reports to any law enforcement agency or
21 regulatory agency.

22 (a) The commission shall notify an institution or
23 individual of the substance of any complaint that is under
24 investigation unless the executive director and chairperson of
25 the board concur that notification would impede the
26 investigation. The commission may also withhold notification
27 to a person under investigation for an act that constitutes a
28 criminal offense.

29 (b) The determination of probable cause shall be made
30 by a majority vote of the probable-cause panel, the membership
31 of which shall be provided by rule. After the panel declares a

1 finding of probable cause, the commission may issue an
2 administrative complaint and prosecute such complaint under
3 chapter 120.

4 (c) A privilege against civil liability is granted to
5 any informant or any witness who provides information in good
6 faith for an investigation or proceeding conducted under this
7 section.

8 (7) The commission may issue a cease and desist order
9 in conjunction with an administrative complaint or notice of
10 denial of licensure, if necessary to protect the health,
11 safety, or welfare of students, prospective students, or the
12 public. An unlicensed institution that advertises or causes
13 advertisements to be made public through which students are
14 solicited for enrollment or are offered diplomas or degrees is
15 in violation of this chapter. The commission shall adopt rules
16 that direct the issuance of an injunction against operating,
17 advertising, or offering diplomas or degrees without a
18 license. Each day of operation after a cease and desist letter
19 is delivered constitutes a separate violation for purposes of
20 assessing fines or seeking civil penalties.

21 (a) A cease and desist order may be mandatory or
22 prohibitory in form and may order a postsecondary institution
23 to cease and desist from specified conduct or from failing to
24 engage in specified conduct necessary to achieve the
25 regulatory purposes of this chapter.

26 (b) A cease and desist order may include an order to
27 cease enrollment of students whom the institution cannot
28 adequately serve, to modify curricula or methods of
29 instruction to ensure the education or training of the type
30 and quality represented in the institutional catalog, or to
31 cease from advertising or to publish or broadcast corrective

1 or clarifying advertising to overcome the effects of previous
2 allegedly deceptive or misleading advertising.

3 (c) A cease and desist order takes effect immediately
4 upon issuance and remains in effect until the commission takes
5 final agency action.

6 (d) The commission shall adopt rules to direct
7 procedures by which an affected party is entitled to a formal
8 or informal review of a cease and desist order and may request
9 the commission or the Division of Administrative Hearings to
10 modify or abate a cease and desist order. If a party is
11 aggrieved by a cease and desist order after seeking to have
12 the order abated or modified, the party may seek interlocutory
13 judicial review by the appropriate district court of appeal
14 pursuant to the applicable rules of appellate procedure.

15 (e) In addition to or in lieu of any remedy provided
16 in this section, the commission may seek the imposition of a
17 civil penalty through the circuit court for any violation for
18 which the commission may issue a notice to cease and desist
19 under this section.

20 (8) The commission shall adopt rules to identify
21 grounds for imposing disciplinary actions, which must include
22 at least the following grounds:

23 (a) Attempting to obtain action from the commission by
24 fraudulent misrepresentation, bribery, or through an error of
25 the commission.

26 (b) Action against a license or operation imposed
27 under the authority of another state, territory, or country.

28 (c) Delegating professional responsibilities to a
29 person who is not qualified by training, experience, or
30 licensure to perform the responsibilities.

31 (d) False, deceptive, or misleading advertising.

1 (e) Conspiring to coerce, intimidate, or preclude
2 another licensee from lawfully advertising his or her
3 services.

4 Section 260. Section 1005.39, Florida Statutes, is
5 created to read:

6 1005.39 Continuing education and training for
7 administrators and faculty.--

8 (1) The commission is authorized to ensure that the
9 administrators of licensed institutions are qualified to
10 conduct the operations of their respective positions and to
11 require such administrators and faculty to receive continuing
12 education and training as adopted by rule of the commission.
13 The positions for which the commission may review
14 qualifications and require continuing education and training
15 may include the positions of chief administrator or officer,
16 director of education or training, placement director,
17 admissions director, and financial aid director and faculty
18 members.

19 (2) The training of each administrator and faculty
20 member shall be the type of training necessary to assure
21 compliance with statutes and rules of the commission and the
22 State Board of Education and with those of other state or
23 federal agencies in relation to the responsibilities of the
24 respective positions.

25 (3) The commission shall adopt general qualifications
26 for each of the respective positions and establish guidelines
27 for the minimum amount and type of continuing education and
28 training to be required. The continuing education and training
29 may be provided by the commission, appropriate state or
30 federal agencies, or professional organizations familiar with
31 the requirements of the particular administrative positions.

1 The actual curricula should be left to the discretion of those
2 agencies and organizations.

3 (4) Evidence of the administrator's and faculty
4 member's compliance with the continuing education and training
5 requirements established by the commission may be included in
6 the initial and renewal application forms provided by the
7 commission. Actual records of the continuing education and
8 training received by administrators and faculty shall be
9 maintained at the institution and available for inspection at
10 all times.

11 (5) Qualifications of administrators and faculty in
12 their respective fields, as well as continuing education and
13 training, may be established by the commission as a condition
14 of an application for licensure by a new institution or for
15 renewal of a license.

16 Section 261. Chapter 1006, Florida Statutes, shall be
17 entitled "Support for Learning" and shall consist of ss.
18 1006.02-1006.71.

19 Section 262. Part I of chapter 1006, Florida Statutes,
20 shall be entitled "Public K-12 Education Support for Learning
21 and Student Services" and shall consist of ss.
22 1006.02-1006.27.

23 Section 263. Part I.a. of chapter 1006, Florida
24 Statutes, shall be entitled "Learning Services Generally" and
25 shall consist of ss. 1006.02-1006.04.

26 Section 264. Section 1006.02, Florida Statutes, is
27 created to read:

28 1006.02 Provision of information to students and
29 parents regarding school-to-work transition.--

30 (1) All public K-12 schools shall document the manner
31 in which they have prepared students to enter the workforce,

1 including information regarding the provision of accurate,
2 timely career and curricular counseling to students. This
3 information shall include a delineation of available career
4 opportunities, educational requirements associated with each
5 career, educational institutions that prepare students to
6 enter each career, and student financial aid available to
7 enable students to pursue any postsecondary instruction
8 required to enter that career. This information shall also
9 delineate school procedures for identifying individual student
10 interests and aptitudes which enable students to make informed
11 decisions about the curriculum that best addresses their
12 individual interests and aptitudes while preparing them to
13 enroll in postsecondary education and enter the workforce.
14 This information shall include recommended high school
15 coursework that prepares students for success in college-level
16 work. The information shall be made known to parents and
17 students annually through inclusion in the school's handbook,
18 manual, or similar documents or other communications regularly
19 provided to parents and students.

20 (2) The information required by this section shall
21 delineate the availability of applied instruction that uses
22 concrete, real-world examples to elicit demonstrated student
23 competence comparable to the student performance standards
24 delineated for corresponding traditional college-preparatory
25 courses, and shall also delineate the support services
26 available for students who need assistance to successfully
27 complete instruction necessary to enroll in postsecondary
28 education or enter the workforce.

29 (3) The information required by this section shall
30 delineate the availability of instruction that enables
31 students to acquire the technical skills associated with

1 specific clusters of occupations as well as employability
2 skills that apply to most occupations, and shall describe and
3 identify the availability of workplace-based learning
4 experiences. Any school that conducts secondary career
5 education programs shall identify any agreements through which
6 each program articulates into corresponding postsecondary
7 programs.

8 (4) Prior to each student's graduation from high
9 school, the school shall assess the student's preparation to
10 enter the workforce, in accordance with the commissioner's
11 identification of the employability skills associated with
12 successful entry into the workforce, and shall provide the
13 student and the student's parent or guardian with the results
14 of this assessment.

15 Section 265. Section 1006.03, Florida Statutes, is
16 created to read:

17 1006.03 Diagnostic and learning resource centers.--

18 (1) The department shall maintain regional diagnostic
19 and learning resource centers for exceptional students, to
20 assist in the provision of medical, physiological,
21 psychological, and educational testing and other services
22 designed to evaluate and diagnose exceptionalities, to make
23 referrals for necessary instruction and services, and to
24 facilitate the provision of instruction and services to
25 exceptional students. The department shall cooperate with the
26 Department of Children and Family Services in identifying
27 service needs and areas.

28 (2) Within its identified service area, each regional
29 center shall:

30 (a) Provide assistance to parents, teachers, and other
31 school personnel and community organizations in locating and

- 1 identifying exceptional children and planning educational
2 programs for them.
- 3 (b) Assist in the provision of services for
4 exceptional children, using to the maximum, but not
5 supplanting, the existing facilities and services of each
6 district.
- 7 (c) Provide orientation meetings at least annually for
8 teachers, principals, supervisors, and community agencies to
9 familiarize them with center facilities and services for
10 exceptional children.
- 11 (d) Plan, coordinate, and assist in the implementation
12 of inservice training programs, consistent with each
13 district's program of staff development, for the development
14 and updating of attitudes, skills, and instructional practices
15 and procedures necessary to the education of exceptional
16 children.
- 17 (e) Assist districts in the identification, selection,
18 acquisition, use, and evaluation of media and materials
19 appropriate to the implementation of instructional programs
20 based on individual educational plans for exceptional
21 children.
- 22 (f) Provide for the dissemination and diffusion of
23 significant information and promising practices derived from
24 educational research, demonstration, and other projects.
- 25 (g) Assist in the delivery, modification, and
26 integration of instructional technology, including
27 microcomputer applications and adaptive and assistive devices,
28 appropriate to the unique needs of exceptional students.
- 29 (3) Diagnostic and resource centers may provide
30 testing and evaluation services to private school students and
31 other children who are not enrolled in public schools.

1 (4) Diagnostic and learning resource centers may
2 assist districts in providing testing and evaluation services
3 for infants and preschool children with or at risk of
4 developing disabilities, and may assist districts in providing
5 interdisciplinary training and resources to parents of infants
6 and preschool children with or at risk of developing
7 disabilities and to school readiness programs.

8 Section 266. Section 1006.035, Florida Statutes, is
9 created to read:

10 1006.035 Dropout reentry and mentor project.--

11 (1) There is created a dropout reentry and mentor
12 project to be coordinated on a pilot basis by the Florida
13 Agricultural and Mechanical University National Alumni
14 Association and implemented in Tallahassee, Jacksonville,
15 Daytona Beach, and Miami.

16 (2) The project shall identify 15 black students in
17 each location who have dropped out of high school but were not
18 encountering academic difficulty when they left school.
19 Students chosen to participate may not have a high school
20 diploma, be enrolled in an adult general education program
21 which includes a GED program or an adult high school, or be
22 enrolled in a technical school. Students may be employed but
23 must be able to adjust their work schedules to accommodate
24 classes and project sessions. Priority must be given to
25 students who have dropped out of school within the last 3
26 years.

27 (3) In identifying participants, the following factors
28 must be considered:

29 (a) The student's performance in school before
30 dropping out.

31

1 (b) The student's performance on aptitude and
2 achievement tests.

3 (c) The student's desire to reenter school.

4 (4) In each of the four locations, the project shall
5 identify 15 high-achieving minority students to serve as
6 one-on-one mentors to the students who are being reentered in
7 school. An alumnus of Bethune-Cookman College, Florida
8 Memorial College, Edward Waters College, or Florida
9 Agricultural and Mechanical University shall be assigned to
10 each pair of students. Student mentors and alumni must serve
11 as role models and resource people for the students who are
12 being reentered in school.

13 (5) Selected project participants shall be evaluated
14 and enrolled in a GED program, regular high school, technical
15 school, or alternative school. In conjunction with school
16 guidance personnel, project staff shall design a supplemental
17 program to reinforce basic skills, provide additional
18 counseling, and offer tutorial assistance. Weekly, project
19 staff shall monitor students' attendance, performance,
20 homework, and attitude toward school.

21 (6) The project shall use tests to identify students'
22 interests and academic weaknesses. Based on the test results,
23 an individualized study program shall be developed for each
24 reentry student.

25 (7) The 15 alumni at each location must meet with
26 their assigned reentry students and high achievers, together,
27 at least once per week. All reentry students must meet as a
28 group at least once per week for structured, organized
29 activities that include instruction in test-taking skills,
30 positive attitude, coping, study habits, budgeting time,
31

1 setting goals, career choices, homework assistance, and
2 conflict resolution.

3 (8) Followup interviews with both the reentry students
4 and high achievers must be conducted after 1 year to determine
5 the project's impact.

6 Section 267. Section 1006.04, Florida Statutes, is
7 created to read:

8 1006.04 Educational multiagency services for students
9 with severe emotional disturbance.--

10 (1)(a) An intensive, integrated educational program; a
11 continuum of mental health treatment services; and, when
12 needed, residential services are necessary to enable students
13 with severe emotional disturbance to develop appropriate
14 behaviors and demonstrate academic and career education
15 skills. The small incidence of severe emotional disturbance in
16 the total school population requires multiagency programs to
17 provide access to appropriate services for all students with
18 severe emotional disturbance. District school boards should
19 provide educational programs, and state departments and
20 agencies administering children's mental health funds should
21 provide mental health treatment and residential services when
22 needed, forming a multiagency network to provide support for
23 students with severe emotional disturbance.

24 (b) The program goals for each component of the
25 multiagency network are to enable students with severe
26 emotional disturbance to learn appropriate behaviors, reduce
27 dependency, and fully participate in all aspects of school and
28 community living; to develop individual programs for students
29 with severe emotional disturbance, including necessary
30 educational, residential, and mental health treatment
31 services; to provide programs and services as close as

1 possible to the student's home in the least restrictive manner
2 consistent with the student's needs; and to integrate a wide
3 range of services necessary to support students with severe
4 emotional disturbance and their families.

5 (2) The department may award grants to district school
6 boards for statewide planning and development of the
7 multiagency network for students with severe emotional
8 disturbance. The educational services shall be provided in a
9 manner consistent with the requirements of ss. 1003.57 and
10 402.22.

11 (3) State departments and agencies may use appropriate
12 funds for the multiagency network for students with severe
13 emotional disturbance.

14 Section 268. Part I.b. of chapter 1006, Florida
15 Statutes, shall be entitled "Student Food and Health Services"
16 and shall consist of ss. 1006.06-1006.063.

17 Section 269. Section 1006.06, Florida Statutes, is
18 created to read:

19 1006.06 School food service programs.--

20 (1) In recognition of the demonstrated relationship
21 between good nutrition and the capacity of students to develop
22 and learn, it is the policy of the state to provide standards
23 for school food service and to require district school boards
24 to establish and maintain an appropriate private school food
25 service program consistent with the nutritional needs of
26 students.

27 (2) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
28 covering the administration and operation of the school food
29 service programs.

30 (3) Each district school board shall consider the
31 recommendations of the district school superintendent and

1 adopt policies to provide for an appropriate food and
2 nutrition program for students consistent with federal law and
3 State Board of Education rule.

4 (4) The state shall provide the state National School
5 Lunch Act matching requirements. The funds provided shall be
6 distributed in such a manner as to comply with the
7 requirements of the National School Lunch Act.

8 (5)(a) Each district school board shall implement
9 school breakfast programs in all elementary schools that make
10 breakfast available to all students in kindergarten through
11 grade 6 in each district school, unless the elementary school
12 goes only through grade 5, in which case the requirement shall
13 apply only through grade 5. Each district school board shall
14 implement breakfast programs in all elementary schools in
15 which students are eligible for free and reduced price lunch
16 meals, to the extent specifically funded in the General
17 Appropriations Act. A district school board may operate a
18 breakfast program providing for food preparation at the school
19 site or in central locations with distribution to designated
20 satellite schools or any combination thereof.

21 (b) The commissioner shall make every reasonable
22 effort to ensure that any school designated a "severe need
23 school" receives the highest rate of reimbursement to which it
24 is entitled pursuant to 42 U.S.C. s. 1773 for each free and
25 reduced price breakfast served.

26 (c) The department shall calculate and distribute a
27 school district breakfast supplement for each school year by
28 multiplying the state breakfast rate as specified in the
29 General Appropriations Act by the number of free and reduced
30 price breakfast meals served.

31

1 (d) The Legislature shall provide sufficient funds in
2 the General Appropriations Act to reimburse participating
3 school districts for the difference between the average
4 federal reimbursement for free and reduced price breakfasts
5 and the average statewide cost for breakfasts.

6 Section 270. Section 1006.0605, Florida Statutes, is
7 created to read:

8 1006.0605 Students' summer nutrition.--

9 (1) Each district school superintendent shall report
10 to the department any activity or initiative that provides
11 access to a food service program during school vacation
12 periods of over 2 weeks to students who are eligible for free
13 or reduced-price meals. The report shall include any
14 developed or implemented plans for how the school district
15 will sponsor, host, or vend the federal Summer Food Service
16 Program.

17 (2) The district school superintendent shall submit
18 the report to the department by February 1, 2004. Prior to
19 submitting the report to the department, the district school
20 superintendent shall report this information to the district
21 school board.

22 (3) By March 1, 2004, the department shall submit to
23 the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
24 Representatives, the chairs of the education committees in the
25 Senate and the House of Representatives, and the State Board
26 of Education a report compiling the school district
27 information.

28 Section 271. Section 1006.061, Florida Statutes, is
29 created to read:

30 1006.061 Child abuse, abandonment, and neglect
31 policy.--Each district school board shall:

1 (1) Post in a prominent place in each school a notice
2 that, pursuant to chapter 39, all employees and agents of the
3 district school board have an affirmative duty to report all
4 actual or suspected cases of child abuse, abandonment, or
5 neglect; have immunity from liability if they report such
6 cases in good faith; and have a duty to comply with child
7 protective investigations and all other provisions of law
8 relating to child abuse, abandonment, and neglect. The notice
9 shall also include the statewide toll-free telephone number of
10 the central abuse hotline.

11 (2) Require the district school superintendent, or the
12 superintendent's designee, at the request of the Department of
13 Children and Family Services, to act as a liaison to the
14 Department of Children and Family Services and the child
15 protection team, as defined in s. 39.01, when in a case of
16 suspected child abuse, abandonment, or neglect or an unlawful
17 sexual offense involving a child the case is referred to such
18 a team; except that this does not relieve or restrict the
19 Department of Children and Family Services from discharging
20 its duty and responsibility under the law to investigate and
21 report every suspected or actual case of child abuse,
22 abandonment, or neglect or unlawful sexual offense involving a
23 child.

24 Section 272. Section 1006.062, Florida Statutes, is
25 created to read:

26 1006.062 Administration of medication and provision of
27 medical services by district school board personnel.--

28 (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of the Nurse
29 Practice Act, part I of chapter 464, district school board
30 personnel may assist students in the administration of
31

1 prescription medication when the following conditions have
2 been met:

3 (a) Each district school board shall include in its
4 approved school health services plan a procedure to provide
5 training, by a registered nurse, a licensed practical nurse, a
6 physician licensed pursuant to chapter 458 or chapter 459, or
7 a physician assistant licensed pursuant to chapter 458 or
8 chapter 459, to the school personnel designated by the school
9 principal to assist students in the administration of
10 prescribed medication. Such training may be provided in
11 collaboration with other school districts, through contract
12 with an education consortium, or by any other arrangement
13 consistent with the intent of this subsection.

14 (b) Each district school board shall adopt policies
15 and procedures governing the administration of prescription
16 medication by district school board personnel. The policies
17 and procedures shall include, but not be limited to, the
18 following provisions:

19 1. For each prescribed medication, the student's
20 parent shall provide to the school principal a written
21 statement which grants to the school principal or the
22 principal's designee permission to assist in the
23 administration of such medication and which explains the
24 necessity for the medication to be provided during the school
25 day, including any occasion when the student is away from
26 school property on official school business. The school
27 principal or the principal's trained designee shall assist the
28 student in the administration of the medication.

29 2. Each prescribed medication to be administered by
30 district school board personnel shall be received, counted,
31 and stored in its original container. When the medication is

1 not in use, it shall be stored in its original container in a
2 secure fashion under lock and key in a location designated by
3 the school principal.

4 (2) There shall be no liability for civil damages as a
5 result of the administration of the medication when the person
6 administering the medication acts as an ordinarily reasonably
7 prudent person would have acted under the same or similar
8 circumstances.

9 (3) Nonmedical district school board personnel shall
10 not be allowed to perform invasive medical services that
11 require special medical knowledge, nursing judgment, and
12 nursing assessment, including, but not limited to:

13 (a) Sterile catheterization.

14 (b) Nasogastric tube feeding.

15 (c) Cleaning and maintaining a tracheostomy and deep
16 suctioning of a tracheostomy.

17 (4) Nonmedical assistive personnel shall be allowed to
18 perform health-related services upon successful completion of
19 child-specific training by a registered nurse or advanced
20 registered nurse practitioner licensed under chapter 464, a
21 physician licensed pursuant to chapter 458 or chapter 459, or
22 a physician assistant licensed pursuant to chapter 458 or
23 chapter 459. All procedures shall be monitored periodically
24 by a nurse, advanced registered nurse practitioner, physician
25 assistant, or physician, including, but not limited to:

26 (a) Intermittent clean catheterization.

27 (b) Gastrostomy tube feeding.

28 (c) Monitoring blood glucose.

29 (d) Administering emergency injectable medication.

30 (5) For all other invasive medical services not listed
31 in this subsection, a registered nurse or advanced registered

1 nurse practitioner licensed under chapter 464, a physician
2 licensed pursuant to chapter 458 or chapter 459, or a
3 physician assistant licensed pursuant to chapter 458 or
4 chapter 459 shall determine if nonmedical district school
5 board personnel shall be allowed to perform such service.

6 (6) Each district school board shall establish
7 emergency procedures in accordance with s. 381.0056(5) for
8 life-threatening emergencies.

9 (7) District school board personnel shall not refer
10 students to or offer students at school facilities
11 contraceptive services without the consent of a parent or
12 legal guardian. To the extent that this paragraph conflicts
13 with any provision of chapter 381, the provisions of chapter
14 381 control.

15 Section 273. Section 1006.063, Florida Statutes, is
16 created to read:

17 1006.063 Eye-protective devices required in certain
18 laboratory courses.--

19 (1) Eye-protective devices shall be worn by students,
20 teachers, and visitors in courses including, but not limited
21 to, chemistry, physics, or chemical-physical laboratories, at
22 any time at which the individual is engaged in or observing an
23 activity or the use of hazardous substances likely to cause
24 injury to the eyes. Activity or the use of hazardous
25 substances likely to cause injury to the eye includes:

26 (a) Heat treatment; tempering or kiln firing of any
27 metal or other materials;

28 (b) Working with caustic or explosive materials; or

29 (c) Working with hot liquids or solids, including
30 chemicals which are flammable, caustic, toxic, or irritating.

31

1 (2) District school boards shall furnish plano safety
2 glasses or devices for students, may provide such glasses to
3 teachers, and shall furnish such equipment for all visitors to
4 such classrooms or laboratories, or may purchase such plano
5 safety glasses or devices in large quantities and sell them at
6 cost to students and teachers, but shall not purchase,
7 furnish, or dispense prescription glasses or lenses.

8 Section 274. Part I.c. of chapter 1006, Florida
9 Statutes, shall be entitled "Student Discipline and School
10 Safety" and shall consist of ss. 1006.07-1006.145.

11 Section 275. Section 1006.07, Florida Statutes, is
12 created to read:

13 1006.07 District school board duties relating to
14 student discipline and school safety.--The district school
15 board shall provide for the proper accounting for all
16 students, for the attendance and control of students at
17 school, and for proper attention to health, safety, and other
18 matters relating to the welfare of students, including:

19 (1) CONTROL OF STUDENTS.--

20 (a) Adopt rules for the control, discipline, in-school
21 suspension, suspension, and expulsion of students and decide
22 all cases recommended for expulsion. Suspension hearings are
23 exempted from the provisions of chapter 120. Expulsion
24 hearings shall be governed by ss. 120.569 and 120.57(2) and
25 are exempt from s. 286.011. However, the student's parent must
26 be given notice of the provisions of s. 286.011 and may elect
27 to have the hearing held in compliance with that section. The
28 district school board may prohibit the use of corporal
29 punishment, if the district school board adopts or has adopted
30 a written program of alternative control or discipline.

31

1 (b) Require each student at the time of initial
2 registration for school in the school district to note
3 previous school expulsions, arrests resulting in a charge, and
4 juvenile justice actions the student has had, and have the
5 authority as the district school board of a receiving school
6 district to honor the final order of expulsion or dismissal of
7 a student by any in-state or out-of-state public district
8 school board or private school, or lab school, for an act
9 which would have been grounds for expulsion according to the
10 receiving district school board's code of student conduct, in
11 accordance with the following procedures:

12 1. A final order of expulsion shall be recorded in the
13 records of the receiving school district.

14 2. The expelled student applying for admission to the
15 receiving school district shall be advised of the final order
16 of expulsion.

17 3. The district school superintendent of the receiving
18 school district may recommend to the district school board
19 that the final order of expulsion be waived and the student be
20 admitted to the school district, or that the final order of
21 expulsion be honored and the student not be admitted to the
22 school district. If the student is admitted by the district
23 school board, with or without the recommendation of the
24 district school superintendent, the student may be placed in
25 an appropriate educational program at the direction of the
26 district school board.

27 (2) CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT.--Adopt a code of student
28 conduct for elementary schools and a code of student conduct
29 for middle and high schools and distribute the appropriate
30 code to all teachers, school personnel, students, and parents,
31 at the beginning of every school year. Each code shall be

1 organized and written in language that is understandable to
2 students and parents and shall be discussed at the beginning
3 of every school year in student classes, school advisory
4 council meetings, and parent and teacher association or
5 organization meetings. Each code shall be based on the rules
6 governing student conduct and discipline adopted by the
7 district school board and shall be made available in the
8 student handbook or similar publication. Each code shall
9 include, but is not limited to:

10 (a) Consistent policies and specific grounds for
11 disciplinary action, including in-school suspension,
12 out-of-school suspension, expulsion, and any disciplinary
13 action that may be imposed for the possession or use of
14 alcohol on school property or while attending a school
15 function or for the illegal use, sale, or possession of
16 controlled substances as defined in chapter 893.

17 (b) Procedures to be followed for acts requiring
18 discipline, including corporal punishment.

19 (c) An explanation of the responsibilities and rights
20 of students with regard to attendance, respect for persons and
21 property, knowledge and observation of rules of conduct, the
22 right to learn, free speech and student publications,
23 assembly, privacy, and participation in school programs and
24 activities.

25 (d) Notice that illegal use, possession, or sale of
26 controlled substances, as defined in chapter 893, or
27 possession of electronic telephone pagers, by any student
28 while the student is upon school property or in attendance at
29 a school function is grounds for disciplinary action by the
30 school and may also result in criminal penalties being
31 imposed.

1 (e) Notice that the possession of a firearm or weapon
2 ad defined in chapter 790 by any student while the student is
3 on school property or in attendance at a school function is
4 grounds for disciplinary action and may also result in
5 criminal prosecution.

6 (f) Notice that violence against any district school
7 board personnel by a student is grounds for in-school
8 suspension, out-of-school suspension, expulsion, or imposition
9 of other disciplinary action by the school and may also result
10 in criminal penalties being imposed.

11 (g) Notice that violation of district school board
12 transportation policies, including disruptive behavior on a
13 school bus or at a school bus stop, by a student is grounds
14 for suspension of the student's privilege of riding on a
15 school bus and may be grounds for disciplinary action by the
16 school and may also result in criminal penalties being
17 imposed.

18 (h) Notice that violation of the district school
19 board's sexual harassment policy by a student is grounds for
20 in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, expulsion, or
21 imposition of other disciplinary action by the school and may
22 also result in criminal penalties being imposed.

23 (i) Policies to be followed for the assignment of
24 violent or disruptive students to an alternative educational
25 program.

26 (j) Notice that any student who is determined to have
27 brought a firearm or weapon, as defined in chapter 790, to
28 school, to any school function, or onto any school-sponsored
29 transportation will be expelled, with or without continuing
30 educational services, from the student's regular school for a
31 period of not less than 1 full year and referred to the

1 criminal justice or juvenile justice system; provided,
2 however, that nothing herein shall require the district school
3 board to apply such requirements to a firearm or weapon that
4 is lawfully stored in a locked vehicle on school property, or
5 for activities approved and authorized by the district school
6 board when the board has adopted appropriate safeguards to
7 ensure student safety. District school boards may assign the
8 student to a disciplinary program or second chance school for
9 the purpose of continuing educational services during the
10 period of expulsion. District school superintendents may
11 consider the 1-year expulsion requirement on a case-by-case
12 basis and request the district school board to modify the
13 requirement by assigning the student to a disciplinary program
14 or second chance school if it is determined to be in the best
15 interest of the student and the school system.

16 (k) Notice that any student who is determined to have
17 made a threat or false report, as defined by ss. 790.162 and
18 790.163, respectively, involving school or school personnel's
19 property, school transportation, or a school-sponsored
20 activity will be expelled, with or without continuing
21 educational services, from the student's regular school for a
22 period of not less than 1 full year and referred for criminal
23 prosecution. District school boards may assign the student to
24 a disciplinary program or second chance school for the purpose
25 of continuing educational services during the period of
26 expulsion. District school superintendents may consider the
27 1-year expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis and
28 request the district school board to modify the requirement by
29 assigning the student to a disciplinary program or second
30 chance school if it is determined to be in the best interest
31 of the student and the school system.

1 (3) STUDENT CRIME WATCH PROGRAM.--By resolution of the
2 district school board, implement a student crime watch program
3 to promote responsibility among students and to assist in the
4 control of criminal behavior within the schools.

5 (4) EMERGENCY DRILLS; EMERGENCY PROCEDURES.--

6 (a) Formulate and prescribe policies and procedures
7 for emergency drills and for actual emergencies, including,
8 but not limited to, fires, natural disasters, and bomb
9 threats, for all the public schools of the district which
10 comprise grades K-12. District school board policies shall
11 include commonly used alarm system responses for specific
12 types of emergencies and verification by each school that
13 drills have been provided as required by law and fire
14 protection codes.

15 (b) The district school board shall establish model
16 emergency management and emergency preparedness procedures for
17 the following life-threatening emergencies:

- 18 1. Weapon-use and hostage situations.
- 19 2. Hazardous materials or toxic chemical spills.
- 20 3. Weather emergencies, including hurricanes,
21 tornadoes, and severe storms.
- 22 4. Exposure as a result of a manmade emergency.

23 (5) EDUCATIONAL SERVICES IN DETENTION
24 FACILITIES.--Offer educational services to minors who have not
25 graduated from high school and eligible students with
26 disabilities under the age of 22 who have not graduated with a
27 standard diploma or its equivalent who are detained in a
28 county or municipal detention facility as defined in s.
29 951.23. These educational services shall be based upon the
30 estimated length of time the student will be in the facility
31 and the student's current level of functioning. District

1 school superintendents or their designees shall be notified by
2 the county sheriff or chief correctional officer, or his or
3 her designee, upon the assignment of a student under the age
4 of 21 to the facility. A cooperative agreement with the
5 district school board and applicable law enforcement units
6 shall be developed to address the notification requirement and
7 the provision of educational services to these students.

8 (6) SAFETY AND SECURITY BEST PRACTICES.--Use the
9 Safety and Security Best Practices developed by the Office of
10 Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to
11 conduct a self-assessment of the school districts' current
12 safety and security practices. Based on these self-assessment
13 findings, the district school superintendent shall provide
14 recommendations to the district school board which identify
15 strategies and activities that the district school board
16 should implement in order to improve school safety and
17 security. Annually each district school board must receive the
18 self-assessment results at a publicly noticed district school
19 board meeting to provide the public an opportunity to hear the
20 district school board members discuss and take action on the
21 report findings. Each district school superintendent shall
22 report the self-assessment results and school board action to
23 the commissioner within 30 days after the district school
24 board meeting.

25 Section 276. Section 1006.08, Florida Statutes, is
26 created to read:

27 1006.08 District school superintendent duties relating
28 to student discipline and school safety.--

29 (1) The district school superintendent shall recommend
30 plans to the district school board for the proper accounting
31 for all students of school age, for the attendance and control

1 of students at school, for the proper attention to health,
2 safety, and other matters which will best promote the welfare
3 of students. When the district school superintendent makes a
4 recommendation for expulsion to the district school board, he
5 or she shall give written notice to the student and the
6 student's parent of the recommendation, setting forth the
7 charges against the student and advising the student and his
8 or her parent of the student's right to due process as
9 prescribed by ss. 120.569 and 120.57(2). When district school
10 board action on a recommendation for the expulsion of a
11 student is pending, the district school superintendent may
12 extend the suspension assigned by the principal beyond 10
13 school days if such suspension period expires before the next
14 regular or special meeting of the district school board.

15 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 985.04(4) or
16 any other provision of law to the contrary, the court shall,
17 within 48 hours of the finding, notify the appropriate
18 district school superintendent of the name and address of any
19 student found to have committed a delinquent act, or who has
20 had adjudication of a delinquent act withheld which, if
21 committed by an adult, would be a felony, or the name and
22 address of any student found guilty of a felony. Notification
23 shall include the specific delinquent act found to have been
24 committed or for which adjudication was withheld, or the
25 specific felony for which the student was found guilty.

26 (3) Except to the extent necessary to protect the
27 health, safety, and welfare of other students, the information
28 obtained by the district school superintendent pursuant to
29 this section may be released only to appropriate school
30 personnel or as otherwise provided by law.

31

1 Section 277. Section 1006.09, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1006.09 Duties of school principal relating to student
4 discipline and school safety.--

5 (1)(a) Subject to law and to the rules of the State
6 Board of Education and the district school board, the
7 principal in charge of the school or the principal's designee
8 shall develop policies for delegating to any teacher or other
9 member of the instructional staff or to any bus driver
10 transporting students of the school responsibility for the
11 control and direction of students. The principal or the
12 principal's designee shall consider the recommendation for
13 discipline made by a teacher, other member of the
14 instructional staff, or a bus driver when making a decision
15 regarding student referral for discipline.

16 (b) The principal or the principal's designee may
17 suspend a student only in accordance with the rules of the
18 district school board. The principal or the principal's
19 designee shall make a good faith effort to immediately inform
20 a student's parent by telephone of a student's suspension and
21 the reasons for the suspension. Each suspension and the
22 reasons for the suspension shall be reported in writing within
23 24 hours to the student's parent by United States mail. Each
24 suspension and the reasons for the suspension shall also be
25 reported in writing within 24 hours to the district school
26 superintendent. A good faith effort shall be made by the
27 principal or the principal's designee to employ parental
28 assistance or other alternative measures prior to suspension,
29 except in the case of emergency or disruptive conditions which
30 require immediate suspension or in the case of a serious
31 breach of conduct as defined by rules of the district school

1 board. Such rules shall require oral and written notice to the
2 student of the charges and an explanation of the evidence
3 against him or her prior to the suspension. Each student shall
4 be given an opportunity to present his or her side of the
5 story. No student shall be suspended for unexcused tardiness,
6 lateness, absence, or truancy. The principal or the
7 principal's designee may suspend any student transported to or
8 from school at public expense from the privilege of riding on
9 a school bus for violation of district school board
10 transportation policies, which shall include a policy
11 regarding behavior at school bus stops, and the principal or
12 the principal's designee shall give notice in writing to the
13 student's parent and to the district school superintendent
14 within 24 hours. School personnel shall not be held legally
15 responsible for suspensions of students made in good faith.

16 (c) The principal or the principal's designee may
17 recommend to the district school superintendent the expulsion
18 of any student who has committed a serious breach of conduct,
19 including, but not limited to, willful disobedience, open
20 defiance of authority of a member of his or her staff,
21 violence against persons or property, or any other act which
22 substantially disrupts the orderly conduct of the school. A
23 recommendation of expulsion or assignment to a second chance
24 school may also be made for any student found to have
25 intentionally made false accusations that jeopardize the
26 professional reputation, employment, or professional
27 certification of a teacher or other member of the school
28 staff, according to the district school board code of student
29 conduct. Any recommendation of expulsion shall include a
30 detailed report by the principal or the principal's designated
31

1 representative on the alternative measures taken prior to the
2 recommendation of expulsion.

3 (d) The principal or the principal's designee shall
4 include an analysis of suspensions and expulsions in the
5 annual report of school progress.

6 (2) Suspension proceedings, pursuant to rules of the
7 State Board of Education, may be initiated against any
8 enrolled student who is formally charged with a felony, or
9 with a delinquent act which would be a felony if committed by
10 an adult, by a proper prosecuting attorney for an incident
11 which allegedly occurred on property other than public school
12 property, if that incident is shown, in an administrative
13 hearing with notice provided to the parents of the student by
14 the principal of the school pursuant to rules adopted by the
15 State Board of Education and to rules developed pursuant to s.
16 1001.54, to have an adverse impact on the educational program,
17 discipline, or welfare in the school in which the student is
18 enrolled. Any student who is suspended as the result of such
19 proceedings may be suspended from all classes of instruction
20 on public school grounds during regular classroom hours for a
21 period of time, which may exceed 10 days, as determined by the
22 district school superintendent. The suspension shall not
23 affect the delivery of educational services to the student,
24 and the student shall be immediately enrolled in a daytime
25 alternative education program, or an evening alternative
26 education program, where appropriate. If the court determines
27 that the student did commit the felony or delinquent act which
28 would have been a felony if committed by an adult, the
29 district school board may expel the student, provided that
30 expulsion under this subsection shall not affect the delivery
31 of educational services to the student in any residential,

1 nonresidential, alternative, daytime, or evening program
2 outside of the regular school setting. Any student who is
3 subject to discipline or expulsion for unlawful possession or
4 use of any substance controlled under chapter 893 may be
5 entitled to a waiver of the discipline or expulsion:
6 (a) If the student divulges information leading to the
7 arrest and conviction of the person who supplied the
8 controlled substance to him or her, or if the student
9 voluntarily discloses his or her unlawful possession of the
10 controlled substance prior to his or her arrest. Any
11 information divulged which leads to arrest and conviction is
12 not admissible in evidence in a subsequent criminal trial
13 against the student divulging the information.
14 (b) If the student commits himself or herself, or is
15 referred by the court in lieu of sentence, to a state-licensed
16 drug abuse program and successfully completes the program.
17 (3) A student may be disciplined or expelled for
18 unlawful possession or use of any substance controlled under
19 chapter 893 upon the third violation of this provision.
20 (4) When a student has been the victim of a violent
21 crime perpetrated by another student who attends the same
22 school, the school principal shall make full and effective use
23 of the provisions of ss. 1006.09(2) and 1006.13(5). A school
24 principal who fails to comply with this subsection shall be
25 ineligible for any portion of the performance pay policy
26 incentive under s. 1012.22(1)(c). However, if any party
27 responsible for notification fails to properly notify the
28 school, the school principal shall be eligible for the
29 incentive.
30
31

1 (5) Any recommendation for the suspension or expulsion
2 of a student with a disability must be made in accordance with
3 rules adopted by the State Board of Education.

4 (6) Each school principal must ensure that
5 standardized forms prescribed by rule of the State Board of
6 Education are used to report data concerning school safety and
7 discipline to the department. The school principal must
8 develop a plan to verify the accuracy of reported incidents.

9 (7) The State Board of Education shall adopt by rule a
10 standardized form to be used by each school principal to
11 report data concerning school safety and discipline.

12 (8) The school principal shall require all school
13 personnel to report to the principal or principal's designee
14 any suspected unlawful use, possession, or sale by a student
15 of any controlled substance, as defined in s. 893.02; any
16 counterfeit controlled substance, as defined in s. 831.31; any
17 alcoholic beverage, as defined in s. 561.01(4); or model glue.
18 School personnel are exempt from civil liability when
19 reporting in good faith to the proper school authority such
20 suspected unlawful use, possession, or sale by a student.
21 Only a principal or principal's designee is authorized to
22 contact a parent or legal guardian of a student regarding this
23 situation. Reports made and verified under this subsection
24 shall be forwarded to an appropriate agency. The principal or
25 principal's designee shall timely notify the student's parent
26 that a verified report made under this subsection with respect
27 to the student has been made and forwarded.

28 (9) A school principal or a school employee designated
29 by the principal, if she or he has reasonable suspicion that a
30 prohibited or illegally possessed substance or object is
31 contained within a student's locker or other storage area, may

1 search the locker or storage area. The district school board
2 shall require and each school principal shall cause to be
3 posted in each public K-12 school, in a place readily seen by
4 students, a notice stating that a student's locker or other
5 storage area is subject to search, upon reasonable suspicion,
6 for prohibited or illegally possessed substances or objects.
7 This subsection does not prohibit the use of metal detectors
8 or specially trained animals in the course of a search for
9 illegally possessed substances or objects.

10 Section 278. Section 1006.10, Florida Statutes, is
11 created to read:

12 1006.10 Authority of school bus drivers and district
13 school boards relating to student discipline and student
14 safety on school buses.--

15 (1) The school bus driver shall require order and good
16 behavior by all students being transported on school buses.

17 (2) The district school board shall require a system
18 of progressive discipline of transported students for actions
19 which are prohibited by the code of student conduct.

20 Disciplinary actions, including suspension of students from
21 riding on district school board owned or contracted school
22 buses, shall be subject to district school board policies and
23 procedures and may be imposed by the principal or the
24 principal's designee. The principal or the principal's
25 designee may delegate any disciplinary authority to school bus
26 drivers except for suspension of students from riding the bus.

27 (3) The school bus driver shall control students
28 during the time students are on the school bus, but shall not
29 have such authority when students are waiting at the school
30 bus stop or when students are en route to or from the school
31 bus stop except when the bus is present at the bus stop.

1 (4) If an emergency should develop due to the conduct
2 of students on the bus, the school bus driver may take such
3 steps as are immediately necessary to protect the students on
4 the bus.

5 (5) School bus drivers shall not be required to
6 operate a bus under conditions in which one or more students
7 pose a clear and present danger to the safety of the driver or
8 other students, or the safety of the bus while in operation.
9 The district school board shall have measures in place
10 designed to protect the school bus driver from threats or
11 physical injury from students.

12 (6) District school boards may use transportation,
13 school safety, or FEFP funds to provide added security for
14 buses transporting disruptive or delinquent students to and
15 from school or other educational activities.

16 (7) In the case of a student having engaged in violent
17 or blatantly unsafe actions while riding the school bus, the
18 district school board shall take corrective measures to
19 ensure, to the extent feasible, that such actions are not
20 repeated prior to reassigning the student to the bus.

21 Section 279. Section 1006.11, Florida Statutes, is
22 created to read:

23 1006.11 Standards for use of reasonable force.--

24 (1) The State Board of Education shall adopt standards
25 for the use of reasonable force by district school board
26 personnel to maintain a safe and orderly learning environment.
27 Such standards shall be distributed to each school in the
28 state and shall provide guidance to district school board
29 personnel in receiving the limitations on liability specified
30 in subsection (2).

31

1 (2) Except in the case of excessive force or cruel and
2 unusual punishment, a teacher or other member of the
3 instructional staff, a principal or the principal's designated
4 representative, or a school bus driver shall not be civilly or
5 criminally liable for any action carried out in conformity
6 with the State Board of Education and district school board
7 rules regarding the control, discipline, suspension, and
8 expulsion of students, including, but not limited to, any
9 exercise of authority under s. 1006.09 or s. 1003.32.

10 Section 280. Section 1006.12, Florida Statutes, is
11 created to read:

12 1006.12 School resource officers and school safety
13 officers.--

14 (1) District school boards may establish school
15 resource officer programs, through a cooperative agreement
16 with law enforcement agencies or in accordance with subsection
17 (2).

18 (a) School resource officers shall be certified law
19 enforcement officers, as defined in s. 943.10(1), who are
20 employed by a law enforcement agency as defined in s.
21 943.10(4). The powers and duties of a law enforcement officer
22 shall continue throughout the employee's tenure as a school
23 resource officer.

24 (b) School resource officers shall abide by district
25 school board policies and shall consult with and coordinate
26 activities through the school principal, but shall be
27 responsible to the law enforcement agency in all matters
28 relating to employment, subject to agreements between a
29 district school board and a law enforcement agency. Activities
30 conducted by the school resource officer which are part of the
31

1 regular instructional program of the school shall be under the
2 direction of the school principal.

3 (2)(a) School safety officers shall be law enforcement
4 officers, as defined in s. 943.10(1), certified under the
5 provisions of chapter 943 and employed by either a law
6 enforcement agency or by the district school board. If the
7 officer is employed by the district school board, the district
8 school board is the employing agency for purposes of chapter
9 943, and must comply with the provisions of that chapter.

10 (b) A district school board may commission one or more
11 school safety officers for the protection and safety of school
12 personnel, property, and students within the school district.
13 The district school superintendent may recommend and the
14 district school board may appoint one or more school safety
15 officers.

16 (c) A school safety officer has and shall exercise the
17 power to make arrests for violations of law on district school
18 board property and to arrest persons, whether on or off such
19 property, who violate any law on such property under the same
20 conditions that deputy sheriffs are authorized to make
21 arrests. A school safety officer has the authority to carry
22 weapons when performing his or her official duties.

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

28 Section 281. Section 1006.13, Florida Statutes, is
29 created to read:

30 1006.13 Policy of zero tolerance for crime and
31 victimization.--

1 (1) Each district school board shall adopt a policy of
2 zero tolerance for:
3 (a) Crime and substance abuse, including the reporting
4 of delinquent acts and crimes occurring whenever and wherever
5 students are under the jurisdiction of the district school
6 board.
7 (b) Victimization of students, including taking all
8 steps necessary to protect the victim of any violent crime
9 from any further victimization.
10 (2) The zero tolerance policy shall require students
11 found to have committed one of the following offenses to be
12 expelled, with or without continuing educational services,
13 from the student's regular school for a period of not less
14 than 1 full year, and to be referred to the criminal justice
15 or juvenile justice system.
16 (a) Bringing a firearm or weapon, as defined in
17 chapter 790, to school, to any school function, or onto any
18 school-sponsored transportation; provided, however, that
19 nothing herein shall require the district school board to
20 apply such requirements to a firearm or weapon that is
21 lawfully stored in a locked vehicle on school property, or for
22 activities approved and authorized by the district school
23 board when the board has adopted appropriate safeguards to
24 ensure student safety.
25 (b) Making a threat or false report, as defined by ss.
26 790.162 and 790.163, respectively, involving school or school
27 personnel's property, school transportation, or a
28 school-sponsored activity.
29
30 District school boards may assign the student to a
31 disciplinary program for the purpose of continuing educational

1 services during the period of expulsion. District school
2 superintendents may consider the 1-year expulsion requirement
3 on a case-by-case basis and request the district school board
4 to modify the requirement by assigning the student to a
5 disciplinary program or second chance school if it is
6 determined to be in the best interest of the student and the
7 school system. If a student committing any of the offenses in
8 this subsection is a student with a disability, the district
9 school board shall comply with applicable State Board of
10 Education rules.

11 (3) Each district school board shall enter into
12 agreements with the county sheriff's office and local police
13 department specifying guidelines for ensuring that felonies
14 and violent misdemeanors, whether committed by a student or
15 adult, and delinquent acts that would be felonies or violent
16 misdemeanors if committed by an adult, are reported to law
17 enforcement. Each district school board shall adopt a
18 cooperative agreement, pursuant to s. 1003.52(13) with the
19 Department of Juvenile Justice, that specifies guidelines for
20 ensuring that all no contact orders entered by the court are
21 reported and enforced and that all steps necessary are taken
22 to protect the victim of any such crime. Such agreements shall
23 include the role of school resource officers, if applicable,
24 in handling reported incidents, special circumstances in which
25 school officials may handle incidents without filing a report
26 to law enforcement, and a procedure for ensuring that school
27 personnel properly report appropriate delinquent acts and
28 crimes. The school principal shall be responsible for ensuring
29 that all school personnel are properly informed as to their
30 responsibilities regarding crime reporting, that appropriate
31 delinquent acts and crimes are properly reported, and that

1 actions taken in cases with special circumstances are properly
2 taken and documented.

3 (4) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, each
4 district school board shall adopt rules providing that any
5 student found to have committed a violation of s. 784.081(1),
6 (2), or (3) shall be expelled or placed in an alternative
7 school setting or other program, as appropriate. Upon being
8 charged with the offense, the student shall be removed from
9 the classroom immediately and placed in an alternative school
10 setting pending disposition.

11 (5)(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law
12 prohibiting the disclosure of the identity of a minor,
13 whenever any student who is attending public school is
14 adjudicated guilty of or delinquent for, or is found to have
15 committed, regardless of whether adjudication is withheld, or
16 pleads guilty or nolo contendere to, a felony violation of:

17 1. Chapter 782, relating to homicide;

18 2. Chapter 784, relating to assault, battery, and
19 culpable negligence;

20 3. Chapter 787, relating to kidnapping, false
21 imprisonment, luring or enticing a child, and custody
22 offenses;

23 4. Chapter 794, relating to sexual battery;

24 5. Chapter 800, relating to lewdness and indecent
25 exposure;

26 6. Chapter 827, relating to abuse of children;

27 7. Section 812.13, relating to robbery;

28 8. Section 812.131, relating to robbery by sudden
29 snatching;

30 9. Section 812.133, relating to carjacking; or
31

1 10. Section 812.135, relating to home-invasion
2 robbery,
3
4 and, before or at the time of such adjudication, withholding
5 of adjudication, or plea, the offender was attending a school
6 attended by the victim or a sibling of the victim of the
7 offense, the Department of Juvenile Justice shall notify the
8 appropriate district school board of the adjudication or plea,
9 the requirements of this paragraph, and whether the offender
10 is prohibited from attending that school or riding on a school
11 bus whenever the victim or a sibling of the victim is
12 attending the same school or riding on the same school bus,
13 except as provided pursuant to a written disposition order
14 under s. 985.23(1)(d). Upon receipt of such notice, the
15 district school board shall take appropriate action to
16 effectuate the provisions of paragraph (b).

17 (b) Any offender described in paragraph (a), who is
18 not exempted as provided in paragraph (a), shall not attend
19 any school attended by the victim or a sibling of the victim
20 of the offense or ride on a school bus on which the victim or
21 a sibling of the victim is riding. The offender shall be
22 permitted by the district school board to attend another
23 school within the district in which the offender resides,
24 provided the other school is not attended by the victim or
25 sibling of the victim of the offense; or the offender may be
26 permitted by another district school board to attend a school
27 in that district if the offender is unable to attend any
28 school in the district in which the offender resides.

29 (c) If the offender is unable to attend any other
30 school in the district in which the offender resides and is
31 prohibited from attending school in another school district,

1 the district school board in the school district in which the
2 offender resides shall take every reasonable precaution to
3 keep the offender separated from the victim while on school
4 grounds or on school transportation. The steps to be taken by
5 a district school board to keep the offender separated from
6 the victim shall include, but are not limited to, in-school
7 suspension of the offender and the scheduling of classes,
8 lunch, or other school activities of the victim and the
9 offender so as not to coincide.

10 (d) The offender, or the parents of the offender if
11 the offender is a juvenile, shall be responsible for arranging
12 and paying for transportation associated with or required by
13 the offender's attending another school or that would be
14 required as a consequence of the prohibition against riding on
15 a school bus on which the victim or a sibling of the victim is
16 riding. However, the offender or the parents of the offender
17 shall not be charged for existing modes of transportation that
18 can be used by the offender at no additional cost to the
19 district school board.

20 Section 282. Section 1006.14, Florida Statutes, is
21 created to read:

22 1006.14 Secret societies prohibited in public K-12
23 schools.--

24 (1) It is unlawful for any person, group, or
25 organization to organize or establish a fraternity, sorority,
26 or other secret society whose membership is comprised in whole
27 or in part of students enrolled in any public K-12 school or
28 to go upon any public K-12 school premises for the purpose of
29 soliciting any students to join such an organization.

30 (2) A secret society shall be interpreted to be a
31 fraternity, sorority, or other organization whose active

1 membership is comprised wholly or partly of students enrolled
2 in public K-12 schools and which perpetuates itself wholly or
3 partly by taking in additional members from the students
4 enrolled in public K-12 schools on the basis of the decision
5 of its membership rather than on the right of any student who
6 is qualified by the rules of the school to be a member of and
7 take part in any class or group exercise designated and
8 classified according to gender, subjects included in the
9 course of study, or program of school activities fostered and
10 promoted by the district school board and district school
11 superintendent or by school principals.

12 (3) This section shall not be construed to prevent the
13 establishment of an organization fostered and promoted by
14 school authorities, or approved and accepted by school
15 authorities, and whose membership is selected on the basis of
16 good character, good scholarship, leadership ability, and
17 achievement. Full information regarding the charter,
18 principles, purposes, and conduct of any such accepted
19 organization shall be made available to all students and
20 instructional personnel of the school.

21 (4) This section shall not be construed to relate to
22 any junior organization or society sponsored by the Police
23 Athletic League, Knights of Pythias, Oddfellows, Moose,
24 Woodmen of the World, Knights of Columbus, Elks, Masons, B'nai
25 B'rith, Young Men's and Young Women's Hebrew Associations,
26 Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Associations, Kiwanis,
27 Rotary, Optimist, Civitan, Exchange Clubs, Florida Federation
28 of Garden Clubs, and Florida Federation of Women's Clubs.

29 (5) It is unlawful for any student enrolled in any
30 public K-12 school to be a member of, to join or to become a
31 member of or to pledge himself or herself to become a member

1 of any secret fraternity, sorority, or group wholly or partly
2 formed from the membership of students attending public K-12
3 schools or to take part in the organization or formation of
4 any such fraternity, sorority, or secret society; provided
5 that this does not prevent any student from belonging to any
6 organization fostered and promoted by the school authorities;
7 or approved and accepted by the school authorities and whose
8 membership is selected on the basis of good character, good
9 scholarship, leadership ability, and achievement.

10 (6) The district school board may enforce the
11 provisions of this section and prescribe and enforce such
12 rules as are necessary. District school boards shall enforce
13 the provisions of this section by suspending or, if necessary,
14 expelling any student in any public K-12 school who violates
15 this section.

16 Section 283. Section 1006.141, Florida Statutes, is
17 created to read:

18 1006.141 Statewide school safety hotline.--

19 (1) The department may contract with the Florida
20 Sheriffs Association to establish and operate a statewide
21 toll-free school safety hotline for the purpose of reporting
22 incidents that affect the safety and well-being of the
23 school's population.

24 (2) The toll-free school safety hotline is to be a
25 conduit for any person to anonymously report activity that
26 affects the safety and well-being of the school's population.

27 (3) There may not be an award or monetary benefit for
28 reporting an incident through the toll-free school safety
29 hotline.

30 (4) The toll-free school safety hotline shall be
31 operated in a manner that ensures that a designated school

1 official is notified of a complaint received through the
2 hotline if the complaint concerns that school. A complaint
3 that concerns an actionable offense must be reported to the
4 designated official within a reasonable time after the
5 complaint is made. An actionable offense is an incident that
6 could directly affect the safety or well-being of a person or
7 property within a school.

8 (5) If a toll-free school safety hotline is
9 established by contract with the Florida Sheriffs Association,
10 the Florida Sheriffs Association shall produce a quarterly
11 report that evaluates the incidents that have been reported to
12 the hotline. This information may be used to evaluate future
13 school safety educational needs and the need for prevention
14 programs as the district school board considers necessary.

15 Section 284. Section 1006.145, Florida Statutes, is
16 created to read:

17 1006.145 Disturbing school functions; penalty.--Any
18 person not subject to the rules of a school who creates a
19 disturbance on the property or grounds of any school, who
20 commits any act that interrupts the orderly conduct of a
21 school or any activity thereof commits a misdemeanor of the
22 second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s.
23 775.083.

24 Section 285. Part I.d. of chapter 1006, Florida
25 Statutes, shall be entitled "Student Extracurricular
26 Activities and Athletics" and shall consist of ss.
27 1006.15-1006.20.

28 Section 286. Section 1006.15, Florida Statutes, is
29 created to read:

30
31

1 1006.15 Student standards for participation in
2 interscholastic extracurricular student activities;
3 regulation.--
4 (1) This section may be cited as the "Craig Dickinson
5 Act."
6 (2) Interscholastic extracurricular student activities
7 are an important complement to the academic curriculum.
8 Participation in a comprehensive extracurricular and academic
9 program contributes to student development of the social and
10 intellectual skills necessary to become a well-rounded adult.
11 As used in this section, the term "extracurricular" means any
12 school-authorized or education-related activity occurring
13 during or outside the regular instructional school day.
14 (3)(a) To be eligible to participate in
15 interscholastic extracurricular student activities, a student
16 must:
17 1. Maintain a grade point average of 2.0 or above on a
18 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, in the previous semester or a
19 cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or above on a 4.0 scale,
20 or its equivalent, in the courses required by s. 1003.43(1).
21 2. Execute and fulfill the requirements of an academic
22 performance contract between the student, the district school
23 board, the appropriate governing association, and the
24 student's parents, if the student's cumulative grade point
25 average falls below 2.0, or its equivalent, on a 4.0 scale in
26 the courses required by s. 1003.43(1) or, for students who
27 entered the 9th grade prior to the 1997-1998 school year, if
28 the student's cumulative grade point average falls below 2.0
29 on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, in the courses required by
30 s. 1003.43(1) that are taken after July 1, 1997. At a minimum,
31 the contract must require that the student attend summer

1 school, or its graded equivalent, between grades 9 and 10 or
2 grades 10 and 11, as necessary.

3 3. Have a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or
4 above on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, in the courses
5 required by s. 1003.43(1) during his or her junior or senior
6 year.

7 4. Maintain satisfactory conduct and, if a student is
8 convicted of, or is found to have committed, a felony or a
9 delinquent act which would have been a felony if committed by
10 an adult, regardless of whether adjudication is withheld, the
11 student's participation in interscholastic extracurricular
12 activities is contingent upon established and published
13 district school board policy.

14 (b) Any student who is exempt from attending a full
15 school day based on rules adopted by the district school board
16 for double session schools or programs, experimental schools,
17 or schools operating under emergency conditions must maintain
18 the grade point average required by this section and pass each
19 class for which he or she is enrolled.

20 (c) An individual home education student is eligible
21 to participate at the public school to which the student would
22 be assigned according to district school board attendance area
23 policies or which the student could choose to attend pursuant
24 to district or interdistrict controlled open enrollment
25 provisions, or may develop an agreement to participate at a
26 private school, in the interscholastic extracurricular
27 activities of that school, provided the following conditions
28 are met:

29 1. The home education student must meet the
30 requirements of the home education program pursuant to s.
31 1002.41.

1 2. During the period of participation at a school, the
2 home education student must demonstrate educational progress
3 as required in paragraph (3)(b) in all subjects taken in the
4 home education program by a method of evaluation agreed upon
5 by the parent and the school principal which may include:
6 review of the student's work by a certified teacher chosen by
7 the parent; grades earned through correspondence; grades
8 earned in courses taken at a community college, university, or
9 trade school; standardized test scores above the 35th
10 percentile; or any other method designated in s. 1002.41.

11 3. The home education student must meet the same
12 residency requirements as other students in the school at
13 which he or she participates.

14 4. The home education student must meet the same
15 standards of acceptance, behavior, and performance as required
16 of other students in extracurricular activities.

17 5. The student must register with the school his or
18 her intent to participate in interscholastic extracurricular
19 activities as a representative of the school before the
20 beginning date of the season for the activity in which he or
21 she wishes to participate. A home education student must be
22 able to participate in curricular activities if that is a
23 requirement for an extracurricular activity.

24 6. A student who transfers from a home education
25 program to a public school before or during the first grading
26 period of the school year is academically eligible to
27 participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities
28 during the first grading period provided the student has a
29 successful evaluation from the previous school year, pursuant
30 to subparagraph (3)(c)2.

31

1 7. Any public school or private school student who has
2 been unable to maintain academic eligibility for participation
3 in interscholastic extracurricular activities is ineligible to
4 participate in such activities as a home education student
5 until the student has successfully completed one grading
6 period in home education pursuant to subparagraph (3)(c)2. to
7 become eligible to participate as a home education student.

8 (d) An individual charter school student pursuant to
9 s. 1002.33 is eligible to participate at the public school to
10 which the student would be assigned according to district
11 school board attendance area policies or which the student
12 could choose to attend, pursuant to district or interdistrict
13 controlled open-enrollment provisions, in any interscholastic
14 extracurricular activity of that school, unless such activity
15 is provided by the student's charter school, if the following
16 conditions are met:

17 1. The charter school student must meet the
18 requirements of the charter school education program as
19 determined by the charter school governing board.

20 2. During the period of participation at a school, the
21 charter school student must demonstrate educational progress
22 as required in paragraph (b).

23 3. The charter school student must meet the same
24 residency requirements as other students in the school at
25 which he or she participates.

26 4. The charter school student must meet the same
27 standards of acceptance, behavior, and performance that are
28 required of other students in extracurricular activities.

29 5. The charter school student must register with the
30 school his or her intent to participate in interscholastic
31 extracurricular activities as a representative of the school

1 before the beginning date of the season for the activity in
2 which he or she wishes to participate. A charter school
3 student must be able to participate in curricular activities
4 if that is a requirement for an extracurricular activity.

5 6. A student who transfers from a charter school
6 program to a traditional public school before or during the
7 first grading period of the school year is academically
8 eligible to participate in interscholastic extracurricular
9 activities during the first grading period if the student has
10 a successful evaluation from the previous school year,
11 pursuant to subparagraph 2.

12 7. Any public school or private school student who has
13 been unable to maintain academic eligibility for participation
14 in interscholastic extracurricular activities is ineligible to
15 participate in such activities as a charter school student
16 until the student has successfully completed one grading
17 period in a charter school pursuant to subparagraph 2. to
18 become eligible to participate as a charter school student.

19 (4) The student standards for participation in
20 interscholastic extracurricular activities must be applied
21 beginning with the student's first semester of the 9th grade.
22 Each student must meet such other requirements for
23 participation as may be established by the district school
24 board; however, a district school board may not establish
25 requirements for participation in interscholastic
26 extracurricular activities which make participation in such
27 activities less accessible to home education students than to
28 other students. Except as set forth in paragraph (3)(c),
29 evaluation processes or requirements that are placed on home
30 education student participants may not go beyond those that
31 apply under s. 1002.41 to home education students generally.

1 (5) Any organization or entity that regulates or
2 governs interscholastic extracurricular activities of public
3 schools:

4 (a) Shall permit home education associations to join
5 as member schools.

6 (b) Shall not discriminate against any eligible
7 student based on an educational choice of public, private, or
8 home education.

9 (6) Public schools are prohibited from membership in
10 any organization or entity which regulates or governs
11 interscholastic extracurricular activities and discriminates
12 against eligible students in public, private, or home
13 education.

14 (7) Any insurance provided by district school boards
15 for participants in extracurricular activities shall cover the
16 participating home education student. If there is an
17 additional premium for such coverage, the participating home
18 education student shall pay the premium.

19 Section 287. Section 1006.16, Florida Statutes, is
20 created to read:

21 1006.16 Insuring school students engaged in athletic
22 activities against injury.--Any district school board, school
23 athletic association, or school may formulate, conduct, and
24 purchase a plan or method of insuring, or may self-insure,
25 school students against injury sustained by reason of such
26 students engaging and participating in the athletic activities
27 conducted or sponsored by the district school board,
28 association, or school in which such students are enrolled. A
29 district school board, school athletic association, or school
30 may add a surcharge to the fee charged for admission to
31 athletic events as a means of producing revenue to purchase

1 such insurance or to provide self-insurance. Any district
2 school board may pay for all or part of such plan or method of
3 insurance or self-insurance from available district school
4 board funds.

5 Section 288. Section 1006.17, Florida Statutes, is
6 created to read:

7 1006.17 Sponsorship of athletic activities similar to
8 those for which scholarships offered; rulemaking.--

9 (1) If a district school board sponsors an athletic
10 activity or sport that is similar to a sport for which a state
11 university or public community college offers an athletic
12 scholarship, it must sponsor the athletic activity or sport
13 for which a scholarship is offered. This section does not
14 affect academic requirements for participation or prevent the
15 school districts or community colleges from sponsoring
16 activities in addition to those for which scholarships are
17 provided.

18 (2) If a Florida public community college sponsors an
19 athletic activity or sport that is similar to a sport for
20 which a state university offers an athletic scholarship, it
21 must sponsor the athletic activity or sport for which a
22 scholarship is offered.

23 (3) Two athletic activities or sports that are similar
24 may be offered simultaneously.

25 (4) If the level of participation is insufficient to
26 warrant continuation of an athletic activity or sport, the
27 school may offer an alternative athletic activity or sport.

28 (5) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to
29 administer this section, including rules that determine which
30 athletic activities are similar to sports for which state
31 universities and community colleges offer scholarships.

1 Section 289. Section 1006.18, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1006.18 Cheerleader safety standards.--The Florida
4 High School Activities Association or successor organization
5 shall adopt statewide uniform safety standards for student
6 cheerleaders and spirit groups that participate in any school
7 activity or extracurricular student activity. The Florida High
8 School Activities Association or successor organization shall
9 adopt the "Official High School Spirit Rules," published by
10 the National Federation of State High School Associations, as
11 the statewide uniform safety standards.

12 Section 290. Section 1006.19, Florida Statutes, is
13 created to read:

14 1006.19 Audit of records of nonprofit corporations and
15 associations handling interscholastic activities.--

16 (1) Each nonprofit association or corporation that
17 operates for the purpose of supervising and controlling
18 interscholastic activities of public high schools and whose
19 membership is composed of duly certified representatives of
20 public high schools, and whose rules and regulations are
21 established by members thereof, shall have an annual financial
22 audit of its accounts and records by an independent certified
23 public accountant retained by it and paid from its funds. The
24 accountant shall furnish a copy of the audit report to the
25 Auditor General for review.

26 (2) Any such nonprofit association or corporation
27 shall keep adequate and complete records of all moneys
28 received by it, including the source and amount, and all
29 moneys spent by it, including salaries, fees, expenses, travel
30 allowances, and all other items of expense. All records of
31

1 any such organization shall be open for inspection by the
2 Auditor General or the Auditor General's employees.

3 Section 291. Section 1006.20, Florida Statutes, is
4 created to read:

5 1006.20 Athletics in public K-12 schools.--

6 (1) GOVERNING NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.--The Florida
7 High School Activities Association is designated as the
8 governing nonprofit organization of athletics in Florida
9 public schools. If the Florida High School Activities
10 Association fails to meet the provisions of this section, the
11 commissioner shall designate a nonprofit organization to
12 govern athletics with the approval of the State Board of
13 Education. The organization is not to be a state agency as
14 defined in s. 120.52. The organization shall be subject to the
15 provisions of s. 1006.19. A private school that wishes to
16 engage in high school athletic competition with a public high
17 school may become a member of the organization. The bylaws of
18 the organization are to be the rules by which high school
19 athletic programs in its member schools, and the students who
20 participate in them, are governed, unless otherwise
21 specifically provided by statute. For the purposes of this
22 section, "high school" includes grades 6 through 12.

23 (2) ADOPTION OF BYLAWS.--

24 (a) The organization shall adopt bylaws that, unless
25 specifically provided by statute, establish eligibility
26 requirements for all students who participate in high school
27 athletic competition in its member schools. The bylaws
28 governing residence and transfer shall allow the student to be
29 eligible in the school in which he or she first enrolls each
30 school year, or makes himself or herself a candidate for an
31 athletic team by engaging in a practice prior to enrolling in

1 any member school. The student shall be eligible in that
2 school so long as he or she remains enrolled in that school.
3 Subsequent eligibility shall be determined and enforced
4 through the organization's bylaws.

5 (b) The organization shall adopt bylaws that
6 specifically prohibit the recruiting of students for athletic
7 purposes. The bylaws shall prescribe penalties and an appeals
8 process for athletic recruiting violations.

9 (c) The organization shall adopt bylaws that require
10 all students participating in interscholastic athletic
11 competition or who are candidates for an interscholastic
12 athletic team to satisfactorily pass a medical evaluation each
13 year prior to participating in interscholastic athletic
14 competition or engaging in any practice, tryout, workout, or
15 other physical activity associated with the student's
16 candidacy for an interscholastic athletic team. Such medical
17 evaluation can only be administered by a practitioner licensed
18 under the provisions of chapter 458, chapter 459, chapter 460,
19 or s. 464.012, and in good standing with the practitioner's
20 regulatory board. The bylaws shall establish requirements for
21 eliciting a student's medical history and performing the
22 medical evaluation required under this paragraph, which shall
23 include minimum standards for the physical capabilities
24 necessary for participation in interscholastic athletic
25 competition as contained in a uniform preparticipation
26 physical evaluation form. The evaluation form shall provide a
27 place for the signature of the practitioner performing the
28 evaluation with an attestation that each examination procedure
29 listed on the form was performed by the practitioner or by
30 someone under the direct supervision of the practitioner. The
31 form shall also contain a place for the practitioner to

1 indicate if a referral to another practitioner was made in
2 lieu of completion of a certain examination procedure. The
3 form shall provide a place for the practitioner to whom the
4 student was referred to complete the remaining sections and
5 attest to that portion of the examination. Practitioners
6 administering medical evaluations pursuant to this subsection
7 must know the minimum standards established by the
8 organization and certify that the student meets the standards.
9 If the practitioner determines that there are any abnormal
10 findings in the cardiovascular system, the student may not
11 participate unless a subsequent EKG or other cardiovascular
12 assessment indicates that the abnormality will not place the
13 student at risk during such participation. Results of such
14 medical evaluation must be provided to the school. No student
15 shall be eligible to participate in any interscholastic
16 athletic competition or engage in any practice, tryout,
17 workout, or other physical activity associated with the
18 student's candidacy for an interscholastic athletic team until
19 the results of the medical evaluation verifying that the
20 student has satisfactorily passed the evaluation have been
21 received and approved by the school.

22 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (c), a
23 student may participate in interscholastic athletic
24 competition or be a candidate for an interscholastic athletic
25 team if the parent of the student objects in writing to the
26 student undergoing a medical evaluation because such
27 evaluation is contrary to his or her religious tenets or
28 practices. However, no person or entity shall be held liable
29 for any injury or other damages suffered by such student as a
30 result of his or her participation in athletics unless the
31

1 injury or damages are caused by unlawful activity, gross
2 negligence, or willful and wanton misconduct.

3 (3) GOVERNING STRUCTURE OF THE ORGANIZATION.--

4 (a) The organization shall operate as a representative
5 democracy in which the sovereign authority is within its
6 member schools. Except as provided in this section, the
7 organization shall govern its affairs through its bylaws.

8 (b) Each member school, on its annual application for
9 membership, shall name its official representative to the
10 organization. This representative must be either the school
11 principal or his or her designee. That designee must either be
12 an assistant principal or athletic director housed within that
13 same school.

14 (c) The organization's membership shall be divided
15 along existing county lines into four contiguous and compact
16 administrative regions, each containing an equal or nearly
17 equal number of member schools to ensure equitable
18 representation on the organization's board of directors,
19 representative assembly, and committee on appeals.

20 (4) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.--

21 (a) The executive authority of the organization shall
22 be vested in its board of directors. The board of directors
23 shall be composed of 15 persons, as follows:

24 1. Four public member school representatives, one
25 elected from among its public school representative members
26 within each of the four administrative regions.

27 2. Four nonpublic member school representatives, one
28 elected from among its nonpublic school representative members
29 within each of the four administrative regions.

30 3. Two representatives appointed by the commissioner,
31 one appointed from the two northernmost administrative regions

1 and one appointed from the two southernmost administrative
2 regions.

3 4. Two district school superintendents, one elected
4 from the two northernmost administrative regions by the
5 members in those regions and one elected from the two
6 southernmost administrative regions by the members in those
7 regions.

8 5. Two district school board members, one elected from
9 the two northernmost administrative regions by the members in
10 those regions and one elected from the two southernmost
11 administrative regions by the members in those regions.

12 6. The commissioner or his or her designee from the
13 department executive staff.

14 (b) A quorum of the board of directors shall consist
15 of nine members.

16 (c) The board of directors shall elect a president and
17 a vice president from among its members. These officers shall
18 also serve as officers of the organization.

19 (d) Members of the board of directors shall serve
20 terms of 3 years and are eligible to succeed themselves only
21 once. A member of the board of directors, other than the
22 commissioner or his or her designee, may serve a maximum of 6
23 consecutive years. The organization's bylaws shall establish a
24 rotation of terms to ensure that a majority of the members'
25 terms do not expire concurrently.

26 (e) The authority and duties of the board of
27 directors, acting as a body and in accordance with the
28 organization's bylaws, are as follows:

29 1. To act as the incorporated organization's board of
30 directors and to fulfill its obligations as required by the
31 organization's charter and articles of incorporation.

1 2. To establish such guidelines, regulations,
2 policies, and procedures as are authorized by the bylaws.

3 3. To provide an organization commissioner, who shall
4 have the authority to waive the bylaws of the organization in
5 order to comply with statutory changes.

6 4. To levy annual dues and other fees and to set the
7 percentage of contest receipts to be collected by the
8 organization.

9 5. To approve the budget of the organization.

10 6. To organize and conduct statewide interscholastic
11 competitions, which may or may not lead to state
12 championships, and to establish the terms and conditions for
13 these competitions.

14 7. To act as an administrative board in the
15 interpretation of, and final decision on, all questions and
16 appeals arising from the directing of interscholastic
17 athletics of member schools.

18 (5) REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY.--

19 (a) The legislative authority of the organization is
20 vested in its representative assembly.

21 (b) The representative assembly shall be composed of
22 the following:

23 1. An equal number of member school representatives
24 from each of the four administrative regions.

25 2. Four district school superintendents, one elected
26 from each of the four administrative regions by the district
27 school superintendents in their respective administrative
28 regions.

29 3. Four district school board members, one elected
30 from each of the four administrative regions by the district
31

1 school board members in their respective administrative
2 regions.

3 4. The commissioner or his or her designee from the
4 department executive staff.

5 (c) The organization's bylaws shall establish the
6 number of member school representatives to serve in the
7 representative assembly from each of the four administrative
8 regions and shall establish the method for their selection.

9 (d) No member of the board of directors other than the
10 commissioner or his or her designee can serve in the
11 representative assembly.

12 (e) The representative assembly shall elect a
13 chairperson and a vice chairperson from among its members.

14 (f) Elected members of the representative assembly
15 shall serve terms of 2 years and are eligible to succeed
16 themselves for two additional terms. An elected member, other
17 than the commissioner or his or her designee, may serve a
18 maximum of 6 consecutive years in the representative assembly.

19 (g) A quorum of the representative assembly consists
20 of one more than half of its members.

21 (h) The authority of the representative assembly is
22 limited to its sole duty, which is to consider, adopt, or
23 reject any proposed amendments to the organization's bylaws.

24 (i) The representative assembly shall meet as a body
25 annually. A two-thirds majority of the votes cast by members
26 present is required for passage of any proposal.

27 (6) PUBLIC LIAISON ADVISORY COMMITTEE.--

28 (a) The organization shall establish, sustain, fund,
29 and provide staff support to a public liaison advisory
30 committee composed of the following:

31 1. The commissioner or his or her designee.

- 1 2. A member public school principal.
2 3. A member private school principal.
3 4. A member school principal who is a member of a
4 racial minority.
5 5. An active athletic director.
6 6. An active coach, who is employed full time by a
7 member school.
8 7. A student athlete.
9 8. A district school superintendent.
10 9. A district school board member.
11 10. A member of the Florida House of Representatives.
12 11. A member of the Florida Senate.
13 12. A parent of a high school student.
14 13. A member of a home education association.
15 14. A representative of the business community.
16 15. A representative of the news media.
17 (b) No member of the board of directors, committee on
18 appeals, or representative assembly is eligible to serve on
19 the public liaison advisory committee.
20 (c) The public liaison advisory committee shall elect
21 a chairperson and vice chairperson from among its members.
22 (d) The authority and duties of the public liaison
23 advisory committee are as follows:
24 1. To act as a conduit through which the general
25 public may have input into the decisionmaking process of the
26 organization and to assist the organization in the development
27 of procedures regarding the receipt of public input and
28 disposition of complaints related to high school athletic and
29 competition programs.
30 2. To conduct public hearings annually in each of the
31 four administrative regions during which interested parties

1 may address issues regarding the effectiveness of the rules,
2 operation, and management of the organization.

3 3. To conduct an annual evaluation of the organization
4 as a whole and present a report of its findings, conclusion,
5 and recommendations to the board of directors, to the
6 commissioner, and to the respective education committees of
7 the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives.
8 The recommendations must delineate policies and procedures
9 that will improve the implementation and oversight of high
10 school athletic programs by the organization.

11 (e) The public liaison advisory committee shall meet
12 four times annually. Additional meetings may be called by the
13 committee chairperson, the organization president, or the
14 organization commissioner.

15 (7) APPEALS.--

16 (a) The organization shall establish a procedure of
17 due process which ensures each student the opportunity to
18 appeal an unfavorable ruling with regard to his or her
19 eligibility to compete. The initial appeal shall be made to a
20 committee on appeals within the administrative region in which
21 the student lives. The organization's bylaws shall establish
22 the number, size, and composition of the committee on appeals.

23 (b) No member of the board of directors is eligible to
24 serve on the committee on appeals.

25 (c) Members of the committee on appeals shall serve
26 terms of 3 years and are eligible to succeed themselves only
27 once. A member of the committee on appeals may serve a maximum
28 of 6 consecutive years. The organization's bylaws shall
29 establish a rotation of terms to ensure that a majority of the
30 members' terms do not expire concurrently.

31

1 (d) The authority and duties of the committee on
2 appeals shall be to consider requests by member schools
3 seeking exceptions to bylaws and regulations, to hear undue
4 hardship eligibility cases filed by member schools on behalf
5 of student athletes, and to hear appeals filed by member
6 schools.

7 (e) A student athlete or member school that receives
8 an unfavorable ruling from a committee on appeals shall be
9 entitled to appeal that decision to the board of directors at
10 its next regularly scheduled meeting or called meeting. The
11 board of directors shall have the authority to uphold,
12 reverse, or amend the decision of the committee on appeals. In
13 all such cases, the decision of the board of directors shall
14 be final.

15 (8) AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS.--Each member school
16 representative, the board of directors acting as a whole or as
17 members acting individually, any advisory committee acting as
18 a whole to be established by the organization, and the
19 organization's commissioner are empowered to propose
20 amendments to the bylaws. Any other individual may propose an
21 amendment by securing the sponsorship of any of the
22 aforementioned individuals or bodies. All proposed amendments
23 must be submitted directly to the representative assembly for
24 its consideration. The representative assembly, while
25 empowered to adopt, reject, or revise proposed amendments, may
26 not, in and of itself, as a body be allowed to propose any
27 amendment for its own consideration.

28 (9) RULES ADOPTION.--The bylaws of the organization
29 shall require member schools to adopt rules for sports, which
30 have been established by a nationally recognized sanctioning
31

1 body, unless waived by at least a two-thirds vote of the board
2 of directors.

3 (10) EXAMINATION; CRITERIA; REPORT.--The board of
4 directors of the Florida High School Activities Association
5 shall undertake an examination of the following:

6 (a) Alternative criteria for establishing
7 administrative regions to include, but not be limited to,
8 population.

9 (b) Procedures to ensure appropriate diversity in the
10 membership of the board of directors.

11 (c) Opportunities to secure corporate financial
12 support for high school athletic programs.

13

14 The board of directors shall submit to the commissioner, the
15 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
16 Representatives not later than March 1, 2003, a report on the
17 actions taken in the examination of each of the three topics
18 listed in this subsection, the findings, and the actions to be
19 taken to implement the findings and the target date for
20 implementation.

21 Section 292. Part I.e. of chapter 1006, Florida
22 Statutes, shall be entitled "Transportation of Public K-12
23 Students" and shall consist of ss. 1006.21-1006.27.

24 Section 293. Section 1006.21, Florida Statutes, is
25 created to read:

26 1006.21 Duties of district school superintendent and
27 district school board regarding transportation.--

28 (1) The district school superintendent shall ascertain
29 which students should be transported to school or to school
30 activities, determine the most effective arrangement of
31 transportation routes to accommodate these students; recommend

1 such routing to the district school board; recommend plans and
2 procedures for providing facilities for the economical and
3 safe transportation of students; recommend such rules and
4 regulations as may be necessary and see that all rules and
5 regulations relating to the transportation of students
6 approved by the district school board, as well as regulations
7 of the state board, are properly carried into effect, as
8 prescribed in this chapter.

9 (2) After considering recommendations of the district
10 school superintendent, the district school board shall make
11 provision for the transportation of students to the public
12 schools or school activities they are required or expected to
13 attend; authorize transportation routes arranged efficiently
14 and economically; provide the necessary transportation
15 facilities, and, when authorized under rules of the State
16 Board of Education and if more economical to do so, provide
17 limited subsistence in lieu thereof; and adopt the necessary
18 rules and regulations to ensure safety, economy, and
19 efficiency in the operation of all buses, as prescribed in
20 this chapter.

21 (3) District school boards, after considering
22 recommendations of the district school superintendent:

23 (a) Shall provide transportation for each student in
24 prekindergarten disability programs and in kindergarten
25 through grade 12 membership in a public school when, and only
26 when, transportation is necessary to provide adequate
27 educational facilities and opportunities which otherwise would
28 not be available and to transport students whose homes are
29 more than a reasonable walking distance, as defined by rules
30 of the State Board of Education, from the nearest appropriate
31 school.

1 (b) Shall provide transportation for public elementary
2 school students in membership whose grade level does not
3 exceed grade 6, and may provide transportation for public
4 school students in membership in grades 7 through 12, if such
5 students are subjected to hazardous walking conditions as
6 provided in s. 1006.23 while en route to or from school.

7 (c) May provide transportation for public school
8 migrant, exceptional, nursery, and other public school
9 students in membership below kindergarten; kindergarten
10 through grade 12 students in membership in a public school;
11 and adult students in membership in adult career and
12 technical, basic, and high school graduation programs in a
13 public school when, and only when, transportation is necessary
14 to provide adequate educational facilities and opportunities
15 which otherwise would not be available.

16 (d) May provide transportation for the transportation
17 disadvantaged as defined in s. 427.011 and for other
18 school-age children as provided for in s. 1006.261.

19 (e) Shall provide necessary transportation to pregnant
20 students or student parents, and the children of those
21 students, when the district school board operates a teenage
22 parent program pursuant to s. 1003.54.

23 (f) May provide transportation for other persons to
24 events or activities in which the district school board or
25 school has agreed to participate or cosponsor. The district
26 school board shall adopt a policy to address liability for
27 trips pursuant to this paragraph.

28 (g) May provide transportation for welfare transition
29 program participants as defined in s. 414.0252.

30 (4) In each case in which transportation of students
31 is impracticable in the opinion of the district school board,

1 the district school board may take steps for making available
2 educational facilities as are authorized by law or rule of the
3 State Board of Education and as, in the opinion of the
4 district school board, are practical.

5 Section 294. Section 1006.22, Florida Statutes, is
6 created to read:

7 1006.22 Safety and health of students being
8 transported.--Maximum regard for safety and adequate
9 protection of health are primary requirements that must be
10 observed by district school boards in routing buses,
11 appointing drivers, and providing and operating equipment, in
12 accordance with all requirements of law and rules of the State
13 Board of Education in providing transportation pursuant to s.
14 1006.21:

15 (1) District school boards shall use school buses, as
16 defined in s. 1006.25, for all regular transportation. Regular
17 transportation or regular use means transportation of students
18 to and from school or school-related activities that are part
19 of a scheduled series or sequence of events to the same
20 location. "Students" means, for the purposes of this section,
21 students enrolled in the public schools in prekindergarten
22 disability programs and in kindergarten through grade 12.

23 District school boards may regularly use motor vehicles other
24 than school buses only under the following conditions:

25 (a) When the transportation is for physically
26 handicapped or isolated students and the district school board
27 has elected to provide for the transportation of the student
28 through written or oral contracts or agreements.

29 (b) When the transportation is a part of a
30 comprehensive contract for a specialized educational program
31

1 between a district school board and a service provider who
2 provides instruction, transportation, and other services.

3 (c) When the transportation is provided through a
4 public transit system.

5 (d) When the transportation of students is necessary
6 or practical in a motor vehicle owned or operated by a
7 district school board other than a school bus, such
8 transportation must be provided in designated seating
9 positions in a passenger car not to exceed 8 students or in a
10 multipurpose passenger vehicle designed to transport 10 or
11 fewer persons which meets all applicable federal motor vehicle
12 safety standards. Multipurpose passenger vehicles classified
13 as utility vehicles with a wheelbase of 110 inches or less
14 which are required by federal motor vehicle standards to
15 display a rollover warning label may not be used.

16
17 When students are transported in motor vehicles, the occupant
18 crash protection system provided by the vehicle manufacturer
19 must be used unless the student's physical condition prohibits
20 such use.

21 (2) Except as provided in subsection (1), district
22 school boards may authorize the transportation of students in
23 privately owned motor vehicles on a case-by-case basis only in
24 the following circumstances:

25 (a) When a student is ill or injured and must be taken
26 home or to a medical treatment facility under nonemergency
27 circumstances; and

28 1. The school has been unable to contact the student's
29 parent or the parent or responsible adult designated by the
30 parent is not available to provide the transportation;

31

1 2. Proper adult supervision of the student is
2 available at the location to which the student is being
3 transported;

4 3. The transportation is approved by the school
5 principal, or a school administrator designated by the
6 principal to grant or deny such approval, or in the absence of
7 the principal and designee, by the highest ranking school
8 administrator or teacher available under the circumstances;
9 and

10 4. If the school has been unable to contact the parent
11 prior to the transportation, the school shall continue to seek
12 to contact the parent until the school is able to notify the
13 parent of the transportation and the pertinent circumstances.

14 (b) When the transportation is in connection with a
15 school function or event regarding which the district school
16 board or school has undertaken to participate or to sponsor or
17 provide the participation of students; and

18 1. The function or event is a single event that is not
19 part of a scheduled series or sequence of events to the same
20 location, such as, but not limited to, a field trip, a
21 recreational outing, an interscholastic competition or
22 cooperative event, an event connected with an extracurricular
23 activity offered by the school, or an event connected to an
24 educational program, such as, but not limited to, a job
25 interview as part of a cooperative education program;

26 2. Transportation is not available, as a practical
27 matter, using a school bus or school district passenger car;
28 and

29 3. Each student's parent is notified, in writing,
30 regarding the transportation arrangement and gives written
31

1 consent before a student is transported in a privately owned
2 motor vehicle.

3 (c) When a district school board requires employees
4 such as school social workers and attendance officers to use
5 their own motor vehicles to perform duties of employment, and
6 such duties include the occasional transportation of students.

7 (3) When approval is granted for the transportation of
8 students in a privately owned vehicle, the provisions of s.
9 1006.24 regarding liability for tort claims are applicable.

10 District school board employees who provide approved
11 transportation in privately owned vehicles are acting within
12 the scope of their employment. Parents or other responsible
13 adults who provide approved transportation in privately owned
14 vehicles have the same exposure to, and protections from,
15 risks of personal liability as do district school board
16 employees acting within the scope of their employment.

17 (4) Each district school board may establish policies
18 that restrict the use of privately owned motor vehicles to
19 circumstances that are more limited than are described in this
20 section or that prohibit such use. Each district school board
21 may establish written policies that provide for more extensive
22 requirements for approval, parental notification and consent
23 procedures, insurance coverage, driver qualifications, or a
24 combination of these.

25 (5) When transportation is authorized in privately
26 owned vehicles, students may be transported only in designated
27 seating positions and must use the occupant crash protection
28 system provided by the vehicle manufacturer.

29 (6) District school boards may contract with a common
30 carrier to transport students to and from in-season and
31 postseason athletic contests and to and from a school function

1 or event in which the district school board or a school has
2 undertaken to participate or to provide for or sponsor the
3 participation of students.

4 (7) Transportation for adult students may be provided
5 by any appropriate means as authorized by the district school
6 board when the transportation is accepted as a responsibility
7 by the district school board as provided in s. 1006.21.

8 (8) Notwithstanding any other provision of this
9 section, in an emergency situation that constitutes an
10 imminent threat to student health or safety, school personnel
11 may take whatever action is necessary under the circumstances
12 to protect student health and safety.

13 (9) Except as provided in s. 1006.261, transportation
14 is not the responsibility of the district school board in
15 connection with any event or activity that is not an event or
16 activity offered by the district school board or an event or
17 an activity in which the district school board or school has
18 agreed to participate, cosponsor, or require the participation
19 of students, and the district school board has no liability
20 for transportation arranged and provided by parents or other
21 parties to such events or activities.

22 (10) Each district school board shall designate and
23 adopt a specific plan for adequate examination, maintenance,
24 and repair of transportation equipment. Examination of the
25 mechanical and safety condition of each school bus must be
26 made as required pursuant to rule of the State Board of
27 Education. The State Board of Education shall base the rule on
28 student safety considerations.

29 (11) The district school superintendent shall notify
30 the district school board of any school bus that does not meet
31 all requirements of law and rules of the State Board of

1 Education, and the district school board shall, if the school
2 bus is in an unsafe condition, withdraw it from use as a
3 school bus until the bus meets the requirements. The
4 department may inspect or have inspected any school bus to
5 determine whether the bus meets requirements of law and rules
6 of the State Board of Education. The department may, after due
7 notice to a district school board that any school bus does not
8 meet certain requirements of law and rules of the State Board
9 of Education, rule that the bus must be withdrawn from use as
10 a school bus, this ruling to be effective immediately or upon
11 a date specified in the ruling, whereupon the district school
12 board shall withdraw the school bus from use as a school bus
13 until it meets requirements of law and rules of the State
14 Board of Education and until the department has officially
15 revoked the pertinent ruling. Notwithstanding any other
16 provisions of this chapter, general purpose urban transit
17 systems are declared qualified to transport students to and
18 from school.

19 (12)(a) The routing and scheduling of school buses
20 must be planned to eliminate the necessity for students to
21 stand while a school bus is in motion. When circumstances of
22 an emergency nature, as defined by written district school
23 board policy, temporarily require transporting students on
24 school buses in excess of the rated seating capacity, the
25 buses must proceed at a reduced rate of speed to maximize
26 safety of the students, taking into account existing traffic
27 conditions. Each district school board is responsible for
28 prompt relief of the emergency condition by providing
29 additional equipment, bus rerouting, bus rescheduling, or
30 other appropriate remedial action, and must maintain written
31 district school board policies to address such situations.

1 (b) Each district school board, after considering
2 recommendations from the district school superintendent, shall
3 designate, by map or otherwise, or shall provide by district
4 school board rule for the designation of, nontransportation
5 zones that are composed of all areas in the school district
6 from which it is unnecessary or impracticable to furnish
7 transportation. Nontransportation zones must be designated
8 annually before the opening of school and the designation of
9 bus routes for the succeeding school year. Each district
10 school board, after considering recommendations from the
11 district school superintendent, shall specifically designate,
12 or shall provide by district school board rule for the
13 designation of, specific routes to be traveled regularly by
14 school buses, and each route must meet the requirements
15 prescribed by rules of the State Board of Education.

16 (c) Each district school board shall establish school
17 bus stops, or provide by district school board rule for the
18 establishment of school bus stops, as necessary at the most
19 reasonably safe locations available. Where unusual traffic
20 hazards exist at school bus stops on roads maintained by the
21 state outside of municipalities, the Department of
22 Transportation, in concurrence and cooperation with and upon
23 request of the district school board, shall place signs at
24 such bus stops warning motorists of the location of the stops.

25 (13) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to
26 implement this section as are necessary or desirable in the
27 interest of student health and safety.

28 Section 295. Section 1006.23, Florida Statutes, is
29 created to read:

30 1006.23 Hazardous walking conditions.--
31

1 (1) DEFINITION.--As used in this section, "student"
2 means any public elementary school student whose grade level
3 does not exceed grade 6.
4 (2) TRANSPORTATION; CORRECTION OF HAZARDS.--
5 (a) It is intended that district school boards and
6 other governmental entities work cooperatively to identify
7 conditions that are hazardous along student walking routes to
8 school and that district school boards provide transportation
9 to students who would be subjected to such conditions. It is
10 further intended that state or local governmental entities
11 having jurisdiction correct such hazardous conditions within a
12 reasonable period of time.
13 (b) Upon a determination pursuant to this section that
14 a condition is hazardous to students, the district school
15 board shall request a determination from the state or local
16 governmental entity having jurisdiction regarding whether the
17 hazard will be corrected and, if so, regarding a projected
18 completion date. State funds shall be allocated for the
19 transportation of students subjected to such hazards, provided
20 that such funding shall cease upon correction of the hazard or
21 upon the projected completion date, whichever occurs first.
22 (3) IDENTIFICATION OF HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS.--When a
23 request for review is made to the district school
24 superintendent or the district school superintendent's
25 designee concerning a condition perceived to be hazardous to
26 students in that district who live within the 2-mile limit and
27 who walk to school, such condition shall be inspected by a
28 representative of the school district and a representative of
29 the state or local governmental entity that has jurisdiction
30 over the perceived hazardous location. The district school
31 superintendent or his or her designee and the state or local

1 governmental entity or its representative shall then make a
2 final determination that is mutually agreed upon regarding
3 whether the hazardous condition meets the state criteria
4 pursuant to this section. The district school superintendent
5 or his or her designee shall report this final determination
6 to the department.

7 (4) STATE CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING HAZARDOUS WALKING
8 CONDITIONS.--

9 (a) Walkways parallel to the road.--

10 1. It shall be considered a hazardous walking
11 condition with respect to any road along which students must
12 walk in order to walk to and from school if there is not an
13 area at least 4 feet wide adjacent to the road, having a
14 surface upon which students may walk without being required to
15 walk on the road surface. In addition, whenever the road along
16 which students must walk is uncurbed and has a posted speed
17 limit of 55 miles per hour, the area as described above for
18 students to walk upon shall be set off the road by no less
19 than 3 feet from the edge of the road.

20 2. The provisions of subparagraph 1. do not apply when
21 the road along which students must walk:

22 a. Is in a residential area which has little or no
23 transient traffic;

24 b. Is a road on which the volume of traffic is less
25 than 180 vehicles per hour, per direction, during the time
26 students walk to and from school; or

27 c. Is located in a residential area and has a posted
28 speed limit of 30 miles per hour or less.

29 (b) Walkways perpendicular to the road.--It shall be
30 considered a hazardous walking condition with respect to any
31

1 road across which students must walk in order to walk to and
2 from school:

3 1. If the traffic volume on the road exceeds the rate
4 of 360 vehicles per hour, per direction (including all lanes),
5 during the time students walk to and from school and if the
6 crossing site is uncontrolled. For purposes of this
7 subsection, an "uncontrolled crossing site" is an intersection
8 or other designated crossing site where no crossing guard,
9 traffic enforcement officer, or stop sign or other traffic
10 control signal is present during the times students walk to
11 and from school.

12 2. If the total traffic volume on the road exceeds
13 4,000 vehicles per hour through an intersection or other
14 crossing site controlled by a stop sign or other traffic
15 control signal, unless crossing guards or other traffic
16 enforcement officers are also present during the times
17 students walk to and from school.

18

19 Traffic volume shall be determined by the most current traffic
20 engineering study conducted by a state or local governmental
21 agency.

22 Section 296. Section 1006.24, Florida Statutes, is
23 created to read:

24 1006.24 Tort liability; liability insurance.--

25 (1) Each district school board shall be liable for
26 tort claims arising out of any incident or occurrence
27 involving a school bus or other motor vehicle owned,
28 maintained, operated, or used by the district school board to
29 transport persons, to the same extent and in the same manner
30 as the state or any of its agencies or subdivisions is liable
31 for tort claims under s. 768.28, except that the total

1 liability to persons being transported for all claims or
2 judgments of such persons arising out of the same incident or
3 occurrence shall not exceed an amount equal to \$5,000
4 multiplied by the rated seating capacity of the school bus or
5 other vehicle, as determined by rules of the State Board of
6 Education, or \$100,000, whichever is greater. The provisions
7 of s. 768.28 apply to all claims or actions brought against
8 district school boards, as authorized in this subsection.

9 (2) Each district school board may secure and keep in
10 force a medical payments plan or medical payments insurance on
11 school buses and other vehicles. If a medical payments plan or
12 insurance is provided, it shall be carried in a sum of no less
13 than \$500 per person.

14 (3) Expenses, costs, or premiums to protect against
15 liability for torts as provided in this section may be paid
16 from any available funds of the district school board.

17 (4) If vehicles used in transportation are not owned
18 by the district school board, the district school board may
19 require owners of such vehicles to show evidence of adequate
20 insurance during the time that such vehicles are in the
21 services of the district school board.

22 Section 297. Section 1006.25, Florida Statutes, is
23 created to read:

24 1006.25 School buses.--School buses shall be defined
25 and meet specifications as follows:

26 (1) DEFINITION.--For the purpose of this part, a
27 "school bus" is a motor vehicle regularly used for the
28 transportation of prekindergarten disability program and
29 kindergarten through grade 12 students of the public schools
30 to and from school or to and from school activities, and
31

1 owned, operated, rented, contracted, or leased by any district
2 school board, except:

3 (a) Passenger cars, multipurpose passenger vehicles,
4 and trucks as defined in 49 C.F.R. part 571.

5 (b) Motor vehicles subject to, and meeting all
6 requirements of, the United States Department of
7 Transportation, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations under
8 Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations and operated by carriers
9 operating under the jurisdiction of these regulations but not
10 used exclusively for the transportation of public school
11 students.

12 (2) SPECIFICATIONS.--Each school bus as defined in 49
13 C.F.R. part 571 and subsection (1) that is rented, leased,
14 purchased, or contracted for must meet the applicable federal
15 motor vehicle safety standards and other specifications as
16 prescribed by rules of the State Board of Education.

17 (3) STANDARDS FOR LEASED VEHICLES.--A motor vehicle
18 owned and operated by a county or municipal transit authority
19 that is leased by the district school board for transportation
20 of public school students must meet such standards as the
21 State Board of Education establishes by rule. A school bus
22 authorized by a district school board to carry passengers
23 other than school students must have the words "School Bus"
24 and any other signs and insignia that mark or designate it as
25 a school bus covered, removed, or otherwise concealed while
26 such passengers are being transported.

27 (4) OCCUPANT PROTECTION SYSTEMS.--Students may be
28 transported only in designated seating positions, except as
29 provided in s. 1006.22(12), and must use the occupant crash
30 protection system provided by the manufacturer, which system
31

1 must comply with the requirements of 49 C.F.R. part 571 or
2 with specifications of the State Board of Education.

3 Section 298. Section 1006.261, Florida Statutes, is
4 created to read:

5 1006.261 Use of school buses for public purposes.--

6 (1)(a) Each district school board may enter into
7 agreements with the governing body of a county or municipality
8 in the school district or any state agency or agencies
9 established or identified to assist the transportation
10 disadvantaged, as defined in s. 427.011, including the
11 elderly, pursuant to Pub. L. No. 89-73, as amended, for the
12 use of the school buses of the school district by departments,
13 boards, commissions, or officers of such county or
14 municipality or of the state for county, municipal, or state
15 purposes, including transportation of the transportation
16 disadvantaged. Each such agreement shall provide for
17 reimbursement of the district school board, in full or in
18 part, for the proportionate share of fixed and operating costs
19 incurred by the district school board attributable to the use
20 of the buses pursuant to the agreement.

21 (b) Each district school board may enter into
22 agreements with regional workforce boards for the provision of
23 transportation services to participants in the welfare
24 transition program. Agreements must provide for reimbursement
25 in full or in part for the proportionate share of fixed and
26 operating costs incurred by the district school board
27 attributable to the use of buses in accordance with the
28 agreement.

29 (c) Each district school board may enter into
30 agreements with nonprofit corporations and nonprofit civic
31 associations and groups to allow the use of school buses to

1 transport school-age children for activities sponsored by such
2 associations and groups, including, but not limited to, the
3 Girl Scouts, the Boy Scouts, 4-H Clubs, the Y.M.C.A., and
4 similar groups. The use of school buses for these activities
5 shall be pursuant to rules adopted by the district school
6 board and with compensation to the district school board at
7 least equal to the costs incurred by the board for such use.

8 (2)(a) The governing body or state agency or agencies
9 established or identified pursuant to Pub. L. No. 89-73, or
10 the nonprofit corporation or nonprofit civic organization or
11 group, or an agency established or identified to assist the
12 transportation disadvantaged as defined in s. 427.011, shall
13 indemnify and hold harmless the district school board from any
14 and all liability by virtue of the use of the buses pursuant
15 to an agreement authorized by this section.

16 (b) For purposes of liability for negligence, state
17 agencies or subdivisions as defined in s. 768.28(2) shall be
18 covered by s. 768.28. Every other corporation or organization
19 shall provide liability insurance coverage in the minimum
20 amounts of \$100,000 on any claim or judgment and \$200,000 on
21 all claims and judgments arising from the same incident or
22 occurrence.

23 (3) When the buses are used for nonschool purposes
24 other than the transportation of the transportation
25 disadvantaged, the flashing red lights and white strobe lights
26 shall not be used, and the "School Bus" inscriptions on the
27 front and rear of the buses shall be covered or concealed.

28 Section 299. Section 1006.27, Florida Statutes, is
29 created to read:

30
31

1 1006.27 Pooling of school buses and related purchases
2 by district school boards; transportation services
3 contracts.--

4 (1) The department shall assist district school boards
5 in securing school buses, contractual needs, equipment, and
6 supplies at as reasonable prices as possible by providing a
7 plan under which district school boards may voluntarily pool
8 their bids for such purchases. The department shall prepare
9 bid forms and specifications, obtain quotations of prices and
10 make such information available to district school boards in
11 order to facilitate this service. District school boards from
12 time to time, as prescribed by State Board of Education rule,
13 shall furnish the department with information concerning the
14 prices paid for such items and the department shall furnish to
15 district school boards periodic information concerning the
16 lowest prices at which school buses, equipment, and related
17 supplies are available based upon comparable specifications.

18 (2) If a contract between any district school board
19 and any person, business, or entity to provide the district
20 school board with school bus service for the transportation of
21 students in the district provides that the person, business,
22 or entity shall own, operate, and maintain school buses for
23 such service, the district school board may purchase the
24 number of buses needed for the district through the department
25 and sell them to the person, business, or entity as a part of
26 the contract for such service.

27 Section 300. Part I.f. of chapter 1006, Florida
28 Statutes, shall be entitled "Instructional Materials for K-12
29 Public Education" and shall consist of ss. 1006.28-1006.43.

30 Section 301. Section 1006.28, Florida Statutes, is
31 created to read:

1 1006.28 Duties of district school board, district
2 school superintendent; and school principal regarding K-12
3 instructional materials.--

4 (1) DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD.--The district school board
5 has the duty to provide adequate instructional materials for
6 all students in accordance with the requirements of this part.
7 The term "adequate instructional materials" means a sufficient
8 number of textbooks or sets of materials serving as the basis
9 for instruction for each student in the core courses of
10 mathematics, language arts, social studies, science, reading,
11 and literature, except for instruction for which the school
12 advisory council approves the use of a program that does not
13 include a textbook as a major tool of instruction. The
14 district school board has the following specific duties:

15 (a) Courses of study; adoption.--Adopt courses of
16 study for use in the schools of the district.

17 (b) Textbooks.--Provide for proper requisitioning,
18 distribution, accounting, storage, care, and use of all
19 instructional materials furnished by the state and furnish
20 such other instructional materials as may be needed. The
21 district school board shall assure that instructional
22 materials used in the district are consistent with the
23 district goals and objectives and the curriculum frameworks
24 adopted by rule of the State Board of Education, as well as
25 with the state and district performance standards provided for
26 in s. 1001.03(1).

27 (c) Other instructional materials.--Provide such other
28 teaching accessories and aids as are needed for the school
29 district's educational program.

30 (d) School library media services; establishment and
31 maintenance.--Establish and maintain a program of school

1 library media services for all public schools in the district,
2 including school library media centers, or school library
3 media centers open to the public, and, in addition such
4 traveling or circulating libraries as may be needed for the
5 proper operation of the district school system.

6 (2) DISTRICT SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT.--

7 (a) The district school superintendent has the duty to
8 recommend such plans for improving, providing, distributing,
9 accounting for, and caring for textbooks and other
10 instructional aids as will result in general improvement of
11 the district school system, as prescribed in this part, in
12 accordance with adopted district school board rules
13 prescribing the duties and responsibilities of the district
14 school superintendent regarding the requisition, purchase,
15 receipt, storage, distribution, use, conservation, records,
16 and reports of, and management practices and property
17 accountability concerning, instructional materials, and
18 providing for an evaluation of any instructional materials to
19 be requisitioned that have not been used previously in the
20 district's schools. The district school superintendent must
21 keep adequate records and accounts for all financial
22 transactions for funds collected pursuant to subsection (3),
23 as a component of the educational service delivery scope in a
24 school district best financial management practices review
25 under s. 1008.35.

26 (b) Each district school superintendent shall notify
27 the department by April 1 of each year the state-adopted
28 instructional materials that will be requisitioned for use in
29 his or her school district. The notification shall include a
30 district school board plan for instructional materials use to
31

1 assist in determining if adequate instructional materials have
2 been requisitioned.

3 (3) SCHOOL PRINCIPAL.--The school principal has the
4 following duties for the management and care of instructional
5 materials at the school:

6 (a) Proper use of instructional materials.--The
7 principal shall assure that instructional materials are used
8 to provide instruction to students enrolled at the grade level
9 or levels for which the materials are designed, pursuant to
10 adopted district school board rule. The school principal shall
11 communicate to parents the manner in which instructional
12 materials are used to implement the curricular objectives of
13 the school.

14 (b) Money collected for lost or damaged books;
15 enforcement.--The school principal shall collect from each
16 student or the student's parent the purchase price of any
17 instructional material the student has lost, destroyed, or
18 unnecessarily damaged and to report and transmit the money
19 collected to the district school superintendent. If
20 instructional materials lost, destroyed, or damaged have been
21 in school use for more than 1 year, a sum ranging between 50
22 and 75 percent of the purchase price of the book shall be
23 collected, determined by the physical condition of the book.
24 The failure to collect such sum upon reasonable effort by the
25 school principal may result in the suspension of the student
26 from participation in extracurricular activities or
27 satisfaction of the debt by the student through community
28 service activities at the school site as determined by the
29 school principal, pursuant to policies adopted by district
30 school board rule.

31

1 (c) Sale of instructional materials.--The school
2 principal, upon request of the parent of a student in the
3 school, shall sell to the parent any instructional materials
4 used in the school. All such sales shall be made pursuant to
5 rule adopted by the district school board, and the principal
6 shall annually provide information to parents that they may
7 purchase instructional materials and how to purchase the
8 materials.

9 (d) Disposition of funds.--All money collected from
10 the sale, exchange, loss, or damage of instructional materials
11 shall be transmitted to the district school superintendent to
12 be deposited in the district school board fund and added to
13 the district appropriation for instructional materials.

14 (e) Accounting for textbooks.--Principals shall see
15 that all books are fully and properly accounted for as
16 prescribed by adopted rules of the district school board.

17 Section 302. Section 1006.29, Florida Statutes, is
18 created to read:

19 1006.29 State instructional materials committees.--

20 (1) Each school year, not later than April 15, the
21 commissioner shall appoint state instructional materials
22 committees composed of persons actively engaged in teaching or
23 in the supervision of teaching in the public elementary,
24 middle, or high schools and representing the major fields and
25 levels in which instructional materials are used in the public
26 schools and, in addition, lay citizens not professionally
27 connected with education. Committee members shall receive
28 training pursuant to subsection (5) in competencies related to
29 the evaluation and selection of instructional materials.

30 (a) There shall be ten or more members on each
31 committee: At least 50 percent of the members shall be

1 classroom teachers who are certified in an area directly
2 related to the academic area or level being considered for
3 adoption, two shall be laypersons, one shall be a district
4 school board member, and two shall be supervisors of teachers.
5 The committee must have the capacity or expertise to address
6 the broad racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, and cultural
7 diversity of the state's student population. Personnel
8 selected as teachers of the year at the school, district,
9 regional, or state level are encouraged to serve on
10 instructional materials committees.

11 (b) The membership of each committee must reflect the
12 broad racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, and cultural diversity of
13 the state, including a balanced representation from the
14 state's geographic regions.

15 (c) The commissioner shall determine annually the
16 areas in which instructional materials shall be submitted for
17 adoption, taking into consideration the desires of the
18 district school boards. The commissioner shall also determine
19 the number of titles to be adopted in each area.

20 (2)(a) All appointments shall be as prescribed in this
21 section. No member shall serve more than two consecutive
22 terms on any committee. All appointments shall be for
23 18-month terms. All vacancies shall be filled in the manner
24 of the original appointment for only the time remaining in the
25 unexpired term. At no time may a district school board have
26 more than one representative on a committee. The commissioner
27 and a member of the department whom he or she shall designate
28 shall be additional and ex officio members of each committee.

29 (b) The names and mailing addresses of the members of
30 the state instructional materials committees shall be made
31 public when appointments are made.

1 (c) The district school board shall be reimbursed for
2 the actual cost of substitute teachers for each workday that a
3 member of its instructional staff is absent from his or her
4 assigned duties for the purpose of rendering service to the
5 state instructional materials committee. In addition,
6 committee members shall be reimbursed for travel expenses and
7 per diem in accordance with s. 112.061 for actual service in
8 meetings of committees called by the commissioner. Payment of
9 such travel expenses shall be made by the Treasurer from the
10 appropriation for the administration of the instructional
11 materials program, on warrants to be drawn by the Comptroller
12 upon requisition approved by the commissioner.

13 (d) Any member of a committee may be removed by the
14 commissioner for cause.

15 (3) All references in the law to the state
16 instructional materials committee shall apply to each
17 committee created by this section.

18 (4) For purposes of state adoption, "instructional
19 materials" means items having intellectual content that by
20 design serve as a major tool for assisting in the instruction
21 of a subject or course. These items may be available in bound,
22 unbound, kit, or package form and may consist of hardbacked or
23 softbacked textbooks, consumables, learning laboratories,
24 manipulatives, electronic media, and computer courseware or
25 software. The term does not include electronic or computer
26 hardware even if such hardware is bundled with software or
27 other electronic media, nor does it include equipment or
28 supplies.

29 (5) The department shall develop a training program
30 for persons selected to serve on state instructional materials
31 committees. The program shall be structured to assist

1 committee members in developing the skills necessary to make
2 valid, culturally sensitive, and objective decisions regarding
3 the content and rigor of instructional materials. All persons
4 serving on instructional materials committees must complete
5 the training program prior to beginning the review and
6 selection process.

7 Section 303. Section 1006.30, Florida Statutes, is
8 created to read:

9 1006.30 Affidavit of state instructional materials
10 committee members.--Before transacting any business, each
11 member of a state committee shall make an affidavit, to be
12 filed with the commissioner, that:

13 (1) The member will faithfully discharge the duties
14 imposed upon him or her as a member of the committee.

15 (2) The member has no interest, and while a member of
16 the committee he or she will assume no interest, in any
17 publishing or manufacturing organization which produces or
18 sells instructional materials.

19 (3) The member is in no way connected, and while a
20 member of the committee he or she will assume no connection,
21 with the distribution of the instructional materials.

22 (4) The member is not pecuniarily interested, and
23 while a member of the committee he or she will assume no
24 pecuniary interest, directly or indirectly, in the business or
25 profits of any person engaged in manufacturing, publishing, or
26 selling instructional materials designed for use in the public
27 schools.

28 (5) The member will not accept any emolument or
29 promise of future reward of any kind from any publisher or
30 manufacturer of instructional materials or his or her agent or
31

1 anyone interested in, or intending to bias his or her judgment
2 in any way in, the selection of any materials to be adopted.

3 (6) It is unlawful for any member of a state
4 instructional materials committee to discuss matters relating
5 to instructional materials submitted for adoption with any
6 agent of a publisher or manufacturer of instructional
7 materials, either directly or indirectly, except during the
8 period when the committee has been called into session for the
9 purpose of evaluating instructional materials submitted for
10 adoption. Such discussions shall be limited to official
11 meetings of the committee and in accordance with procedures
12 prescribed by the commissioner for that purpose.

13 Section 304. Section 1006.31, Florida Statutes, is
14 created to read:

15 1006.31 Duties of each state instructional materials
16 committee.--The duties of each state instructional materials
17 committee are:

18 (1) PLACE AND TIME OF MEETING.--To meet at the call of
19 the commissioner, at a place in the state designated by him or
20 her, for the purpose of evaluating and recommending
21 instructional materials for adoption by the state. All
22 meetings of state instructional materials committees shall be
23 announced publicly in the Florida Administrative Weekly at
24 least 2 weeks prior to the date of convening. All meetings of
25 the committees shall be open to the public.

26 (2) ORGANIZATION.--To elect a chair and vice chair for
27 each adoption. An employee of the department shall serve as
28 secretary to the committee and keep an accurate record of its
29 proceedings. All records of committee motions and votes, and
30 summaries of committee debate shall be incorporated into a
31

1 publishable document and shall be available for public
2 inspection and duplication.

3 (3) PROCEDURES.--To adhere to procedures prescribed by
4 the commissioner for evaluating instructional materials
5 submitted by publishers and manufacturers in each adoption.

6 (4) EVALUATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS.--To
7 evaluate carefully all instructional materials submitted, to
8 ascertain which instructional materials, if any, submitted for
9 consideration best implement the selection criteria developed
10 by the commissioner and those curricular objectives included
11 within applicable performance standards provided for in s.
12 1001.03(1).

13 (a) When recommending instructional materials for use
14 in the schools, each committee shall include only
15 instructional materials that accurately portray the ethnic,
16 socioeconomic, cultural, and racial diversity of our society,
17 including men and women in professional, career and technical,
18 and executive roles, and the role and contributions of the
19 entrepreneur and labor in the total development of this state
20 and the United States.

21 (b) When recommending instructional materials for use
22 in the schools, each committee shall include only materials
23 which accurately portray, whenever appropriate, humankind's
24 place in ecological systems, including the necessity for the
25 protection of our environment and conservation of our natural
26 resources and the effects on the human system of the use of
27 tobacco, alcohol, controlled substances, and other dangerous
28 substances.

29 (c) When recommending instructional materials for use
30 in the schools, each committee shall require such materials as
31

1 it deems necessary and proper to encourage thrift, fire
2 prevention, and humane treatment of people and animals.

3 (d) When recommending instructional materials for use
4 in the schools, each committee shall require, when appropriate
5 to the comprehension of students, that materials for social
6 science, history, or civics classes contain the Declaration of
7 Independence and the Constitution of the United States. No
8 instructional materials shall be recommended by any committee
9 for use in the schools which contain any matter reflecting
10 unfairly upon persons because of their race, color, creed,
11 national origin, ancestry, gender, or occupation.

12 (e) All instructional materials recommended by each
13 committee for use in the schools shall be, to the satisfaction
14 of each committee, accurate, objective, and current and suited
15 to the needs and comprehension of students at their respective
16 grade levels. Instructional materials committees shall
17 consider for adoption materials developed for academically
18 talented students such as those enrolled in advanced placement
19 courses.

20 (5) REPORT OF COMMITTEE.--Each committee, after a
21 thorough study of all data submitted on each instructional
22 material, and after each member has carefully evaluated each
23 instructional material, shall present a written report to the
24 commissioner. Such report shall be made public, and shall
25 include:

26 (a) A description of the procedures used in
27 determining the instructional materials to be recommended to
28 the commissioner.

29 (b) Recommendations of instructional materials for
30 each grade and subject field in the curriculum of public
31 elementary, middle, and high schools in which adoptions are to

1 be made. If deemed advisable, the committee may include such
2 other information, expression of opinion, or recommendation as
3 would be helpful to the commissioner. If there is a
4 difference of opinion among the members of the committee as to
5 the merits of any instructional materials, any member may file
6 an expression of his or her individual opinion.

7
8 The findings of the committees, including the evaluation of
9 instructional materials, shall be in sessions open to the
10 public. All decisions leading to determinations of the
11 committees shall be by roll call vote, and at no time will a
12 secret ballot be permitted.

13 Section 305. Section 1006.32, Florida Statutes, is
14 created to read:

15 1006.32 Prohibited acts.--

16 (1) No publisher or manufacturer of instructional
17 material, or any representative thereof, shall offer to give
18 any emolument, money, or other valuable thing, or any
19 inducement, to any district school board official or member of
20 a state-level instructional materials committee to directly or
21 indirectly introduce, recommend, vote for, or otherwise
22 influence the adoption or purchase of any instructional
23 materials.

24 (2) No district school board official or member of a
25 state instructional materials committee shall solicit or
26 accept any emolument, money, or other valuable thing, or any
27 inducement, to directly or indirectly introduce, recommend,
28 vote for, or otherwise influence the adoption or purchase of
29 any instructional material.

30 (3) No district school board or publisher may
31 participate in a pilot program of materials being considered

1 for adoption during the 18-month period before the official
2 adoption of the materials by the commissioner. Any pilot
3 program during the first 2 years of the adoption period must
4 have the prior approval of the commissioner.

5 (4) Any publisher or manufacturer of instructional
6 materials or representative thereof or any district school
7 board official or state instructional materials committee
8 member, who violates any provision of this section commits a
9 misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s.
10 775.082 or s. 775.083. Any representative of a publisher or
11 manufacturer who violates any provision of this section, in
12 addition to any other penalty, shall be banned from practicing
13 business in the state for a period of 1 calendar year. Any
14 district school board official or state instructional
15 materials committee member who violates any provision of this
16 section, in addition to any other penalty, shall be removed
17 from his or her official position.

18 (5) Nothing in this section shall be construed to
19 prevent any publisher, manufacturer, or agent from supplying,
20 for purposes of examination, necessary sample copies of
21 instructional materials to any district school board official
22 or instructional materials committee member.

23 (6) Nothing in this section shall be construed to
24 prevent a district school board official or instructional
25 materials committee member from receiving sample copies of
26 instructional materials.

27 (7) Nothing contained in this section shall be
28 construed to prohibit or restrict a district school board
29 official from receiving royalties or other compensation, other
30 than compensation paid to him or her as commission for
31 negotiating sales to district school boards, from the

1 publisher or manufacturer of instructional materials written,
2 designed, or prepared by such district school board official,
3 and adopted by the commissioner or purchased by any district
4 school board. No district school board official shall be
5 allowed to receive royalties on any materials not on the
6 state-adopted list purchased for use by his or her district
7 school board.

8 (8) No district school superintendent, district school
9 board member, teacher, or other person officially connected
10 with the government or direction of public schools shall
11 receive during the months actually engaged in performing
12 duties under his or her contract any private fee, gratuity,
13 donation, or compensation, in any manner whatsoever, for
14 promoting the sale or exchange of any school book, map, or
15 chart in any public school, or be an agent for the sale or the
16 publisher of any school textbook or reference work, or be
17 directly or indirectly pecuniarily interested in the
18 introduction of any such textbook, and any such agency or
19 interest shall disqualify any person so acting or interested
20 from holding any district school board employment whatsoever,
21 and the person commits a misdemeanor of the second degree,
22 punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083; provided
23 that this subsection shall not be construed as preventing the
24 adoption of any book written in whole or in part by a Florida
25 author.

26 Section 306. Section 1006.33, Florida Statutes, is
27 created to read:

28 1006.33 Bids or proposals; advertisement and its
29 contents.--

30 (1)(a) Beginning on or before May 15 of any year in
31 which an instructional materials adoption is to be initiated,

1 the department shall advertise in the Florida Administrative
2 Weekly 4 weeks preceding the date on which the bids shall be
3 received, that at a certain designated time, not later than
4 June 15, sealed bids or proposals to be deposited with the
5 department will be received from publishers or manufacturers
6 for the furnishing of instructional materials proposed to be
7 adopted as listed in the advertisement beginning April 1
8 following the adoption.

9 (b) The advertisement shall state that each bidder
10 shall furnish specimen copies of all instructional materials
11 submitted, at a time designated by the department, which
12 specimen copies shall be identical with the copies approved
13 and accepted by the members of the state instructional
14 materials committee, as prescribed in this section, and with
15 the copies furnished to the department and district school
16 superintendents, as provided in this part.

17 (c) The advertisement shall state that a contract
18 covering the adoption of the instructional materials shall be
19 for a definite term.

20 (d) The advertisement shall fix the time within which
21 the required contract must be executed and shall state that
22 the department reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

23 (e) The advertisement shall give information as to how
24 specifications which have been adopted by the department in
25 regard to paper, binding, cover boards, and mechanical makeup
26 can be secured. In adopting specifications, the department
27 shall make an exception for instructional materials that are
28 college-level texts and that do not meet department physical
29 specifications for secondary materials, if the publisher
30 guarantees replacement during the term of the contract.

31

1 (2) The bids submitted shall be for furnishing the
2 designated materials in accordance with specifications of the
3 department. The bid shall state the lowest wholesale price at
4 which the materials will be furnished, at the time the
5 adoption period provided in the contract begins, delivered
6 f.o.b. to the Florida depository of the publisher,
7 manufacturer, or bidder.

8 (3) The department shall require each publisher or
9 manufacturer of instructional materials who submits a bid
10 under this part to deposit with the department such sum of
11 money or certified check as may be determined by the
12 department, the amount to be not less than \$500 and not more
13 than \$2,500, according to the number of instructional
14 materials covered by the bid, which deposit shall be forfeited
15 to the state and placed in the General Revenue Fund if the
16 bidder making the deposit fails or refuses to execute the
17 contract and bond within 30 days after receipt of the contract
18 in case his or her bid or proposal is accepted. The
19 commissioner shall, upon determining that the deposit is
20 correct and proper, transmit the deposit to the Treasurer, who
21 shall deposit the funds for credit to the Textbook Bid Trust
22 Fund and issue his or her official receipt.

23 (4) Specimen copies of all instructional materials
24 that have been made the bases of contracts under this part
25 shall, upon request for the purpose of public inspection, be
26 made available by the publisher to the department and the
27 district school superintendent of each district school board
28 that adopts the instructional materials from the state list
29 upon request for the purpose of public inspection. All
30 contracts and bonds executed under this part shall be signed
31 in triplicate. One copy of each contract and an original of

1 each bid, whether accepted or rejected, shall be preserved
2 with the department for at least 3 years after termination of
3 the contract.

4 Section 307. Section 1006.34, Florida Statutes, is
5 created to read:

6 1006.34 Powers and duties of the commissioner and the
7 department in selecting and adopting instructional
8 materials.--

9 (1) PROCEDURES FOR EVALUATING INSTRUCTIONAL
10 MATERIALS.--The commissioner shall prescribe the procedures by
11 which the department shall evaluate instructional materials
12 submitted by publishers and manufacturers in each adoption.
13 Included in these procedures shall be provisions which afford
14 each publisher or manufacturer or his or her representative an
15 opportunity to present to members of the state instructional
16 materials committees the merits of each instructional material
17 submitted in each adoption.

18 (2) SELECTION AND ADOPTION OF INSTRUCTIONAL
19 MATERIALS.--

20 (a) The department shall notify all publishers and
21 manufacturers of instructional materials who have submitted
22 bids that within 3 weeks after the deadline for receiving
23 bids, at a designated time and place, it will open the bids
24 submitted and deposited with it. At the time and place
25 designated, the bids shall be opened, read, and tabulated in
26 the presence of the bidders or their representatives. No one
27 may revise his or her bid after the bids have been filed.
28 When all bids have been carefully considered, the commissioner
29 shall, from the list of suitable, usable, and desirable
30 instructional materials reported by the state instructional
31 materials committee, select and adopt instructional materials

1 for each grade and subject field in the curriculum of public
2 elementary, middle, and high schools in which adoptions are
3 made and in the subject areas designated in the advertisement.
4 The adoption shall continue for the period specified in the
5 advertisement, beginning on the ensuing April 1. The adoption
6 shall not prevent the extension of a contract as provided in
7 subsection (3). The commissioner shall always reserve the
8 right to reject any and all bids. The commissioner may ask for
9 new sealed bids from publishers or manufacturers whose
10 instructional materials were recommended by the state
11 instructional materials committee as suitable, usable, and
12 desirable; specify the dates for filing such bids and the date
13 on which they shall be opened; and proceed in all matters
14 regarding the opening of bids and the awarding of contracts as
15 required by this part. In all cases, bids shall be accompanied
16 by a cash deposit or certified check of from \$500 to \$2,500,
17 as the commissioner may direct. The department, in adopting
18 instructional materials, shall give due consideration both to
19 the prices bid for furnishing instructional materials and to
20 the report and recommendations of the state instructional
21 materials committee. When the commissioner has finished with
22 the report of the state instructional materials committee, the
23 report shall be filed and preserved with the department and
24 shall be available at all times for public inspection.

25 (b) In the selection of instructional materials,
26 library books, and other reading material used in the public
27 school system, the standards used to determine the propriety
28 of the material shall include:

29 1. The age of the students who normally could be
30 expected to have access to the material.

31

1 2. The educational purpose to be served by the
2 material. In considering instructional materials for classroom
3 use, priority shall be given to the selection of materials
4 which encompass the state and district school board
5 performance standards provided for in s. 1001.03(1) and which
6 include the instructional objectives contained within the
7 curriculum frameworks approved by rule of the State Board of
8 Education.

9 3. The degree to which the material would be
10 supplemented and explained by mature classroom instruction as
11 part of a normal classroom instructional program.

12 4. The consideration of the broad racial, ethnic,
13 socioeconomic, and cultural diversity of the students of this
14 state.

15
16 No book or other material containing hard-core pornography or
17 otherwise prohibited by s. 847.012 shall be used or available
18 within any public school district.

19 (3) CONTRACT WITH PUBLISHERS OR MANUFACTURERS;
20 BOND.--As soon as practicable after the commissioner has
21 adopted any instructional materials and all bidders that have
22 secured the adoption of any instructional materials have been
23 notified thereof by registered letter, the Department of Legal
24 Affairs shall prepare a contract in proper form with every
25 bidder awarded the adoption of any instructional materials.
26 Each contract shall be executed by the Governor and Secretary
27 of State under the seal of the state, one copy to be kept by
28 the contractor, one copy to be filed with the Department of
29 State, and one copy to be filed with the department. After
30 giving due consideration to comments by the district school
31 boards, the commissioner, with the agreement of the publisher,

1 may extend or shorten a contract period for a period not to
2 exceed 2 years; and the terms of any such contract shall
3 remain the same as in the original contract. Any publisher or
4 manufacturer to whom any contract is let under this part must
5 give bond in such amount as the commissioner requires, payable
6 to the state, conditioned for the faithful, honest, and exact
7 performance of the contract. The bond must provide for the
8 payment of reasonable attorney's fees in case of recovery in
9 any suit thereon. The surety on the bond must be a guaranty or
10 surety company lawfully authorized to do business in the
11 state; however, the bond shall not be exhausted by a single
12 recovery but may be sued upon from time to time until the full
13 amount thereof is recovered, and the department may at any
14 time, after giving 30 days' notice, require additional
15 security or additional bond. The form of any bond or bonds or
16 contract or contracts under this part shall be prepared and
17 approved by the Department of Legal Affairs. At the discretion
18 of the commissioner, a publisher or manufacturer to whom any
19 contract is let under this part may be allowed a cash deposit
20 in lieu of a bond, conditioned for the faithful, honest, and
21 exact performance of the contract. The cash deposit, payable
22 to the department, shall be placed in the Textbook Bid Trust
23 Fund. The department may recover damages on the cash deposit
24 given by the contractor for failure to furnish instructional
25 materials, the sum recovered to inure to the General Revenue
26 Fund.

27 (4) REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE CONTRACT.--The
28 department may, from time to time, take any necessary actions,
29 consistent with this part, to secure the prompt and faithful
30 performance of all instructional materials contracts; and if
31 any contractor fails or refuses to furnish instructional

1 materials as provided in this part or otherwise breaks his or
2 her contract, the department may sue on the required bond in
3 the name of the state, in the courts of the state having
4 jurisdiction, and recover damages on the bond given by the
5 contractor for failure to furnish instructional materials, the
6 sum recovered to inure to the General Revenue Fund.

7 (5) RETURN OF DEPOSITS.--

8 (a) The successful bidder shall be notified by
9 registered mail of the award of contract and shall, within 30
10 days after receipt of the contract, execute the proper
11 contract and post the required bond. When the bond and
12 contract have been executed, the department shall notify the
13 Comptroller and request that a warrant be issued against the
14 Textbook Bid Trust Fund payable to the successful bidder in
15 the amount deposited pursuant to this part. The Comptroller
16 shall issue and forward the warrant to the department for
17 distribution to the bidder.

18 (b) At the same time or prior thereto, the department
19 shall inform the Comptroller of the names of the unsuccessful
20 bidders. Upon receipt of such notice, the Comptroller shall
21 issue warrants against the Textbook Bid Trust Fund payable to
22 the unsuccessful bidders in the amounts deposited pursuant to
23 this part and shall forward the warrants to the department for
24 distribution to the unsuccessful bidders.

25 (c) One copy of each contract and an original of each
26 bid, whether accepted or rejected, shall be preserved with the
27 department for at least 3 years after the termination of the
28 contract.

29 (6) DEPOSITS FORFEITED.--If any successful bidder
30 fails or refuses to execute contract and bond within 30 days
31 after receipt of the contract, the cash deposit shall be

1 forfeited to the state and placed by the Treasurer in the
2 General Revenue Fund.

3 (7) FORFEITURE OF CONTRACT AND BOND.--If any publisher
4 or manufacturer of instructional materials fails or refuses to
5 furnish a book, or books, or other instructional materials as
6 provided in the contract, his or her bond is forfeited and the
7 department shall make another contract on such terms as it may
8 find desirable, after giving due consideration to the
9 recommendations of the commissioner.

10 Section 308. Section 1006.35, Florida Statutes, is
11 created to read:

12 1006.35 Accuracy of instructional materials.--

13 (1) In addition to relying on statements of publishers
14 or manufacturers of instructional materials, the commissioner
15 may conduct or cause to be conducted an independent
16 investigation to determine the accuracy of state-adopted
17 instructional materials.

18 (2) When errors in state-adopted materials are
19 confirmed, the publisher of the materials shall provide to
20 each district school board that has purchased the materials
21 the corrections in a format approved by the commissioner.

22 (3) The commissioner may remove materials from the
23 list of state-adopted materials if he or she finds that the
24 content is in error and the publisher refuses to correct the
25 error when notified by the department.

26 (4) The commissioner may remove materials from the
27 list of state-adopted materials at the request of the
28 publisher if, in his or her opinion, there is no material
29 impact on the state's education goals.

30 Section 309. Section 1006.36, Florida Statutes, is
31 created to read:

1 1006.36 Term of adoption for instructional
2 materials.--

3 (1) The term of adoption of any instructional
4 materials must be a 6-year period beginning on April 1
5 following the adoption, except that the commissioner may
6 approve terms of adoption of less than 6 years for materials
7 in content areas which require more frequent revision. Any
8 contract for instructional materials may be extended as
9 prescribed in s. 1006.34(3).

10 (2) The department shall publish annually an official
11 schedule of subject areas to be called for adoption for each
12 of the succeeding 2 years, and a tentative schedule for years
13 3, 4, 5, and 6. If extenuating circumstances warrant, the
14 commissioner may order the department to add one or more
15 subject areas to the official schedule, in which event the
16 commissioner shall develop criteria for such additional
17 subject area or areas and make them available to publishers as
18 soon as practicable before the date on which bids are due. The
19 schedule shall be developed so as to promote balance among the
20 subject areas so that the required expenditure for new
21 instructional materials is approximately the same each year in
22 order to maintain curricular consistency.

23 Section 310. Section 1006.37, Florida Statutes, is
24 created to read:

25 1006.37 Requisition of instructional materials from
26 publisher's depository.--

27 (1) The district school superintendent shall
28 requisition adopted instructional materials from the
29 depository of the publisher with whom a contract has been
30 made. However, the superintendent shall requisition current
31 instructional materials to provide each student with a

1 textbook or other materials as a major tool of instruction in
2 core courses of the subject areas specified in s. 1006.40(2).
3 These materials must be requisitioned within the first 2 years
4 of the adoption cycle, except for instructional materials
5 related to growth of student membership or instructional
6 materials maintenance needs. The superintendent may
7 requisition instructional materials in the core subject areas
8 specified in s. 1006.40(2) that are related to growth of
9 student membership or instructional materials maintenance
10 needs during the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th years of the original
11 contract period.

12 (2) The district school superintendent shall verify
13 that the requisition is complete and accurate and order the
14 depository to forward to him or her the adopted instructional
15 materials shown by the requisition. The depository shall
16 prepare an invoice of the materials shipped, including
17 shipping charges, and mail it to the superintendent to whom
18 the shipment is being made. The superintendent shall pay the
19 depository within 60 days after receipt of the requisitioned
20 materials from the appropriation for the purchase of adopted
21 instructional materials.

22 Section 311. Section 1006.38, Florida Statutes, is
23 created to read:

24 1006.38 Duties, responsibilities, and requirements of
25 instructional materials publishers and
26 manufacturers.--Publishers and manufacturers of instructional
27 materials, or their representatives, shall:

28 (1) Comply with all provisions of this part.

29 (2) Deliver fully developed specimen copies of all
30 instructional materials upon which bids are based to each
31 member of a state instructional materials committee. At the

1 conclusion of the review process, manufacturers submitting
2 samples of instructional materials are entitled to the return
3 thereof, at the expense of the manufacturers; or, in the
4 alternative, the manufacturers are entitled to reimbursement
5 by the individual committee members for the retail value of
6 the samples.

7 (3) Submit, at a time designated in s. 1006.33, the
8 following information:

9 (a) Detailed specifications of the physical
10 characteristics of the instructional materials. The publisher
11 or manufacturer shall comply with these specifications if the
12 instructional materials are adopted and purchased in completed
13 form.

14 (b) Written proof that the publisher has provided
15 written correlations to appropriate curricular objectives
16 included within applicable performance standards provided for
17 in s. 1001.03(1).

18 (4) Make available for purchase by any district school
19 board any diagnostic, criterion-referenced, or other tests
20 that they may develop.

21 (5) Furnish the instructional materials offered by
22 them at a price in the state which, including all costs of
23 transportation to their depositories, shall not exceed the
24 lowest price at which they offer such instructional materials
25 for adoption or sale to any state or school district in the
26 United States.

27 (6) Reduce automatically the price of the
28 instructional materials to any district school board to the
29 extent that reductions are made elsewhere in the United
30 States.

31

1 (7) Provide any instructional materials free of charge
2 in the state to the same extent as they are provided free of
3 charge to any state or school district in the United States.

4 (8) Guarantee that all copies of any instructional
5 materials sold in this state will be at least equal in quality
6 to the copies of such instructional materials that are sold
7 elsewhere in the United States and will be kept revised, free
8 from all errors, and up-to-date as may be required by the
9 department.

10 (9) Agree that any supplementary material developed at
11 the district or state level does not violate the author's or
12 publisher's copyright, provided such material is developed in
13 accordance with the doctrine of fair use.

14 (10) Not in any way, directly or indirectly, become
15 associated or connected with any combination in restraint of
16 trade in instructional materials, nor enter into any
17 understanding, agreement, or combination to control prices or
18 restrict competition in the sale of instructional materials
19 for use in the state.

20 (11) Maintain or contract with a depository in the
21 state.

22 (12) For the core subject areas specified in s.
23 1006.40(2), maintain in the depository for the first 2 years
24 of the contract an inventory of instructional materials
25 sufficient to receive and fill orders.

26 (13) For the core subject areas specified in s.
27 1006.40(2), ensure the availability of an inventory sufficient
28 to receive and fill orders for instructional materials for
29 growth, including the opening of a new school, and replacement
30 during the 3rd and subsequent years of the original contract
31 period.

1 (14) For all other subject areas, maintain in the
2 depository an inventory of instructional materials sufficient
3 to receive and fill orders.

4 (15) Accurately and fully disclose only the names of
5 those persons who actually authored the instructional
6 materials. In addition to the penalties provided in
7 subsection (17), the commissioner may remove from the list of
8 state-adopted instructional materials those instructional
9 materials whose publisher or manufacturer misleads the
10 purchaser by falsely representing genuine authorship.

11 (16) Grant, without prior written request, for any
12 copyright held by the publisher or its agencies automatic
13 permission to the department or its agencies for the
14 reproduction of textbooks and supplementary materials in
15 braille or large print or in the form of sound recordings, for
16 use by visually impaired students or other students with
17 disabilities that would benefit from use of the materials.

18 (17) Upon the willful failure of the publisher or
19 manufacturer to comply with the requirements of this section,
20 be liable to the department in the amount of 3 times the total
21 sum which the publisher or manufacturer was paid in excess of
22 the price required under subsections (5) and (6) and in the
23 amount of 3 times the total value of the instructional
24 materials and services which the district school board is
25 entitled to receive free of charge under subsection (7).

26 Section 312. Section 1006.39, Florida Statutes, is
27 created to read:

28 1006.39 Production and dissemination of educational
29 materials and products by department.--

30 (1) Educational materials and products developed by or
31 under the direction of the department, through research and

1 development or other efforts, including those subject to
2 copyright, patent, or trademark, shall be made available for
3 use by teachers, students, administrators, and other
4 appropriate persons in the state system of education at the
5 earliest practicable date and in the most economical and
6 efficient manner possible.

7 (2) To accomplish this objective the department may
8 publish, produce, or have produced educational materials and
9 products and make them readily available for appropriate use
10 in the state system of education. The department may charge
11 an amount adequate to cover the essential cost of producing
12 and disseminating such materials and products in the state
13 system of education and may sell copies for educational use to
14 private schools in the state and to the public.

15 (3) All proceeds from the sale of educational
16 materials and products shall be remitted to the Treasurer and
17 shall be kept in a separate fund to be known as the
18 "Educational Media and Technology Trust Fund" and, when
19 properly budgeted as approved by the Legislature and the
20 Executive Office of the Governor, used to pay the cost of
21 producing and disseminating educational materials and
22 products.

23 (4) In cases in which the educational materials or
24 products are of such nature, or the circumstances are such,
25 that it is not practicable or feasible for the department to
26 produce or have produced materials and products so developed,
27 it may, after review and approval by the Department of State,
28 license, lease, assign, sell, or otherwise give written
29 consent to any person, firm or corporation for the manufacture
30 or use thereof, on a royalty basis, or for such other
31 consideration as the department finds proper and in the best

1 interest of the state. The department shall protect
2 educational materials and products against improper or
3 unlawful use or infringement and enforce the collection of any
4 sums due for the manufacture or use thereof by any other
5 party.

6 (5) The department shall not enter into the business
7 of producing or publishing textbooks, or the contents therein,
8 for general use in classrooms.

9 Section 313. Section 1006.40, Florida Statutes, is
10 created to read:

11 1006.40 Use of instructional materials allocation;
12 instructional materials, library books, and reference books;
13 repair of books.--

14 (1) On or before July 1 each year, the commissioner
15 shall certify to each district school superintendent the
16 estimated allocation of state funds for instructional
17 materials, computed pursuant to the provisions of s. 1011.67
18 for the ensuing fiscal year.

19 (2)(a) Each district school board must purchase
20 current instructional materials to provide each student with a
21 textbook or other instructional materials as a major tool of
22 instruction in core courses of the appropriate subject areas
23 of mathematics, language arts, science, social studies,
24 reading, and literature for kindergarten through grade 12.
25 Such purchase must be made within the first 2 years of the
26 effective date of the adoption cycle. Unless specifically
27 provided for in the General Appropriations Act, the cost of
28 instructional materials purchases required by this paragraph
29 shall not exceed the amount of the district's allocation for
30 instructional materials, pursuant to s. 1011.67, for the
31 previous 2 years.

1 (b) The requirement in paragraph (a) does not apply to
2 contracts in existence before April 1, 2000, or to a purchase
3 related to growth of student membership in the district or for
4 instructional materials maintenance needs.

5 (3)(a) Each district school board shall use the annual
6 allocation for the purchase of instructional materials
7 included on the state-adopted list, except as otherwise
8 authorized in paragraphs (b) and (c). No less than 50 percent
9 of the annual allocation shall be used to purchase items which
10 will be used to provide instruction to students at the level
11 or levels for which the materials are designed.

12 (b) Up to 50 percent of the annual allocation may be
13 used for the purchase of instructional materials, including
14 library and reference books and nonprint materials, not
15 included on the state-adopted list and for the repair and
16 renovation of textbooks and library books.

17 (c) District school boards may use 100 percent of that
18 portion of the annual allocation designated for the purchase
19 of instructional materials for kindergarten, and 75 percent of
20 that portion of the annual allocation designated for the
21 purchase of instructional materials for first grade, to
22 purchase materials not on the state-adopted list.

23 (4) The funds described in subsection (3) which
24 district school boards may use to purchase materials not on
25 the state-adopted list shall be used for the purchase of
26 instructional materials or other items having intellectual
27 content which assist in the instruction of a subject or
28 course. These items may be available in bound, unbound, kit,
29 or package form and may consist of hardbacked or softbacked
30 textbooks, replacements for items which were part of
31 previously purchased instructional materials, consumables,

1 learning laboratories, manipulatives, electronic media,
2 computer courseware or software, and other commonly accepted
3 instructional tools as prescribed by district school board
4 rule. The funds available to district school boards for the
5 purchase of materials not on the state-adopted list may not be
6 used to purchase electronic or computer hardware even if such
7 hardware is bundled with software or other electronic media,
8 nor may such funds be used to purchase equipment or supplies.
9 However, when authorized to do so in the General
10 Appropriations Act, a school or district school board may use
11 a portion of the funds available to it for the purchase of
12 materials not on the state-adopted list to purchase science
13 laboratory materials and supplies.

14 (5) Each district school board shall adopt rules, and
15 each district school superintendent shall implement
16 procedures, that will assure the maximum use by the students
17 of the authorized instructional materials.

18 (6) District school boards may issue purchase orders
19 subsequent to February 1 in an aggregate amount which does not
20 exceed 20 percent of the current year's allocation, and
21 subsequent to April 1 in an aggregate amount which does not
22 exceed 90 percent of the current year's allocation, for the
23 purpose of expediting the delivery of instructional materials
24 which are to be paid for from the ensuing year's allocation.

25 (7) In any year in which the total instructional
26 materials allocation for a school district has not been
27 expended or obligated prior to June 30, the district school
28 board shall carry forward the unobligated amount and shall add
29 it to the next year's allocation.

30 Section 314. Section 1006.41, Florida Statutes, is
31 created to read:

1 1006.41 Disposal of instructional materials.--
2 (1) Instructional materials that have become
3 unserviceable or surplus or are no longer on state contract
4 may be disposed of, under adopted rule of the district school
5 board, by:
6 (a) Giving or lending the materials to other public
7 education programs within the district or state, to the
8 teachers to use in developing supplementary teaching
9 materials, to students or others, or to any charitable
10 organization, governmental agency, home education students,
11 private school, or state.
12 (b) Selling the materials to used book dealers,
13 recycling plants, pulp mills, or other persons, firms, or
14 corporations upon such terms as are most economically
15 advantageous to the district school board.
16 (2) The district school board may prescribe by rule
17 the manner for destroying instructional materials that cannot
18 be disposed of as provided in subsection (1).
19 (3) All moneys received for the sale, exchange, or
20 other disposition of instructional materials shall be
21 deposited in the district school fund and added to the
22 district appropriation for instructional materials.
23 (4) Instructional materials which have been sold,
24 exchanged, lost, destroyed, or damaged and for which proper
25 charges have been assessed and collected, and instructional
26 materials which have been destroyed by fire or storm damage or
27 by order of a competent health officer or the district school
28 superintendent, shall be dropped from the record of
29 instructional materials for which, as provided by law,
30 district school boards are held responsible.
31

1 Section 315. Section 1006.42, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1006.42 Responsibility of students and parents for
4 instructional materials.--

5 (1) All instructional materials purchased under the
6 provisions of this part are the property of the district
7 school board. When distributed to the students, these
8 instructional materials are on loan to the students while they
9 are pursuing their courses of study and are to be returned at
10 the direction of the school principal or the teacher in
11 charge. Each parent of a student to whom or for whom
12 instructional materials have been issued, is liable for any
13 loss or destruction of, or unnecessary damage to, the
14 instructional materials or for failure of the student to
15 return the instructional materials when directed by the school
16 principal or the teacher in charge, and shall pay for such
17 loss, destruction, or unnecessary damage as provided by law.

18 (2) Nothing in this part shall be construed to
19 prohibit parents from exercising their right to purchase
20 instructional materials from the district school board.

21 Section 316. Section 1006.43, Florida Statutes, is
22 created to read:

23 1006.43 Expenses; budget request.--

24 (1) The commissioner shall include in the department's
25 annual legislative budget a request for funds in an amount
26 sufficient to provide the necessary expense for:

27 (a) The instructional materials committees.

28 (b) Instructional materials for use by partially
29 sighted students.

30 (c) Other specific and necessary state expenses with
31 regard to the instructional materials program.

1 (2) The department may arrange for distribution
2 adopted textbooks which are prepared in various media for the
3 use of partially sighted children enrolled in the Florida
4 schools.

5 Section 317. Part II of chapter 1006, Florida
6 Statutes, shall be entitled "Public Postsecondary Education
7 Support for Learning and Student Services" and shall consist
8 of ss. 1006.50-1006.71.

9 Section 318. Section 1006.50, Florida Statutes, is
10 created to read:

11 1006.50 Student handbooks.--

12 (1) Each community college and state university shall
13 compile and update annually a student handbook that includes,
14 but is not limited to, a comprehensive calendar that
15 emphasizes important dates and deadlines, student rights and
16 responsibilities, appeals processes available to students, and
17 a roster of contact persons within the administrative staff
18 available to respond to student inquiries.

19 (2) Each student handbook shall list the legal and
20 institution-specific sanctions that will be imposed upon
21 students who violate the law or institutional policies
22 regarding controlled substances and alcoholic beverages.

23 (3) Each student handbook shall provide information
24 related to acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS)
25 education or identify sites from which AIDS education
26 information may be obtained.

27 Section 319. Section 1006.51, Florida Statutes, is
28 created to read:

29 1006.51 Student ombudsman office.--
30
31

1 (1) There is created at each community college and
2 state university a student ombudsman office, which is
3 accountable to the president.

4 (2) Each institution must have an established
5 procedure by which a student may appeal to the office of the
6 ombudsman a decision that is related to the student's access
7 to courses and credit granted toward the degree. Detailed
8 information concerning this procedure must be included in the
9 institution's catalog.

10 (3) Each community college and state university shall
11 develop minimum standards for the role of ombudsman or student
12 advocate. The standards shall address the issue of
13 notification of students of opportunities for assistance or
14 appeal.

15 Section 320. Section 1006.52, Florida Statutes, is
16 created to read:

17 1006.52 Student records.--

18 (1) Each university may prescribe the content and
19 custody of records and reports which the university may
20 maintain on its students. Such records are confidential and
21 exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and are open to
22 inspection only as provided in s. 1002.22.

23 (2) Rules of the State Board of Education may
24 prescribe the content and custody of records and reports which
25 a community college may maintain on its students. Such records
26 are confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and are open to
27 inspection only as provided in s. 1002.22.

28 Section 321. Section 1006.53, Florida Statutes, is
29 created to read:

30 1006.53 Religious observances.--Each public
31 postsecondary educational institution shall adopt a policy in

1 accordance with rules of the State Board of Education which
2 reasonably accommodates the religious observance, practice,
3 and belief of individual students in regard to admissions,
4 class attendance, and the scheduling of examinations and work
5 assignments. Each policy shall include a grievance procedure
6 by which a student who believes that he or she has been
7 unreasonably denied an educational benefit due to his or her
8 religious belief or practices may seek redress. Such policy
9 shall be made known to faculty and students annually in
10 inclusion in the institution's handbook, manual, or other
11 similar document regularly provided to faculty and students.

12 Section 322. Section 1006.54, Florida Statutes, is
13 created to read:

14 1006.54 Universities; public documents distributed to
15 libraries.--The general library of each state university may
16 receive copies of reports of state officials, departments, and
17 institutions and all other state documents published by the
18 state. Each officer of the state empowered by law to
19 distribute such public documents may transmit without charge,
20 except for payment of shipping costs, the number of copies of
21 each public document desired upon requisition from the
22 librarian. It is the duty of the library to keep public
23 documents in a convenient form accessible to the public. The
24 library, under rules formulated by the university board of
25 trustees, is authorized to exchange documents for those of
26 other states, territories, and countries.

27 Section 323. Section 1006.55, Florida Statutes, is
28 created to read:

29 1006.55 Law libraries of certain institutions of
30 higher learning designated as state legal depositories.--

31

1 (1) The law libraries of the University of Florida,
2 Florida State University, Florida International University,
3 Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Stetson
4 University, Nova University, and the University of Miami are
5 designated as state legal depositories.

6 (2) Each officer of the state empowered by law to
7 distribute legal publications may transmit, upon payment of
8 shipping costs or cash on delivery, to the state legal
9 depositories copies of such publications as requested.

10 However, the number of copies transmitted shall be limited to:

11 (a) Eight copies of each volume of General Acts and
12 each volume of Special Acts to each of the state legal
13 depositories;

14 (b) Up to a maximum number of each volume of the
15 Florida Statutes and each supplement volume, computed on the
16 basis of one set for every 10 students enrolled during the
17 school year, based upon the average enrollment as certified by
18 the registrar; and

19 (c) One copy of each journal of the House of
20 Representatives and each journal of the Senate to each state
21 legal depository.

22 (3) It is the duty of the librarian of any depository
23 to keep all public documents in a convenient form accessible
24 to the public.

25 (4) The libraries of all community colleges are
26 designated as state depositories for the Florida Statutes and
27 supplements published by or under the authority of the state;
28 these depositories each may receive upon request one copy of
29 each volume without charge, except for payment of shipping
30 costs.

31

1 Section 324. Section 1006.56, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1006.56 Specified university publications; activities;
4 trust funds.--

5 (1) Subject to the approval of the appropriate
6 university, the Florida Law Review, the Florida State
7 University Law Review, the Florida State University Journal of
8 Land Use and Environmental Law, the University of Florida
9 Journal of Law and Public Policy, and the Florida
10 International Law Journal of the University of Florida are
11 authorized to engage in the following activities relating to
12 their respective publications, notwithstanding the contrary
13 provision of any statute, rule, or regulation of the state or
14 its subdivisions or agencies:

15 (a) The grant of reprint rights relating to any or all
16 issues of the Florida Law Review, the Florida State University
17 Law Review, the Florida State University Journal of Land Use
18 and Environmental Law, the University of Florida Journal of
19 Law and Public Policy, or the Florida International Law
20 Journal of the University of Florida, or any of the materials,
21 articles, or ideas contained therein;

22 (b) The sale for adequate consideration of any or all
23 past or future stock and inventory of published issues of the
24 Florida Law Review, the Florida State University Law Review,
25 the Florida State University Journal of Land Use and
26 Environmental Law, the University of Florida Journal of Law
27 and Public Policy, or the Florida International Law Journal of
28 the University of Florida, or portions thereof; and

29 (c) The retention of the proceeds obtained under
30 paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) together with all moneys
31 received by the Florida Law Review or the Florida State

1 University Law Review from current or future subscriptions,
2 sale of individual issues, sale of advertising, binding
3 service, royalties, donations, and all other sources except
4 direct or indirect appropriations from the state, its
5 subdivisions, or agencies.

6 (2) Moneys retained by the Florida Law Review pursuant
7 to this section shall be placed in a trust fund to be known as
8 the Florida Law Review Trust Fund. Moneys retained by the
9 Florida State University Law Review pursuant to this section
10 shall be placed in a trust fund to be known as the Florida
11 State University Law Review Trust Fund. Moneys retained by the
12 Florida State University Journal of Land Use and Environmental
13 Law pursuant to this section shall be placed in a trust fund
14 to be known as the Florida State University Journal of Land
15 Use and Environmental Law Trust Fund. Moneys retained by the
16 University of Florida Journal of Law and Public Policy
17 pursuant to this section shall be placed in a trust fund to be
18 known as the University of Florida Journal of Law and Public
19 Policy Trust Fund. Moneys retained by the Florida
20 International Law Journal of the University of Florida
21 pursuant to this section shall be placed in a trust fund to be
22 known as the Florida International Law Journal of the
23 University of Florida Trust Fund. Such trust funds shall be
24 used to pay or supplement the payment of printing costs or
25 other costs incident to the publication of the respective law
26 reviews and law journals and shall be administered by the dean
27 of each college of law or his or her faculty designee.

28 (3) Printing of such publications shall be let upon
29 contract to the lowest responsive bidder, in accordance with
30 s. 283.33, except when the additional costs incurred in
31 changing from the current printer to the new low bidder exceed

1 the savings reflected in the bid prices. Such additional costs
2 shall not exceed 10 percent of the lowest bid price.

3 Section 325. Section 1006.57, Florida Statutes, is
4 created to read:

5 1006.57 Certain books furnished by Clerk of Supreme
6 Court.--

7 (1) The Clerk of the Supreme Court of the state shall
8 furnish the State Board of Education three bound copies of
9 each volume of the Florida Supreme Court Reports as the same
10 are issued and published for the use of the schools of law of
11 the University of Florida, the Florida State University,
12 Florida International University, and Florida Agricultural and
13 Mechanical University.

14 (2) The Clerk of the Supreme Court shall transmit to
15 said schools of law any law books coming into his or her
16 possession for the Supreme Court which are not necessary for
17 said court. The clerk of said court shall furnish said Supreme
18 Court Reports and said surplus law books without cost to said
19 law schools.

20 Section 326. Section 1006.58, Florida Statutes, is
21 created to read:

22 1006.58 Collections management for museums and
23 galleries of state universities.--

24 (1) State universities may enter into contracts or
25 agreements with or without competitive bidding, as
26 appropriate, for the restoration of objects of art, art
27 history, or natural history in their collections or for the
28 purchase of objects of art, art history, or natural history
29 which are to be added to their collections.

30 (2) State universities may sell any art, art history,
31 or natural history object in their museum or gallery

1 collections if the university determines that it is no longer
2 appropriate for the collection. The proceeds of the sale shall
3 be deposited in the Acquisition, Restoration, and Conservation
4 Trust Fund or other appropriate trust fund of the university.
5 Each state university museum or gallery shall function
6 entirely separate from every state university museum or
7 gallery. State universities also may exchange any art, art
8 history, or natural history object which the university
9 museums or galleries judge is of equivalent or greater value
10 to their museums or galleries.

11 (3) No employee, representative, or agent of a
12 university shall receive a commission, fee, or financial
13 benefit in connection with the sale or exchange of a work of
14 art, art history, or natural history, nor may he or she be a
15 business associate of any individual, firm, or organization
16 involved in the sale or exchange.

17 (4)(a) Each university may establish an Acquisition,
18 Restoration, and Conservation Trust Fund or utilize an
19 appropriate existing trust fund.

20 (b) The president of each university may delegate the
21 following authority to the museum or gallery directors and
22 governing bodies of the museums or galleries:

23 1. To enter into contracts for the restoration or
24 purchase of art, art history, or natural history objects, with
25 or without competitive bidding, as appropriate.

26 2. To sell art, art history, or natural history
27 objects in museum or gallery collections, the proceeds of
28 which shall be deposited in the Acquisition, Restoration, and
29 Conservation Trust Fund or other appropriate existing trust
30 fund.

31

1 3. To exchange art, art history, or natural history
2 objects of equal or greater value with any other state
3 university.

4 Section 327. Section 1006.59, Florida Statutes, is
5 created to read:

6 1006.59 The Historically Black College and University
7 Library Improvement Program.--

8 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to enhance the
9 quality of the libraries at Florida Agricultural and
10 Mechanical University, Bethune-Cookman College, Edward Waters
11 College, and Florida Memorial College.

12 (2) There is created the Historically Black College
13 and University Library Improvement Program to be administered
14 by the Department of Education. The primary objectives of the
15 program shall be to increase each library's holdings by 500 to
16 1,000 books per year, to increase library use by students and
17 faculty, and to enhance the professional growth of librarians
18 by providing inservice training. At least 50 percent of
19 library acquisitions shall be in the humanities, with the
20 balance to be in all other disciplines. It is the intent of
21 the Legislature to provide general revenue funds each year to
22 support this program.

23 (3) Each institution shall submit to the State Board
24 of Education a plan for enhancing its library through the
25 following activities:

26 (a) Each institution shall increase the number of
27 volumes by purchasing replacement books and new titles. Funds
28 shall not be used to purchase periodicals or nonprint media.
29 The goal of these purchases is to meet the needs of students
30 and faculty in disciplines that have recently been added to
31 the curriculum, in traditional academic fields that have been

1 expanded, or in academic fields in which rapid changes in
2 technology result in accelerated obsolescence of related
3 library holdings.

4 (b) A committee composed of librarians and faculty at
5 each institution shall assess the adequacy of library holdings
6 in all academic areas. The committee shall develop a list of
7 resources that need to be replaced. Based on its assessment of
8 the current collection, the committee shall develop a
9 prioritized list of recommended acquisitions and shall submit
10 such list to the college or university president.

11 Section 328. Section 1006.60, Florida Statutes, is
12 created to read:

13 1006.60 Codes of conduct; disciplinary measures;
14 rulemaking authority.--

15 (1) Each community college and state university may
16 adopt, by rule, codes of conduct and appropriate penalties for
17 violations of rules by students, to be administered by the
18 institution. Such penalties, unless otherwise provided by law,
19 may include: reprimand; restitution; fines; withholding of
20 diplomas or transcripts pending compliance with rules,
21 completion of any student judicial process or sanction, or
22 payment of fines; restrictions on the use of or removal from
23 campus facilities; community service; educational
24 requirements; and the imposition of probation, suspension,
25 dismissal, or expulsion.

26 (2) Each community college and state university may
27 adopt, by rule, a code of conduct and appropriate penalties
28 for violations of rules by student organizations, to be
29 administered by the institution. Such penalties, unless
30 otherwise provided by law, may include: reprimand;
31 restitution; suspension, cancellation, or revocation of the

1 registration or official recognition of a student
2 organization; and restrictions on the use of, or removal from,
3 campus facilities.

4 (3) Sanctions authorized by such codes of conduct may
5 be imposed only for acts or omissions in violation of rules
6 adopted by the institution, including rules adopted under this
7 section, rules of the State Board of Education, county and
8 municipal ordinances, and the laws of this state, the United
9 States, or any other state.

10 (4) Each community college and state university may
11 establish and adopt, by rule, codes of appropriate penalties
12 for violations of rules governing student academic honesty.
13 Such penalties, unless otherwise provided by law, may include:
14 reprimand; reduction of grade; denial of academic credit;
15 invalidation of university credit or of the degree based upon
16 such credit; probation; suspension; dismissal; or expulsion.
17 In addition to any other penalties that may be imposed, an
18 individual may be denied admission or further registration,
19 and the institution may invalidate academic credit for work
20 done by a student and may invalidate or revoke the degree
21 based upon such credit if it is determined that the student
22 has made false, fraudulent, or incomplete statements in the
23 application, residence affidavit, or accompanying documents or
24 statements in connection with, or supplemental to, the
25 application for admission to or graduation from the
26 institution.

27 (5) Each community college and state university shall
28 adopt rules for the lawful discipline of any student who
29 intentionally acts to impair, interfere with, or obstruct the
30 orderly conduct, processes, and functions of the institution.
31

1 Said rules may apply to acts conducted on or off campus when
2 relevant to such orderly conduct, processes, and functions.

3 Section 329. Section 1006.61, Florida Statutes, is
4 created to read:

5 1006.61 Participation by students in disruptive
6 activities at public postsecondary educational institution;
7 penalties.--

8 (1) Any person who accepts the privilege extended by
9 the laws of this state of attendance at any public
10 postsecondary educational institution shall, by attending such
11 institution, be deemed to have given his or her consent to the
12 policies of that institution, the State Board of Education,
13 and the laws of this state. Such policies shall include
14 prohibition against disruptive activities at public
15 postsecondary educational institutions.

16 (2) After it has been determined that a student of a
17 state institution of higher learning has participated in
18 disruptive activities, such student may be immediately
19 expelled from the institution for a minimum of 2 years.

20 Section 330. Section 1006.62, Florida Statutes, is
21 created to read:

22 1006.62 Expulsion and discipline of students of
23 community colleges and state universities.--

24 (1) Each student in a community college or state
25 university is subject to federal and state law, respective
26 county and municipal ordinances, and all rules and regulations
27 of the State Board of Education or board of trustees of the
28 institution.

29 (2) Violation of these published laws, ordinances, or
30 rules and regulations may subject the violator to appropriate
31 action by the institution's authorities.

1 (3) Each president of a community college or state
2 university may, after notice to the student of the charges and
3 after a hearing thereon, to expel, suspend, or otherwise
4 discipline any student who is found to have violated any law,
5 ordinance, or rule or regulation of the State Board of
6 Education or of the board of trustees of the institution. A
7 student may be entitled to waiver of expulsion:

8 (a) If the student provides substantial assistance in
9 the identification, arrest, or conviction of any of his or her
10 accomplices, accessories, coconspirators, or principals or of
11 any other person engaged in violations of chapter 893 within a
12 state university or community college;

13 (b) If the student voluntarily discloses his or her
14 violations of chapter 893 prior to his or her arrest; or

15 (c) If the student commits himself or herself, or is
16 referred by the court in lieu of sentence, to a state-licensed
17 drug abuse program and successfully completes the program.

18 Section 331. Section 1006.63, Florida Statutes, is
19 created to read:

20 1006.63 Hazing prohibited.--

21 (1) As used in this section, "hazing" means any action
22 or situation that recklessly or intentionally endangers the
23 mental or physical health or safety of a student for the
24 purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with
25 any organization operating under the sanction of a
26 postsecondary institution. Such term includes, but is not
27 limited to, any brutality of a physical nature, such as
28 whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to
29 the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug, or
30 other substance, or other forced physical activity which could
31 adversely affect the physical health or safety of the student,

1 and also includes any activity which would subject the student
2 to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced
3 exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which could
4 result in extreme embarrassment, or other forced activity
5 which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of
6 the student.

7 (2) Public and nonpublic postsecondary educational
8 institutions whose students receive state student financial
9 assistance must adopt a written antihazing policy and under
10 such policy must adopt rules prohibiting students or other
11 persons associated with any student organization from engaging
12 in hazing.

13 (3) Public and nonpublic postsecondary educational
14 institutions must provide a program for the enforcement of
15 such rules and must adopt appropriate penalties for violations
16 of such rules, to be administered by the person at the
17 institution responsible for the sanctioning of such
18 organizations.

19 (a) Such penalties at community colleges and state
20 universities may include the imposition of fines; the
21 withholding of diplomas or transcripts pending compliance with
22 the rules or pending payment of fines; and the imposition of
23 probation, suspension, or dismissal.

24 (b) In the case of an organization at a community
25 college or state university which authorizes hazing in blatant
26 disregard of such rules, penalties may also include rescission
27 of permission for that organization to operate on campus
28 property or to otherwise operate under the sanction of the
29 institution.

30 (c) All penalties imposed under the authority of this
31 subsection shall be in addition to any penalty imposed for

1 violation of any of the criminal laws of this state or for
2 violation of any other rule of the institution to which the
3 violation may be subject.

4 (4) Rules adopted pursuant hereto shall apply to acts
5 conducted on or off campus whenever such acts are deemed to
6 constitute hazing.

7 (5) Upon approval of the antihazing policy of a
8 community college or state university and of the rules and
9 penalties adopted pursuant thereto, the institution shall
10 provide a copy of such policy, rules, and penalties to each
11 student enrolled in that institution and shall require the
12 inclusion of such policy, rules, and penalties in the bylaws
13 of every organization operating under the sanction of the
14 institution.

15 Section 332. Section 1006.64, Florida Statutes, is
16 created to read:

17 1006.64 Suspension and removal from office of elected
18 student government officials; referendum.--The student
19 government association of each community college and state
20 university shall establish a process to provide for the
21 removal from office of any elected student government official
22 who has been convicted of a violation of criminal law or has
23 been found civilly liable for an act of moral turpitude, after
24 all available rights of judicial appeal have been exercised or
25 waived or have expired. The process shall include a procedure
26 for the immediate suspension of the student government
27 official from elected office following the conviction or civil
28 finding and during any appeal, and shall provide for the
29 temporary successor to the subject office pending completion
30 of any appeal. The process must also include a procedure for
31 registered students to petition for a referendum recommending

1 to the student government association the removal of a student
2 official from elected office. The referendum must be held
3 within 60 days of filing of the petition. The recommendation
4 to remove the subject official from elected office shall be
5 made by majority vote of the students participating in the
6 referendum. The action of a student government association
7 under this section shall be subject to an appeal to the
8 university or community college president or designee.

9 Section 333. Section 1006.65, Florida Statutes, is
10 created to read:

11 1006.65 Safety issues in courses offered by public
12 postsecondary educational institutions.--

13 (1) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to
14 ensure that policies and procedures are in place to protect
15 the health and safety of students, instructional personnel,
16 and visitors who participate in courses offered by a public
17 postsecondary educational institution.

18 (2) Such policies and procedures shall be guided by
19 industry standards for practices in the course content area
20 and shall conform with all related and relevant state and
21 federal health and safety requirements.

22 Section 334. Section 1006.66, Florida Statutes, is
23 created to read:

24 1006.66 Regulation of traffic at universities.--

25 (1) As defined under this section:

26 (a) "Traffic," when used as a noun, means the use or
27 occupancy of, and the movement in, on, or over, streets, ways,
28 walks, roads, alleys, and parking areas by vehicles,
29 pedestrians, or ridden or herded animals.

30 (b) "Adjacent municipality" means a municipality which
31 is contiguous or adjacent to, or which contains within its

1 boundaries all or part of the grounds of, a university; except
2 that, if the grounds of a university are not within or
3 contiguous to a municipality, "adjacent municipality" means
4 the county seat of the county which contains within its
5 boundaries all or part of the grounds of the university.

6 (c) "Grounds" includes all of the campus and grounds
7 of the university, whether it be the campus proper or outlying
8 or noncontiguous land of the university within the county.

9 (d) "Law enforcement officers" include municipal
10 police, patrol officers, traffic officers, sheriffs, deputies,
11 highway patrol officers, and county traffic officers assigned
12 to duty on the grounds of the university; campus police,
13 traffic officers, guards, parking patrollers, and other
14 noncommissioned personnel designated for traffic purposes by
15 the university; and other law enforcement officers as defined
16 in s. 943.10(1).

17 (e) "University traffic infraction" means a
18 noncriminal violation of university parking and traffic rules
19 which is not included under s. 318.14 or s. 318.17 or any
20 municipal ordinance, which is not punishable by incarceration,
21 and for which there is no right to trial by jury or to
22 court-appointed counsel.

23 (f) "Traffic authority" means an individual or a group
24 of individuals at each university, authorized and appointed by
25 the president of the university to adjudicate university
26 traffic infractions.

27 (2) Each university board of trustees shall adopt
28 rules that govern traffic on the grounds of the university;
29 that provide penalties for the infraction of such traffic
30 rules; and that the university finds necessary, convenient, or
31 advisable for the safety or welfare of the students, faculty

1 members, or other persons. Copies of the rules shall be posted
2 at the university on public bulletin boards where notices are
3 customarily posted, filed with the city clerk or corresponding
4 municipal or county officer, and made available to any person
5 requesting same. When adopted, the rules shall be enforceable
6 as herein provided. All ordinances of the adjacent
7 municipality relating to traffic that are not in conflict or
8 inconsistent with the traffic rules adopted by the individual
9 university shall extend and be applicable to the grounds of
10 the university. The provisions of chapter 316 shall extend and
11 be applicable to the grounds of the university, and the rules
12 adopted by the individual university shall not conflict with
13 any section of that chapter.

14 (3) Any person who violates any of those rules adopted
15 by the individual institution shall be deemed to have
16 committed a university traffic infraction and shall be fined
17 or penalized as provided by the rules adopted by the
18 institution. Any person who violates any traffic regulation
19 enumerated in chapter 316 shall be charged, and the cause
20 shall proceed, in accordance with chapters 316 and 318.

21 (4) A person charged with a university traffic
22 infraction shall elect the option prescribed in paragraph (a)
23 or the option prescribed in paragraph (b). If neither option
24 is exercised within the prescribed time by the person charged
25 with a university traffic infraction, an additional fine or
26 penalty may be assessed, and shall be payable, in accordance
27 with the rules of the university.

28 (a) The person charged may pay the applicable
29 infraction fine, either by mail or in person, within the time
30 period specified in the rules of the individual university. A
31

1 schedule of infraction fines applicable to each university
2 shall be adopted by the university.

3 (b) The person charged may elect to appear before the
4 university traffic authority for administrative determination
5 pursuant to procedures enumerated in the rules of such
6 university.

7 (5) Each university is authorized to approve the
8 establishment of a university traffic authority to hear
9 violations of traffic rules. In such cases as come before the
10 authority, the university traffic authority shall determine
11 whether the person is guilty or not guilty of the charge. In
12 the case of a finding of guilt, the authority shall, in its
13 discretion, impose an appropriate penalty pursuant to
14 subsection (3).

15 (6) This section shall provide the exclusive
16 procedures for the adjudication of university traffic
17 infractions.

18 (7) Moneys collected from parking assessments and
19 infraction fines shall be deposited in appropriate funds and
20 shall be used to defray the administrative and operating costs
21 of the traffic and parking program at the institution, to
22 provide for additional parking facilities on campus, or for
23 student loan purposes.

24 Section 335. Section 1006.67, Florida Statutes, is
25 created to read:

26 1006.67 Report of campus crime statistics and
27 assessment of physical plant safety.--

28 (1) Each postsecondary educational institution shall
29 prepare an annual report of campus crime statistics for
30 submission to the Department of Education. The data for these
31 reports may be taken from the Florida Department of Law

1 Enforcement Annual Report. The Department of Education shall
2 prescribe the format for institutional submission.

3 (2) Each postsecondary institution shall prepare a
4 report of crime statistics as reported under subsection (1)
5 for the most recent 3-year period. The report shall be updated
6 annually. The institution shall give notice that this report
7 is available upon request.

8 (3) The Commissioner of Education shall convey the
9 reports required by this section to the President of the
10 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives no
11 later than March 1 of each year.

12 Section 336. Section 1006.68, Florida Statutes, is
13 created to read:

14 1006.68 HIV and AIDS policy.--Each community college
15 and state university shall develop a comprehensive policy that
16 addresses the provision of instruction, information, and
17 activities regarding human immunodeficiency virus infection
18 and acquired immune deficiency syndrome. Such instruction,
19 information, or activities shall emphasize the known modes of
20 transmission of human immunodeficiency virus infection and
21 acquired immune deficiency syndrome, signs and symptoms,
22 associated risk factors, appropriate behavior and attitude
23 change, and means used to control the spread of human
24 immunodeficiency virus infection and acquired immune
25 deficiency syndrome.

26 Section 337. Section 1006.70, Florida Statutes, is
27 created to read:

28 1006.70 Sponsorship of athletic activities similar to
29 those for which scholarships offered; rulemaking.--

30 (1) If a district school board sponsors an athletic
31 activity or sport that is similar to a sport for which a

1 community college or state university offers an athletic
2 scholarship, it must sponsor the athletic activity or sport
3 for which a scholarship is offered. This section does not
4 affect academic requirements for participation or prevent the
5 districts or community colleges from sponsoring activities in
6 addition to those for which scholarships are provided.

7 (2) If a community college sponsors an athletic
8 activity or sport that is similar to a sport for which a state
9 university offers an athletic scholarship, it must sponsor the
10 athletic activity or sport for which a scholarship is offered.

11 (3) Two athletic activities or sports that are similar
12 may be offered simultaneously.

13 (4) If the level of participation is insufficient to
14 warrant continuation of an athletic activity or sport, the
15 school may offer an alternative athletic activity or sport.

16 (5) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to
17 administer this section, including rules that determine which
18 athletic activities are similar to sports for which public
19 postsecondary educational institutions offer scholarships.

20 Section 338. Section 1006.71, Florida Statutes, is
21 created to read:

22 1006.71 Gender equity in intercollegiate athletics.--

23 (1) GENDER EQUITY PLAN.--

24 (a) Each community college and state university shall
25 develop a gender equity plan pursuant to s. 1000.05.

26 (b) The plan shall include consideration of equity in
27 sports offerings, participation, availability of facilities,
28 scholarship offerings, and funds allocated for administration,
29 recruitment, comparable coaching, publicity and promotion, and
30 other support costs.

31

1 (c) The Commissioner of Education shall annually
2 assess the progress of each institution's plan and advise the
3 State Board of Education regarding compliance.

4 (d) Each board of trustees of a public community
5 college or state university shall annually evaluate the
6 presidents on the extent to which the gender equity goals have
7 been achieved.

8 (e) To determine the proper level of support for
9 women's athletic scholarships, an equity plan may determine,
10 where appropriate, that support for women's scholarships may
11 be disproportionate to the support of scholarships for men.

12 (f) If a community college or state university is not
13 in compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of
14 1972 and the Florida Educational Equity Act, the State Board
15 of Education shall:

16 1. Declare the institution ineligible for competitive
17 state grants.

18 2. Withhold funds sufficient to obtain compliance.

19
20 The institution shall remain ineligible and the funds shall
21 not be paid until the institution comes into compliance or the
22 Commissioner of Education approves a plan for compliance.

23 (2) FUNDING.--

24 (a) An equitable portion of all separate athletic fees
25 shall be designated for women's intercollegiate athletics.

26 (b) The level of funding and percentage share of
27 support for women's intercollegiate athletics shall be
28 determined by the State Board of Education. The level of
29 funding and percentage share attained in the 1980-1981 fiscal
30 year shall be the minimum level and percentage maintained by
31 each institution, except as the State Board of Education

1 otherwise directs for the purpose of assuring equity.
2 Consideration shall be given by the State Board of Education
3 to emerging athletic programs at institutions which may not
4 have the resources to secure external funds to provide
5 athletic opportunities for women. It is the intent that the
6 effect of any redistribution of funds among institutions shall
7 not negate the requirements as set forth in this section.

8 (c) In addition to the above amount, an amount equal
9 to the sales taxes collected from admission to athletic events
10 sponsored by a state university shall be retained and utilized
11 by each university to support women's athletics.

12 (3) STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.--The State Board of
13 Education shall assure equal opportunity for female athletes
14 and establish:

15 (a) Guidelines for reporting of intercollegiate
16 athletics data concerning financial, program, and facilities
17 information for review by the State Board of Education
18 annually.

19 (b) Systematic audits for the evaluation of such data.

20 (c) Criteria for determining and assuring equity.

21 Section 339. Chapter 1007, Florida Statutes, shall be
22 entitled "Articulation and Access" and shall consist of ss.
23 1007.01-1007.34.

24 Section 340. Part I of chapter 1007, Florida Statutes,
25 shall be entitled "General Provisions" and shall consist of s.
26 1007.01.

27 Section 341. Section 1007.01, Florida Statutes, is
28 created to read:

29 1007.01 Articulation; legislative intent; purpose;
30 role of the State Board of Education.--

31

1 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to facilitate
2 articulation and seamless integration of the K-20 education
3 system by building and sustaining relationships among K-20
4 public organizations, between public and private
5 organizations, and between the education system as a whole and
6 Florida's communities. The purpose of building and sustaining
7 these relationships is to provide for the efficient and
8 effective progression and transfer of students within the
9 education system and to allow students to proceed toward their
10 educational objectives as rapidly as their circumstances
11 permit.

12 (2) To improve and facilitate articulation systemwide,
13 the State Board of Education shall develop policies and
14 guidelines with input from statewide K-20 advisory groups
15 established by the Commissioner of Education relating to:

16 (a) The alignment between the exit requirements of one
17 system and the admissions requirements of another system into
18 which students typically transfer.

19 (b) The identification of common courses, the level of
20 courses, institutional participation in a statewide course
21 numbering system, and the transferability of credits among
22 such institutions.

23 (c) Identification of courses that meet general
24 education or common degree program prerequisite requirements
25 at public postsecondary educational institutions.

26 (d) Dual enrollment course equivalencies.

27 (e) Articulation agreements.

28 Section 342. Part II of chapter 1007, Florida
29 Statutes, shall be entitled "Articulation" and shall consist
30 of ss. 1007.21-1007.28.

31

1 Section 343. Section 1007.21, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1007.21 Readiness for postsecondary education and the
4 workplace.--

5 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature that students
6 and parents set early achievement and career goals for the
7 student's post-high school experience. This section sets forth
8 a model which schools, through their school advisory councils,
9 may choose to implement to ensure that students are ready for
10 postsecondary education and the workplace. If such a program
11 is adopted, students and their parents shall have the option
12 of participating in this model to plan the student's secondary
13 level course of study. Parents and students are to become
14 partners with school personnel in educational choice. Clear
15 academic course expectations shall be made available to all
16 students by allowing both student and parent or guardian
17 choice.

18 (2)(a) Students entering the 9th grade and their
19 parents shall be active participants in choosing an
20 end-of-high-school student destination based upon both student
21 and parent or guardian goals. Four or more destinations should
22 be available with bridges between destinations to enable
23 students to shift destinations should they choose to change
24 goals. The destinations shall accommodate the needs of
25 students served in exceptional education programs to the
26 extent appropriate for individual students. Exceptional
27 education students may continue to follow the courses outlined
28 in the district school board student progression plan.
29 Participating students and their parents shall choose among
30 destinations, which must include:

31

- 1 1. Four-year college or university, community college
2 plus university, or military academy.
- 3 2. Two-year postsecondary degree.
- 4 3. Postsecondary career and technical certificate.
- 5 4. Immediate employment or entry-level military.
- 6 (b) The student progression model toward a chosen
7 destination shall include:
- 8 1. A "path" of core courses leading to each of the
9 destinations provided in paragraph (a).
- 10 2. A recommended group of electives which shall help
11 define each path.
- 12 3. Provisions for a teacher, school administrator,
13 other school staff member, or community volunteer to be
14 assigned to a student as an "academic advocate" if parental or
15 guardian involvement is lacking.
- 16 (c) The common placement test authorized in ss.
17 1001.03(10) and 1008.30 or a similar test may be administered
18 to all high school second semester sophomores who have chosen
19 one of the four destinations. The results of the placement
20 test shall be used to target additional instructional needs in
21 reading, writing, and mathematics prior to graduation.
- 22 (d) Ample opportunity shall be provided for students
23 to move from one destination to another, and some latitude
24 shall exist within each destination, to meet the individual
25 needs of students.
- 26 (e) Destinations specified in subparagraphs (a)1., 2.,
27 and 3. shall support the goals of the Tech Prep program.
28 Students participating in Tech Prep shall be enrolled in
29 articulated, sequential programs of study that include a
30 technical component and at least a minimum of a postsecondary
31 certificate or 2-year degree.

1 (f) In order for these destinations to be attainable,
2 the business community shall be encouraged to support
3 real-world internships and apprenticeships.

4 (g) All students shall be encouraged to take part in
5 service learning opportunities.

6 (h) High school equivalency diploma preparation
7 programs shall not be a choice for high school students
8 leading to any of the four destinations provided in paragraph
9 (a) since the appropriate coursework, counseling component,
10 and career preparation cannot be ensured.

11 (i) Schools shall ensure that students and parents are
12 made aware of the destinations available and provide the
13 necessary coursework to assist the student in reaching the
14 chosen destination. Students and parents shall be made aware
15 of the student's progress toward the chosen destination.

16 (j) The Department of Education shall offer technical
17 assistance to school districts to ensure that the destinations
18 offered also meet the academic standards adopted by the state.

19 (3)(a) Access to Level I courses for graduation credit
20 and for pursuit of a declared destination shall be limited to
21 only those students for whom assessment indicates a more
22 rigorous course of study would be inappropriate.

23 (b) The school principal shall:

24 1. Designate a member of the existing instructional or
25 administrative staff to serve as a specialist to help
26 coordinate the use of student achievement strategies to help
27 students succeed in their coursework. The specialist shall
28 also assist teachers in integrating the academic and career
29 and technical curricula, utilizing technology, providing
30 feedback regarding student achievement, and implementing the
31 Blueprint for Career Preparation and Tech Prep programs.

1 2. Institute strategies to eliminate reading, writing,
2 and mathematics deficiencies of secondary students.

3 Section 344. Section 1007.22, Florida Statutes, is
4 created to read:

5 1007.22 Articulation; postsecondary institution
6 coordination and collaboration.--

7 (1) The university boards of trustees, community
8 college boards of trustees, and district school boards may
9 establish intrainstitutional and interinstitutional programs
10 to maximize articulation. Programs may include
11 upper-division-level courses offered at the community college,
12 distance learning, transfer agreements that facilitate the
13 transfer of credits between public and nonpublic postsecondary
14 institutions, and the concurrent enrollment of students at a
15 community college and a state university to enable students to
16 take any level of baccalaureate degree coursework.

17 (2) The levels of postsecondary education shall
18 collaborate in further developing and providing articulated
19 programs in which students can proceed toward their
20 educational objectives as rapidly as their circumstances
21 permit. Time-shortened educational programs, as well as the
22 use of acceleration mechanisms, shall include, but not be
23 limited to, the International Baccalaureate, credit by
24 examination or demonstration of competency, advanced
25 placement, early admissions, and dual enrollment.

26 (3) Public postsecondary educational institutions
27 serving the same students in a geographic and service area are
28 encouraged to establish appropriate interinstitutional
29 mechanisms to achieve cooperative planning and delivery of
30 academic programs and related services, share a high-cost
31 instructional facility and equipment, coordinate credit and

1 noncredit outreach activities, have access to each other's
2 library and media holdings and services, and provide
3 cooperative campus activities and consultative relationships
4 for the discussion and resolution of interinstitutional issues
5 and problems which discourage student access or transfer.
6 (4) Public postsecondary education institutions are
7 encouraged to include independent colleges and universities
8 and industries within their service areas in mutual planning
9 of a comprehensive, complementary, cost-effective array of
10 undergraduate and beginning graduate programs of study to
11 serve that geographic area.
12 Section 345. Section 1007.23, Florida Statutes, is
13 created to read:
14 1007.23 Statewide articulation agreement.--
15 (1) The State Board of Education shall establish in
16 rule a statewide articulation agreement that governs:
17 (a) Articulation between secondary and postsecondary
18 education;
19 (b) Admission of associate in arts degree graduates
20 from community colleges and state universities;
21 (c) Admission of applied technology diploma program
22 graduates from community colleges or technical centers;
23 (d) Admission of associate in science degree and
24 associate in applied science degree graduates from community
25 colleges;
26 (e) The use of acceleration mechanisms, including
27 nationally standardized examinations through which students
28 may earn credit;
29 (f) General education requirements and statewide
30 course numbers as provided for in ss. 1007.24 and 1007.25; and
31 (g) Articulation among programs in nursing.

1 (2) The articulation agreement must specifically
2 provide that every associate in arts graduate of a community
3 college shall have met all general education requirements and
4 must be granted admission to the upper division of a state
5 university except to a limited access or teacher certification
6 program or a major program requiring an audition. After
7 admission has been granted to students under provisions of
8 this section and to university students who have successfully
9 completed 60 credit hours of coursework, including 36 hours of
10 general education, and met the requirements of s. 1008.29,
11 admission shall be granted to state university and community
12 college students who have successfully completed 60 credit
13 hours of work, including 36 hours of general education.
14 Community college associate in arts graduates shall receive
15 priority for admission to a state university over out-of-state
16 students. Orientation programs and student handbooks provided
17 to freshman enrollees and transfer students at state
18 universities must include an explanation of this provision of
19 the articulation agreement.

20 (3) The articulation agreement must guarantee the
21 statewide articulation of appropriate workforce development
22 programs and courses between school districts and community
23 colleges and specifically provide that every applied
24 technology diploma graduate must be granted the same amount of
25 credit upon admission to an associate in science degree or
26 associate in applied science degree program unless it is a
27 limited access program. Preference for admission must be given
28 to graduates who are residents of Florida.

29 (4) The articulation agreement must guarantee the
30 statewide articulation of appropriate courses within associate
31 in science degree programs to baccalaureate degree programs.

1 Courses within an associate in applied science degree program
2 may articulate into a baccalaureate degree program on an
3 individual or block basis as authorized in local
4 interinstitutional articulation agreements.

5 Section 346. Section 1007.235, Florida Statutes, is
6 created to read:

7 1007.235 District interinstitutional articulation
8 agreements.--

9 (1) District school superintendents and community
10 college presidents shall jointly develop and implement a
11 comprehensive articulated acceleration program for the
12 students enrolled in their respective school districts and
13 service areas. Within this general responsibility, each
14 superintendent and president shall develop a comprehensive
15 interinstitutional articulation agreement for the school
16 district and community college that serves the school
17 district. The district school superintendent and president
18 shall establish an articulation committee for the purpose of
19 developing this agreement. Each state university president is
20 encouraged to designate a university representative to
21 participate in the development of the interinstitutional
22 articulation agreements for each school district within the
23 university service area.

24 (2) The district interinstitutional articulation
25 agreement for each school year must be completed before high
26 school registration for the fall term of the following school
27 year. The agreement must include, but is not limited to, the
28 following components:

29 (a) A ratification or modification of all existing
30 articulation agreements.

31

1 (b)1. A delineation of courses and programs available
2 to students eligible to participate in dual enrollment. This
3 delineation must include a plan for the community college to
4 provide guidance services to participating students on the
5 selection of courses in the dual enrollment program. The
6 process of community college guidance should make maximum use
7 of the automated advisement system for community colleges. The
8 plan must assure that each dual enrollment student is
9 encouraged to identify a postsecondary education objective
10 with which to guide the course selection. At a minimum, each
11 student's plan should include a list of courses that will
12 result in an Applied Technology Diploma, an Associate in
13 Science degree, or an Associate in Arts degree. If the student
14 identifies a baccalaureate degree as the objective, the plan
15 must include courses that will meet the general education
16 requirements and any prerequisite requirements for entrance
17 into a selected baccalaureate degree program.

18 2. A delineation of the process by which students and
19 their parents are informed about opportunities to participate
20 in articulated acceleration programs.

21 3. A delineation of the process by which students and
22 their parents exercise their option to participate in an
23 articulated acceleration program.

24 4. A delineation of high school credits earned for
25 completion of each dual enrollment course.

26 5. Provision for postsecondary courses that meet the
27 criteria for inclusion in a district articulated acceleration
28 program to be counted toward meeting the graduation
29 requirements of s. 1003.43.

30 6. An identification of eligibility criteria for
31 student participation in dual enrollment courses and programs.

1 7. A delineation of institutional responsibilities
2 regarding student screening prior to enrollment and monitoring
3 student performance subsequent to enrollment in dual
4 enrollment courses and programs.

5 8. An identification of the criteria by which the
6 quality of dual enrollment courses and programs are to be
7 judged and a delineation of institutional responsibilities for
8 the maintenance of instructional quality.

9 9. A delineation of institutional responsibilities for
10 assuming the cost of dual enrollment courses and programs that
11 includes such responsibilities for student instructional
12 materials.

13 10. An identification of responsibility for providing
14 student transportation if the dual enrollment instruction is
15 conducted at a facility other than the high school campus.

16 11. A delineation of the process for converting
17 college credit hours earned through dual enrollment and early
18 admission programs to high school credit based on mastery of
19 course outcomes as determined by the Department of Education
20 in accordance with s. 1007.271(6).

21 (c) Mechanisms and strategies for reducing the
22 incidence of postsecondary remediation in math, reading, and
23 writing for first-time-enrolled recent high school graduates,
24 based upon the findings in the postsecondary
25 readiness-for-college report produced pursuant to s. 1008.37.
26 Each articulation committee shall annually analyze and assess
27 the effectiveness of the mechanisms toward meeting the goal of
28 reducing postsecondary remediation needs. Results of the
29 assessment shall be annually presented to participating
30 district school boards and community college boards of
31 trustees and shall include, but not be limited to:

- 1 1. Mechanisms currently being initiated.
- 2 2. An analysis of problems and corrective actions.
- 3 3. Anticipated outcomes.
- 4 4. Strategies for the better preparation of students
5 upon graduation from high school.
- 6 5. An analysis of costs associated with the
7 implementation of postsecondary remedial education and
8 secondary-level corrective actions.
- 9 6. The identification of strategies for reducing costs
10 of the delivery of postsecondary remediation for recent high
11 school graduates, including the consideration and assessment
12 of alternative instructional methods and services such as
13 those produced by private providers.
- 14
- 15 Wherever possible, public schools and community colleges are
16 encouraged to share resources, form partnerships with private
17 industries, and implement innovative strategies and mechanisms
18 such as distance learning, summer student and faculty
19 workshops, parental involvement activities, and the
20 distribution of information over the Internet.
- 21 (d) Mechanisms and strategies for promoting "tech
22 prep" programs of study. Such mechanisms should raise
23 awareness about the programs, promote enrollment in the
24 programs, and articulate students from a secondary portion
25 into a planned, related postsecondary portion of a sequential
26 program of study that leads to a terminal postsecondary career
27 or technical education degree or certificate.
- 28 (3) The district interinstitutional articulation
29 agreement shall include a plan that outlines the mechanisms
30 and strategies for improving the preparation of elementary,
31 middle, and high school teachers. Effective collaboration

1 among school districts, postsecondary institutions, and
2 practicing educators is essential to improving teaching in
3 Florida's elementary and secondary schools and consequently,
4 the retention and success of students through high school
5 graduation and into postsecondary education. Professional
6 development programs shall be developed cooperatively and
7 include curricular content which focuses upon local and state
8 needs and responds to state, national, and district policy and
9 program priorities. School districts and community colleges
10 are encouraged to develop plans which utilize new
11 technologies, address critical needs in their implementation,
12 and include both preservice and inservice initiatives.

13 (4) The district school superintendent is responsible
14 for incorporating, either directly or by reference, all dual
15 enrollment courses contained within the district
16 interinstitutional articulation agreement within the district
17 school board's student progression plan.

18 (5) The Department of Education shall review each
19 articulation agreement and certify the statewide course number
20 of postsecondary courses that meet each district's graduation
21 requirements.

22 (6) District school boards and community colleges may
23 enter into additional interinstitutional articulation
24 agreements with state universities for the purposes of this
25 section. School districts may also enter into
26 interinstitutional articulation agreements with eligible
27 independent colleges and universities pursuant to s.
28 1011.62(1)(i).

29 (7) State universities and community colleges may
30 enter into interinstitutional articulation agreements with
31 nonpublic secondary schools pursuant to s. 1007.271(2).

1 Section 347. Section 1007.24, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1007.24 Statewide course numbering system.--

4 (1) The Department of Education shall develop,
5 coordinate, and maintain a statewide course numbering system
6 for postsecondary and dual enrollment education in school
7 districts, public postsecondary educational institutions, and
8 participating nonpublic postsecondary educational institutions
9 that will improve program planning, increase communication
10 among all delivery systems, and facilitate student
11 acceleration and the transfer of students and credits between
12 public school districts, public postsecondary educational
13 institutions, and participating nonpublic educational
14 institutions. The continuing maintenance of the system shall
15 be accomplished with the assistance of appropriate faculty
16 committees representing public and participating nonpublic
17 educational institutions.

18 (2) The Commissioner of Education shall appoint
19 faculty committees representing faculties of participating
20 institutions to recommend a single level for each course,
21 including postsecondary career and technical education
22 courses, included in the statewide course numbering system.

23 (a) Any course designated as an upper-division-level
24 course must be characterized by a need for advanced academic
25 preparation and skills that a student would be unlikely to
26 achieve without significant prior coursework.

27 (b) A course that is offered as part of an associate
28 in science degree program and as an upper-division course for
29 a baccalaureate degree shall be designated for both the lower
30 and upper division.

31

1 (c) A course designated as lower-division may be
2 offered by any community college.

3 (3) The Commissioner of Education shall recommend to
4 the State Board of Education the levels for the courses.

5 (4) The statewide course numbering system shall
6 include the courses at the recommended levels.

7 (5) The registration process at each state university
8 and community college shall include the courses at their
9 designated levels and statewide course number.

10 (6) Nonpublic colleges and schools that are fully
11 accredited by a regional or national accrediting agency
12 recognized by the United States Department of Education and
13 are either eligible to participate in the William L. Boyd, IV,
14 Florida Resident Access Grant or have been issued a regular
15 license pursuant to s. 1005.31, may participate in the
16 statewide course numbering system pursuant to s. 1007.24.
17 Participating colleges and schools shall bear the costs
18 associated with inclusion in the system and shall meet the
19 terms and conditions for institutional participation in the
20 system. The department shall adopt a fee schedule that
21 includes the expenses incurred through data processing,
22 faculty task force travel and per diem, and staff and clerical
23 support time. Such fee schedule may differentiate between the
24 costs associated with initial course inclusion in the system
25 and costs associated with subsequent course maintenance in the
26 system. Decisions regarding initial course inclusion and
27 subsequent course maintenance must be made within 360 days
28 after submission of the required materials and fees by the
29 institution. The Department of Education may select a date by
30 which colleges must submit requests for new courses to be
31 included, and may delay review of courses submitted after that

1 date until the next year's cycle. Any college that currently
2 participates in the system, and that participated in the
3 system prior to July 1, 1986, shall not be required to pay the
4 costs associated with initial course inclusion in the system.
5 Fees collected for participation in the statewide course
6 numbering system pursuant to the provisions of this section
7 shall be deposited in the Institutional Assessment Trust Fund.
8 Any nonpublic, nonprofit college or university that is
9 eligible to participate in the statewide course numbering
10 system shall not be required to pay the costs associated with
11 participation in the system. No college or school shall
12 record student transcripts or document courses offered by the
13 college or school in accordance with this subsection unless
14 the college or school is actually participating in the system
15 pursuant to rules of the State Board of Education. Any
16 college or school deemed to be in violation of this section
17 shall be subject to the provisions of s. 1005.38.

18 (7) Any student who transfers among postsecondary
19 institutions that are fully accredited by a regional or
20 national accrediting agency recognized by the United States
21 Department of Education and that participate in the statewide
22 course numbering system shall be awarded credit by the
23 receiving institution for courses satisfactorily completed by
24 the student at the previous institutions. Credit shall be
25 awarded if the courses are judged by the appropriate statewide
26 course numbering system faculty committees representing school
27 districts, public postsecondary educational institutions, and
28 participating nonpublic postsecondary educational institutions
29 to be academically equivalent to courses offered at the
30 receiving institution, including equivalency of faculty
31 credentials, regardless of the public or nonpublic control of

1 the previous institution. The Department of Education shall
2 ensure that credits to be accepted by a receiving institution
3 are generated in courses for which the faculty possess
4 credentials that are comparable to those required by the
5 accrediting association of the receiving institution. The
6 award of credit may be limited to courses that are entered in
7 the statewide course numbering system. Credits awarded
8 pursuant to this subsection shall satisfy institutional
9 requirements on the same basis as credits awarded to native
10 students.

11 (8) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
12 that provide for the conduct of regularly scheduled purges of
13 courses that are listed in the statewide course numbering
14 system but have not been taught at an institution for the
15 preceding 5 years. These rules must include waiver provisions
16 that allow course continuation if an institution has
17 reasonable cause for having not offered a course within the
18 5-year limit and an expectation that the course will be
19 offered again within the following 5 years.

20 Section 348. Section 1007.25, Florida Statutes, is
21 created to read:

22 1007.25 General education courses; common
23 prerequisites; and other degree requirements.--

24 (1) The department shall identify the degree programs
25 offered by public postsecondary educational institutions.

26 (2) The department shall identify postsecondary career
27 and technical education programs offered by community colleges
28 and district school boards. The department shall also identify
29 career and technical courses designated as college credit
30 courses applicable toward a career and technical education
31

1 diploma or degree. Such courses must be identified within the
2 statewide course numbering system.

3 (3) The department shall identify those courses that
4 meet general education requirements within the subject areas
5 of communication, mathematics, social sciences, humanities,
6 and natural sciences. The courses shall be identified by their
7 statewide course code number. All public postsecondary
8 educational institutions shall accept these general education
9 courses.

10 (4) The department shall identify those courses
11 offered by universities and accepted for credit toward a
12 degree. The department shall identify courses designated as
13 either general education or required as a prerequisite for a
14 degree. The courses shall be identified by their statewide
15 course number.

16 (5) The department shall identify common prerequisite
17 courses and course substitutions for degree programs across
18 all institutions. Common degree program prerequisites shall be
19 offered and accepted by all state universities and community
20 colleges, except in cases approved by the State Board of
21 Education pursuant to s. 1001.02(2)(x). The department shall
22 develop a centralized database containing the list of courses
23 and course substitutions that meet the prerequisite
24 requirements for each baccalaureate degree program.

25 (6) The boards of trustees of the community colleges
26 and state universities shall identify their core curricula,
27 which shall include courses required by the State Board of
28 Education. The universities and community colleges shall work
29 with their school districts to assure that high school
30 curricula coordinate with the core curricula and to prepare
31 students for college-level work. Core curricula for associate

1 in arts programs shall be adopted in rule by the State Board
2 of Education and shall include 36 semester hours of general
3 education courses in the subject areas of communication,
4 mathematics, social sciences, humanities, and natural
5 sciences.

6 (7) An associate in arts degree shall require no more
7 than 60 semester hours of college credit, including 36
8 semester hours of general education coursework. Except for
9 college-preparatory coursework required pursuant to s.
10 1008.30, all required coursework shall count toward the
11 associate in arts degree or the baccalaureate degree.

12 (8) A baccalaureate degree program shall require no
13 more than 120 semester hours of college credit, including 36
14 semester hours of general education coursework, unless prior
15 approval has been granted by the State Board of Education.

16 (9) A student who received an associate in arts degree
17 for successfully completing 60 semester credit hours may
18 continue to earn additional credits at a community college.
19 The university must provide credit toward the student's
20 baccalaureate degree for an additional community college
21 course if, according to the statewide course numbering, the
22 community college course is a course listed in the university
23 catalog as required for the degree or as prerequisite to a
24 course required for the degree. Of the courses required for
25 the degree, at least half of the credit hours required for the
26 degree shall be achievable through courses designated as lower
27 division, except in degree programs approved by the State
28 Board of Education.

29 (10) Students at state universities may request
30 associate in arts certificates if they have successfully
31 completed the minimum requirements for the degree of associate

1 in arts (A.A.). The university must grant the student an
2 associate in arts degree if the student has successfully
3 completed minimum requirements for college-level communication
4 and computation skills adopted by the State Board of Education
5 and 60 academic semester hours or the equivalent within a
6 degree program area, with 36 semester hours in general
7 education courses in the subject areas of communication,
8 mathematics, social sciences, humanities, and natural
9 sciences, consistent with the general education requirements
10 specified in the articulation agreement pursuant to s.
11 1007.23.

12 (11) The Commissioner of Education shall appoint
13 faculty committees representing both community college and
14 public school faculties to recommend to the commissioner for
15 approval by the State Board of Education a standard program
16 length and appropriate occupational completion points for each
17 postsecondary career and technical certificate program,
18 diploma, and degree.

19 Section 349. Section 1007.261, Florida Statutes, is
20 created to read:

21 1007.261 State universities; admissions of
22 students.--Each university board of trustees is authorized to
23 adopt rules governing the admission of students, subject to
24 this section and rules of the State Board of Education.

25 (1) Minimum academic standards for undergraduate
26 admission to a university include:

27 (a) Each student must have received a high school
28 diploma pursuant to s. 1003.43, or its equivalent, except as
29 provided in s. 1007.271(2)-(5) or completed a home education
30 program according to s. 1002.41.

31

1 (b) Each student must have successfully completed a
2 college-preparatory curriculum of 19 credits, as defined in
3 rules of the State Board of Education, including at least 2
4 credits of sequential foreign language at the secondary level
5 or the equivalent of such instruction at the postsecondary
6 level. A student who completes a home education program
7 according to s. 1002.41 is not required to document completion
8 of the 19 credits required by this paragraph. A student whose
9 native language is not English is exempt from the foreign
10 language requirement, provided that the student demonstrates
11 proficiency in the native language. If a standardized test is
12 not available in the student's native language for the
13 demonstration of proficiency, the university may provide an
14 alternative method of assessment. The State Board of Education
15 shall adopt rules for the articulation of foreign language
16 competency and equivalency between secondary and postsecondary
17 institutions. A student who received an associate in arts
18 degree prior to September 1, 1989, or who enrolled in a
19 program of studies leading to an associate degree from a
20 community college prior to August 1, 1989, and maintains
21 continuous enrollment shall be exempt from this admissions
22 requirement.

23 (c) Each student must have submitted a test score from
24 the Scholastic Assessment Test of the College Entrance
25 Examination Board or the American College Testing Program.

26 (2) The minimum admission standards adopted by the
27 State Board of Education or a university board of trustees
28 must permit a student to earn at least 4 of the 19 credits
29 constituting the college-preparatory curriculum required for
30 admission as electives in any one of the following manners:
31

1 (a) Successful completion of any course identified in
2 the Department of Education course code directory as level two
3 or higher in one or more of the following subject areas:
4 English, mathematics, natural science, social science, and
5 foreign language;
6 (b) Successful completion of any course identified in
7 the Department of Education course code directory as level
8 three in the same or related disciplines;
9 (c) Any combination of the courses identified in
10 paragraphs (a) and (b); or
11 (d) Successful completion of two credits from the
12 courses identified in paragraph (a), plus no more than two
13 total credits from the following categories of courses:
14 1. Courses identified in the Department of Education
15 course code directory as ROTC and military training;
16 2. Courses identified in the Department of Education
17 course code directory as level two in art-visual arts, dance,
18 drama-theatre arts, language arts, or music; or
19 3. Any additional courses determined to be equivalent
20 by the Department of Education.
21 (3) Each university may admit a limited number of
22 students notwithstanding the admission requirements of
23 paragraph (1)(b) relating to credits in foreign language, if
24 there is evidence that the applicant is expected to do
25 successful academic work at the admitting university. The
26 percent of applicants admitted under this subsection may not
27 exceed a level established for the university by the State
28 Board of Education. Any lower-division student admitted
29 without meeting the foreign language requirement must earn
30 such credits prior to admission to the upper division of a
31 state university. Any associate in arts degree graduate from a

1 community college or university in Florida, or other
2 upper-division transfer student, admitted without meeting the
3 foreign language requirement, must earn such credits prior to
4 graduation from a state university. Students shall be exempt
5 from the provisions of this subsection if they can demonstrate
6 proficiency in American sign language equivalent to that of
7 students who have completed two credits of such instruction in
8 high school.

9 (4) Nonresident students may be admitted to the
10 university upon such terms as the university may establish.
11 However, such terms shall include, but shall not be limited
12 to: completion of a secondary school curriculum which
13 includes 4 years of English; 3 years each of mathematics,
14 science, and social sciences; and 2 years of a foreign
15 language.

16 (5) Within the admission standards provided for in
17 subsection (1), the State Board of Education shall develop
18 procedures for weighting courses which are necessary to meet
19 the requirements of a college-preparatory curriculum at a
20 higher value than less rigorous courses. Credits received in
21 such courses shall be given greater value in determining
22 admission by universities than cumulative grade point averages
23 in high school.

24 (6) Consideration shall be given to the past actions
25 of any person applying for admission as a student to any state
26 university, either as a new applicant, an applicant for
27 continuation of studies, or a transfer student, when such
28 actions have been found to disrupt or interfere with the
29 orderly conduct, processes, functions, or programs of any
30 other university, college, or community college.

31

1 (7) In any application for admission by a student as a
2 citizen of the state, the applicant, if 18 years of age, or,
3 if a minor, his or her parents or guardian shall make and file
4 with such application a written statement under oath that such
5 applicant is a citizen and resident of the state and entitled,
6 as such, to admission upon the terms and conditions prescribed
7 for citizens and residents of the state.

8 (8) Rules of the State Board of Education shall
9 require the use of scores on tests of college-level
10 communication and computation skills provided in s. 1008.29 as
11 a condition for admission of students to upper-division
12 instructional programs from community colleges, including
13 those who have been awarded associate in arts degrees. Use of
14 such test scores as an admission requirement shall extend
15 equally and uniformly to students enrolled in lower divisions
16 in a state university and to transfer students from other
17 colleges and universities. The tests shall be required for
18 community college students seeking associate in arts degrees
19 and students seeking admission to upper-division instructional
20 programs in a state university. The use of test scores prior
21 to August 1, 1984, shall be limited to student counseling and
22 curriculum improvement.

23 (9) For the purposes of this section, American sign
24 language constitutes a foreign language. Florida high schools
25 may offer American sign language as a for-credit elective or
26 as a substitute for any already authorized foreign language
27 requirement.

28 (10) A Florida resident who is denied admission as an
29 undergraduate to a state university for failure to meet the
30 high school grade point average requirement may appeal the
31 decision to the university and request a recalculation of the

1 grade point average including in the revised calculation the
2 grades earned in up to three credits of advanced fine arts
3 courses. The university shall provide the student with a
4 description of the appeals process at the same time as
5 notification of the admissions decision. The university shall
6 recalculate the student's grade point average using the
7 additional courses and advise the student of any changes in
8 the student's admission status. For purposes of this section,
9 fine arts courses include courses in music, drama, painting,
10 sculpture, speech, debate, or a course in any art form that
11 requires manual dexterity. Advanced level fine arts courses
12 include fine arts courses identified in the course code
13 directory as Advanced Placement, pre-International
14 Baccalaureate, or International Baccalaureate, or fine arts
15 courses taken in the third or fourth year of a fine arts
16 curriculum.

17 Section 350. Section 1007.262, Florida Statutes, is
18 created to read:

19 1007.262 Foreign language competence; equivalence
20 determinations.--The Department of Education shall identify
21 the competencies demonstrated by students upon the successful
22 completion of 2 credits of sequential high school foreign
23 language instruction. For the purpose of determining
24 postsecondary equivalence pursuant to s. 1007.261(1)(b), the
25 department shall develop rules through which community
26 colleges correlate such competencies to the competencies
27 required of students in the colleges' respective courses.
28 Based on this correlation, each community college shall
29 identify the minimum number of postsecondary credits that
30 students must earn in order to demonstrate a level of
31 competence in a foreign language at least equivalent to that

1 of students who have completed 2 credits of such instruction
2 in high school. The department may also specify alternative
3 means by which students can demonstrate equivalent foreign
4 language competence, including means by which a student whose
5 native language is not English may demonstrate proficiency in
6 the native language. A student who demonstrates proficiency in
7 a native language other than English is exempt from the
8 requirement of completing foreign language courses at the
9 secondary or postsecondary level.

10 Section 351. Section 1007.263, Florida Statutes, is
11 created to read:

12 1007.263 Community colleges; admissions of
13 students.--Each community college board of trustees is
14 authorized to adopt rules governing admissions of students
15 subject to this section and rules of the State Board of
16 Education. These rules shall include the following:

17 (1) Admissions counseling shall be provided to all
18 students entering college credit programs, which counseling
19 shall utilize tests to measure achievement of college-level
20 communication and computation competencies by all students
21 entering college credit programs.

22 (2) Admission to associate degree programs is subject
23 to minimum standards adopted by the State Board of Education
24 and shall require:

25 (a) A standard high school diploma, a high school
26 equivalency diploma as prescribed in s. 1003.435, previously
27 demonstrated competency in college credit postsecondary
28 coursework, or, in the case of a student who is home educated,
29 a signed affidavit submitted by the student's parent or legal
30 guardian attesting that the student has completed a home
31 education program pursuant to the requirements of s. 1002.41.

1 Students who are enrolled in a dual enrollment or early
2 admission program pursuant to ss. 1007.27 and 1007.271 and
3 secondary students enrolled in college-level instruction
4 creditable toward the associate degree, but not toward the
5 high school diploma, shall be exempt from this requirement.

6 (b) A demonstrated level of achievement of
7 college-level communication and computation skills.

8 (c) Any other requirements established by the board of
9 trustees.

10 (3) Admission to other programs within the community
11 college shall include education requirements as established by
12 the board of trustees.

13
14 Each board of trustees shall establish policies that notify
15 students about, and place students into, adult basic
16 education, adult secondary education, or other instructional
17 programs that provide students with alternatives to
18 traditional college-preparatory instruction, including private
19 provider instruction. A student is prohibited from enrolling
20 in additional college-level courses until the student scores
21 above the cut-score on all sections of the common placement
22 test.

23 Section 352. Section 1007.264, Florida Statutes, is
24 created to read:

25 1007.264 Impaired and learning disabled persons;
26 admission and graduation, substitute requirements; rules.--Any
27 person who is hearing impaired, visually impaired, or
28 dyslexic, or who has a specific learning disability, shall be
29 eligible for reasonable substitution for any requirement for
30 admission into a public postsecondary educational institution,
31 admission into a program of study, or graduation, where

1 documentation can be provided that the person's failure to
2 meet the requirement is related to the disability and where
3 the failure to meet the graduation requirement or program
4 admission requirement does not constitute a fundamental
5 alteration in the nature of the program. The State Board of
6 Education shall adopt rules to implement this section and
7 shall develop substitute requirements where appropriate.

8 Section 353. Section 1007.27, Florida Statutes, is
9 created to read:

10 1007.27 Articulated acceleration mechanisms.--

11 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature that a variety
12 of articulated acceleration mechanisms be available for
13 secondary and postsecondary students attending public
14 educational institutions. It is intended that articulated
15 acceleration serve to shorten the time necessary for a student
16 to complete the requirements associated with the conference of
17 a high school diploma and a postsecondary degree, broaden the
18 scope of curricular options available to students, or increase
19 the depth of study available for a particular subject.

20 Articulated acceleration mechanisms shall include, but not be
21 limited to, dual enrollment as provided for in s. 1007.271,
22 early admission, advanced placement, credit by examination,
23 the International Baccalaureate Program, and the Advanced
24 International Certificate of Education Program. Credit earned
25 through the Florida Virtual School shall provide additional
26 opportunities for early graduation and acceleration.

27 (2) The Department of Education shall identify the
28 minimum scores, maximum credit, and course or courses for
29 which credit is to be awarded for each College Level
30 Examination Program (CLEP) general examination, CLEP subject
31 examination, College Board Advanced Placement Program

1 examination, and International Baccalaureate examination. In
2 addition, the department shall identify such courses in the
3 general education core curriculum of each state university and
4 community college.

5 (3) Each community college and state university must
6 award credit for specific courses for which competency has
7 been demonstrated by successful passage of one of the
8 examinations in subsection (2) unless the award of credit
9 duplicates credit already awarded. Community colleges and
10 state universities may not exempt students from courses
11 without the award of credit if competencies have been so
12 demonstrated.

13 (4) It is the intent of the Legislature to provide
14 articulated acceleration mechanisms for students who are in
15 home education programs, as defined in s. 1003.01(11),
16 consistent with the educational opportunities available to
17 public and private secondary school students. Home education
18 students may participate in dual enrollment, career and
19 technical dual enrollment, early admission, and credit by
20 examination. Credit earned by home education students through
21 dual enrollment shall apply toward the completion of a home
22 education program that meets the requirements of s. 1002.41.

23 (5) Early admission shall be a form of dual enrollment
24 through which eligible secondary students enroll in a
25 postsecondary institution on a full-time basis in courses that
26 are creditable toward the high school diploma and the
27 associate or baccalaureate degree. Students enrolled pursuant
28 to this subsection shall be exempt from the payment of
29 registration, matriculation, and laboratory fees.

30 (6) Advanced placement shall be the enrollment of an
31 eligible secondary student in a course offered through the

1 Advanced Placement Program administered by the College Board.
2 Postsecondary credit for an advanced placement course shall be
3 limited to students who score a minimum of 3, on a 5-point
4 scale, on the corresponding Advanced Placement Examination.
5 The specific courses for which students receive such credit
6 shall be determined by the department. Students of Florida
7 public secondary schools enrolled pursuant to this subsection
8 shall be exempt from the payment of any fees for
9 administration of the examination regardless of whether or not
10 the student achieves a passing score on the examination.

11 (7) Credit by examination shall be the program through
12 which secondary and postsecondary students generate
13 postsecondary credit based on the receipt of a specified
14 minimum score on nationally standardized general or
15 subject-area examinations. For the purpose of statewide
16 application, such examinations and the corresponding minimum
17 scores required for an award of credit shall be delineated by
18 the State Board of Education in the statewide articulation
19 agreement. The maximum credit generated by a student pursuant
20 to this subsection shall be mitigated by any related
21 postsecondary credit earned by the student prior to the
22 administration of the examination. This subsection shall not
23 preclude community colleges and universities from awarding
24 credit by examination based on student performance on
25 examinations developed within and recognized by the individual
26 postsecondary institutions.

27 (8) The International Baccalaureate Program shall be
28 the curriculum in which eligible secondary students are
29 enrolled in a program of studies offered through the
30 International Baccalaureate Program administered by the
31 International Baccalaureate Office. The State Board of

1 Education shall establish rules which specify the cutoff
2 scores and International Baccalaureate Examinations which will
3 be used to grant postsecondary credit at community colleges
4 and universities. Any such rules, which have the effect of
5 raising the required cutoff score or of changing the
6 International Baccalaureate Examinations which will be used to
7 grant postsecondary credit, shall only apply to students
8 taking International Baccalaureate Examinations after such
9 rules are adopted by the State Board of Education. Students
10 shall be awarded a maximum of 30 semester credit hours
11 pursuant to this subsection. The specific course for which a
12 student receives such credit shall be determined by the
13 department. Students enrolled pursuant to this subsection
14 shall be exempt from the payment of any fees for
15 administration of the examinations regardless of whether or
16 not the student achieves a passing score on the examination.

17 (9) The Advanced International Certificate of
18 Education Program shall be the curriculum in which eligible
19 secondary students are enrolled in a program of studies
20 offered through the Advanced International Certificate of
21 Education Program administered by the University of Cambridge
22 Local Examinations Syndicate. The State Board of Education
23 shall establish rules which specify the cutoff scores and
24 Advanced International Certificate of Education examinations
25 which will be used to grant postsecondary credit at community
26 colleges and universities. Any such rules, which have the
27 effect of raising the required cutoff score or of changing the
28 Advanced International Certification of Education examinations
29 which will be used to grant postsecondary credit, shall apply
30 to students taking Advanced International Certificate of
31 Education Examinations after such rules are adopted by the

1 State Board of Education. Students shall be awarded a maximum
2 of 30 semester credit hours pursuant to this subsection. The
3 specific course for which a student receives such credit shall
4 be determined by the community college or university that
5 accepts the student for admission. Students enrolled pursuant
6 to this subsection shall be exempt from the payment of any
7 fees for administration of the examinations regardless of
8 whether or not the student achieves a passing score on the
9 examination.

10 (10) Any student who earns 9 or more credits from one
11 or more of the acceleration mechanisms provided for in this
12 section is exempt from any requirement of a public
13 postsecondary educational institution mandating enrollment
14 during a summer term.

15 Section 354. Section 1007.271, Florida Statutes, is
16 created to read:

17 1007.271 Dual enrollment programs.--

18 (1) The dual enrollment program is the enrollment of
19 an eligible secondary student or home education student in a
20 postsecondary course creditable toward a career and technical
21 certificate or an associate or baccalaureate degree.

22 (2) For the purpose of this section, an eligible
23 secondary student is a student who is enrolled in a Florida
24 public secondary school or in a Florida private secondary
25 school which is in compliance with s. 1002.42(2) and conducts
26 a secondary curriculum pursuant to s. 1003.43. Students
27 enrolled in postsecondary instruction that is not creditable
28 toward the high school diploma shall not be classified as dual
29 enrollments. Students who are eligible for dual enrollment
30 pursuant to this section shall be permitted to enroll in dual
31 enrollment courses conducted during school hours, after school

1 hours, and during the summer term. Instructional time for such
2 enrollment may exceed 900 hours; however, the school district
3 may only report the student for a maximum of 1.0 FTE, as
4 provided in s. 1011.61(4). Any student so enrolled is exempt
5 from the payment of registration, matriculation, and
6 laboratory fees. Vocational-preparatory instruction,
7 college-preparatory instruction and other forms of
8 precollegiate instruction, as well as physical education
9 courses that focus on the physical execution of a skill rather
10 than the intellectual attributes of the activity, are
11 ineligible for inclusion in the dual enrollment program.
12 Recreation and leisure studies courses shall be evaluated
13 individually in the same manner as physical education courses
14 for potential inclusion in the program.

15 (3) The Department of Education shall adopt guidelines
16 designed to achieve comparability across school districts of
17 both student qualifications and teacher qualifications for
18 dual enrollment courses. Student qualifications must
19 demonstrate readiness for college-level coursework if the
20 student is to be enrolled in college courses. Student
21 qualifications must demonstrate readiness for career and
22 technical-level coursework if the student is to be enrolled in
23 career and technical courses. In addition to the common
24 placement examination, student qualifications for enrollment
25 in college credit dual enrollment courses must include a 3.0
26 unweighted grade point average, and student qualifications for
27 enrollment in career and technical certificate dual enrollment
28 courses must include a 2.0 unweighted grade point average.
29 Exceptions to the required grade point averages may be granted
30 if the educational entities agree and the terms of the
31 agreement are contained within the dual enrollment

1 interinstitutional articulation agreement. Community college
2 boards of trustees may establish additional admissions
3 criteria, which shall be included in the district
4 interinstitutional articulation agreement developed according
5 to s. 1007.235, to ensure student readiness for postsecondary
6 instruction. Additional requirements included in the agreement
7 shall not arbitrarily prohibit students who have demonstrated
8 the ability to master advanced courses from participating in
9 dual enrollment courses. District school boards may not refuse
10 to enter into an agreement with a local community college if
11 that community college has the capacity to offer dual
12 enrollment courses.

13 (4) Career and technical dual enrollment shall be
14 provided as a curricular option for secondary students to
15 pursue in order to earn a series of elective credits toward
16 the high school diploma. However, career and technical dual
17 enrollment shall not supplant student acquisition of the
18 diploma. Career and technical dual enrollment shall be
19 available for secondary students seeking a degree or
20 certificate from a complete job-preparatory program, but shall
21 not sustain student enrollment in isolated career and
22 technical courses. It is the intent of the Legislature that
23 career and technical dual enrollment reflect the interests and
24 aptitudes of the student. The provision of a comprehensive
25 academic and career and technical dual enrollment program
26 within the area technical center or community college is
27 supportive of legislative intent; however, such provision is
28 not mandatory.

29 (5) Each district school board shall inform all
30 secondary students of dual enrollment as an educational option
31 and mechanism for acceleration. Students shall be informed of

1 eligibility criteria, the option for taking dual enrollment
2 courses beyond the regular school year, and the 24 minimum
3 academic credits required for graduation. District school
4 boards shall annually assess the demand for dual enrollment
5 and other advanced courses, and the district school board
6 shall consider strategies and programs to meet that demand.

7 (6) The Commissioner of Education shall appoint
8 faculty committees representing public school, community
9 college, and university faculties to identify postsecondary
10 courses that meet the high school graduation requirements of
11 s. 1003.43, and to establish the number of postsecondary
12 semester credit hours of instruction and equivalent high
13 school credits earned through dual enrollment pursuant to s.
14 1007.271 that are necessary to meet high school graduation
15 requirements. Such equivalencies shall be determined solely on
16 comparable course content and not on seat time traditionally
17 allocated to such courses in high school. The Commissioner of
18 Education shall recommend to the State Board of Education
19 those courses identified to meet high school graduation
20 requirements, based on mastery of course outcomes, by their
21 statewide course number, and all high schools shall accept
22 these postsecondary education courses toward meeting the
23 requirements of s. 1003.43.

24 (7) Early admission shall be a form of dual enrollment
25 through which eligible secondary students enroll in a
26 postsecondary institution on a full-time basis in courses that
27 are creditable toward the high school diploma and the
28 associate or baccalaureate degree. Students enrolled pursuant
29 to this subsection shall be exempt from the payment of
30 registration, matriculation, and laboratory fees.

31

1 (8) Career and technical early admission is a form of
2 career and technical dual enrollment through which eligible
3 secondary students enroll full time in an area technical
4 center or a community college in courses that are creditable
5 toward the high school diploma and the certificate or
6 associate degree. Participation in the career and technical
7 early admission program shall be limited to students who have
8 completed a minimum of 6 semesters of full-time secondary
9 enrollment, including studies undertaken in the ninth grade.
10 Students enrolled pursuant to this section are exempt from the
11 payment of registration, matriculation, and laboratory fees.

12 (9) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules for
13 any dual enrollment programs involving requirements for high
14 school graduation.

15 (10)(a) The dual enrollment program for home education
16 students consists of the enrollment of an eligible home
17 education secondary student in a postsecondary course
18 creditible toward an associate degree, a career or technical
19 certificate, or a baccalaureate degree. To participate in the
20 dual enrollment program, an eligible home education secondary
21 student must:

22 1. Provide proof of enrollment in a home education
23 program pursuant to s. 1002.41.

24 2. Be responsible for his or her own instructional
25 materials and transportation unless provided for otherwise.

26 (b) Each technical center, community college, and
27 state university shall:

28 1. Delineate courses and programs for dually enrolled
29 home education students. Courses and programs may be added,
30 revised, or deleted at any time.

31

1 2. Identify eligibility criteria for home education
2 student participation, not to exceed those required of other
3 dually enrolled students.

4 (11) The Department of Education shall approve any
5 course for inclusion in the dual enrollment program that is
6 contained within the statewide course numbering system.
7 However, college-preparatory and other forms of precollegiate
8 instruction, and physical education and other courses that
9 focus on the physical execution of a skill rather than the
10 intellectual attributes of the activity, may not be so
11 approved, but must be evaluated individually for potential
12 inclusion in the dual enrollment program.

13 (12) The Department of Education shall develop a
14 statement on transfer guarantees which will inform students,
15 prior to enrollment in a dual enrollment course, of the
16 potential for the dual enrollment course to articulate as an
17 elective or a general education course into a postsecondary
18 education certificate or degree program. The statement shall
19 be provided to each district school superintendent, who shall
20 include the statement in the information provided to all
21 secondary students as required pursuant to this subsection.
22 The statement may also include additional information,
23 including, but not limited to, dual enrollment options,
24 guarantees, privileges, and responsibilities.

25 (13) It is the intent of the Legislature that students
26 who meet the eligibility requirements of this subsection and
27 who choose to participate in dual enrollment programs be
28 exempt from the payment of registration, matriculation, and
29 laboratory fees.

30 (14) Instructional materials assigned for use within
31 dual enrollment courses shall be made available to dual

1 enrollment students from Florida public high schools free of
2 charge. This subsection shall not be construed to prohibit a
3 community college from providing instructional materials at no
4 cost to a home education student or student from a private
5 school. Students enrolled in postsecondary instruction not
6 creditable toward a high school diploma shall not be
7 considered dual enrollments and shall be required to assume
8 the cost of instructional materials necessary for such
9 instruction.

10 (15) Instructional materials purchased by a district
11 school board or community college board of trustees on behalf
12 of dual enrollment students shall be the property of the board
13 against which the purchase is charged.

14 (16) School districts and community colleges must
15 weigh college-level dual enrollment courses the same as honors
16 courses and advanced placement courses when grade point
17 averages are calculated. Alternative grade calculation or
18 weighting systems that discriminate against dual enrollment
19 courses are prohibited.

20 (17) The Commissioner of Education may approve dual
21 enrollment agreements for limited course offerings that have
22 statewide appeal. Such programs shall be limited to a single
23 site with multiple county participation.

24 Section 355. Section 1007.272, Florida Statutes, is
25 created to read:

26 1007.272 Joint dual enrollment and advanced placement
27 instruction.--

28 (1) Each school district, community college, and state
29 university may conduct advanced placement instruction within
30 dual enrollment courses. Each joint dual enrollment and
31 advanced placement course shall be incorporated within and

1 subject to the provisions of the district interinstitutional
2 articulation agreement pursuant to s. 1007.235. Such agreement
3 shall certify that each joint dual enrollment and advanced
4 placement course integrates, at a minimum, the course
5 structure recommended by the College Board and the structure
6 that corresponds to the common course number.

7 (2) Each student enrolled in a joint dual enrollment
8 and advanced placement course may be funded pursuant to either
9 the dual enrollment or advanced placement formula specified in
10 s. 1011.62; however, no student shall be funded through both
11 programs for enrollment in a course provided through this
12 section. The district school board reporting enrollments for
13 such courses shall utilize the funding formula that more
14 closely approximates the cost of conducting the course. No
15 student shall be reported for advanced placement funding who
16 fails to meet the examination requirement for such funding.

17 (3) Postsecondary credit for student completion of a
18 joint dual enrollment and advanced placement course shall be
19 awarded, based on the stated preference of the student, as
20 either dual enrollment or advanced placement credit; however,
21 an award of advanced placement credit shall be limited to
22 students who score a minimum of 3, on a 5-point scale, on the
23 Advanced Placement Examination. No student shall claim double
24 credit based on the completion of a single joint dual
25 enrollment and advanced placement course, nor shall any
26 student enrolled pursuant to this section be required to
27 complete the Advanced Placement Examination.

28 Section 356. Section 1007.28, Florida Statutes, is
29 created to read:

30 1007.28 Computer-assisted student advising
31 system.--The State Board of Education shall establish and

1 maintain within the Department of Education a single,
2 statewide computer-assisted student advising system, which
3 must be an integral part of the process of advising,
4 registering, and certifying students for graduation. It is
5 intended that an advising system be the primary advising and
6 tracking tool for students enrolled in public postsecondary
7 educational institutions and be accessible to all Florida
8 students. The state universities and community colleges shall
9 interface institutional systems with the computer-assisted
10 advising system required by this section. The State Board of
11 Education shall prescribe by rule the roles and
12 responsibilities of the department, the state universities,
13 and the community colleges in the design, implementation,
14 promotion, development, and analysis of the system. The system
15 shall consist of a degree audit and an articulation component
16 that includes the following characteristics:

17 (1) The system shall constitute an integral part of
18 the process of advising students and assisting them in course
19 selection. The system shall be accessible to students in the
20 following ways:

21 (a) A student must be able to access the system, at
22 any time, to identify course options that will meet the
23 requirements of a selected path toward a degree.

24 (b) A status report from the system shall be generated
25 and sent with each grade report to each student enrolled in
26 public postsecondary educational institutions with a declared
27 major.

28 (2) The system shall be an integral part of the
29 registration process at public postsecondary educational
30 institutions. As part of the process, the system shall:

31

1 (a) Provide reports that document each student's
2 status toward completion of a degree.

3 (b) Verify that a student has completed requirements
4 for graduation.

5 (3) The system must provide students information
6 related to career descriptions and corresponding educational
7 requirements, admissions requirements, and available sources
8 of student financial assistance. Such advising must enable
9 students to examine their interests and aptitudes for the
10 purpose of curricular and career planning.

11 (4) The system must provide management information to
12 decisionmakers, including information relating student
13 enrollment patterns and course demands to plans for
14 corresponding course offerings and information useful in
15 planning the student registration process.

16 Section 357. Part III of chapter 1007, Florida
17 Statutes, shall be entitled "Access to Postsecondary
18 Education" and shall consist of ss. 1007.31-1007.34.

19 Section 358. Section 1007.31, Florida Statutes, is
20 created to read:

21 1007.31 Limited access programs.--

22 (1) The State Board of Education shall establish
23 criteria for assigning limited access status to an educational
24 program and a process for the periodic review of such programs
25 so that a university board of trustees can determine the need
26 for retention or removal of limited access status.

27 (2) Each university board of trustees shall monitor
28 limited access programs within the university and conduct
29 periodic reviews of such programs to determine the need for
30 retention or removal of the limited access status.

31

1 Section 359. Section 1007.32, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1007.32 Transfer students.--

4 (1) Each university shall provide registration
5 opportunities for transfer students that allow such students
6 access to high demand courses comparable to that provided
7 native students.

8 (2) Each university that provides an orientation
9 program for freshman enrollees shall also provide orientation
10 programs for transfer students.

11 Section 360. Section 1007.33, Florida Statutes, is
12 created to read:

13 1007.33 Site-determined baccalaureate degree access.--

14 (1) The Legislature recognizes that public and private
15 postsecondary educational institutions play essential roles in
16 improving the quality of life and economic well-being of the
17 state and its residents. The Legislature also recognizes that
18 economic development needs and the educational needs of
19 place-bound, nontraditional students have increased the demand
20 for local access to baccalaureate degree programs. In some,
21 but not all, geographic regions, baccalaureate degree programs
22 are being delivered successfully at the local community
23 college through agreements between the community college and
24 4-year postsecondary institutions within or outside of the
25 state. It is therefore the intent of the Legislature to
26 further expand access to baccalaureate degree programs through
27 the use of community colleges.

28 (2) A community college may enter into a formal
29 agreement pursuant to the provisions of s. 1007.22 for the
30 delivery of specified baccalaureate degree programs.

31

1 (3) A community college may develop a proposal to
2 deliver specified baccalaureate degree programs in its
3 district to meet local workforce needs. The proposal must be
4 submitted to the State Board of Education for approval. The
5 community college's proposal must include the following
6 information:

7 (a) Demand for the baccalaureate degree program is
8 identified by the workforce development board, local
9 businesses and industry, local chambers of commerce, and
10 potential students.

11 (b) Substantiation of the unmet need for graduates of
12 the proposed degree program is substantiated.

13 (c) Evidence that the community college has the
14 facilities and academic resources to cost-effectively deliver
15 the program.

16 (d) Documentation of any efforts to offer the
17 specified baccalaureate program through cooperative
18 arrangements with other institutions.

19 (e) Documentation of any formal agreements with
20 institutions to deliver specified baccalaureate programs.

21
22 The proposal must be submitted to the Council for Education
23 Policy Research and Improvement for review and comment. Upon
24 approval of the State Board of Education for the specific
25 degree program or programs, the community college shall pursue
26 regional accreditation by the Commission on Colleges of the
27 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Any additional
28 baccalaureate degree programs the community college wishes to
29 offer must be approved by the State Board of Education.

30 (4) A community college may not terminate its
31 associate in arts or associate in science degree programs as a

1 result of the authorization provided in subsection (3). The
2 Legislature intends that the primary mission of a community
3 college, including a community college that offers
4 baccalaureate degree programs, continues to be the provision
5 of associate degrees that provide access to a university.

6 Section 361. Section 1007.34, Florida Statutes, is
7 created to read:

8 1007.34 College reach-out program.--

9 (1) There is established a college reach-out program
10 to increase the number of low-income educationally
11 disadvantaged students in grades 6-12 who, upon high school
12 graduation, are admitted to and successfully complete
13 postsecondary education. Participants should be students who
14 otherwise would be unlikely to seek admission to a community
15 college, state university, or independent postsecondary
16 institution without special support and recruitment efforts.
17 The State Board of Education shall adopt rules that provide
18 for the following:

19 (a) Definition of "low-income educationally
20 disadvantaged student."

21 (b) Specific criteria and guidelines for selection of
22 college reach-out participants.

23 (2) In developing the definition for "low-income
24 educationally disadvantaged student," the State Board of
25 Education shall include such factors as: the family's taxable
26 income; family receipt of temporary cash assistance in the
27 preceding year; family receipt of public assistance in the
28 preceding year; the student's cumulative grade point average;
29 the student's promotion and attendance patterns; the student's
30 performance on state standardized tests; the student's
31

1 enrollment in mathematics and science courses; and the
2 student's participation in a dropout prevention program.

3 (3) To participate in the college reach-out program, a
4 postsecondary educational institution may submit a proposal to
5 the Department of Education. The State Board of Education
6 shall consider the proposals and determine which proposals to
7 implement as programs that will strengthen the educational
8 motivation and preparation of low-income educationally
9 disadvantaged students.

10 (4) Postsecondary educational institutions that
11 participate in the program must provide procedures for
12 continuous contact with students from the point at which they
13 are selected for participation until they enroll in a
14 postsecondary educational institution. These procedures must
15 assist students in selecting courses required for graduation
16 from high school and admission to a postsecondary educational
17 institution and ensure that students continue to participate
18 in program activities. Institutions that participate must
19 provide on-campus academic and advisory activities during
20 summer vacation and provide opportunities for interacting with
21 college and university students as mentors, tutors, or role
22 models. Proposals submitted by universities and consortia
23 involving universities must provide students with an
24 opportunity to live on campus.

25 (5) In selecting proposals for approval, the State
26 Board of Education shall give preference to:

27 (a) Proposals submitted jointly by two or more
28 eligible postsecondary educational institutions.

29 (b) A program that will use institutional, federal, or
30 private resources to supplement state appropriations.

31

1 (c) An applicant that has demonstrated success in
2 conducting similar programs.

3 (d) A program that includes innovative approaches,
4 provides a great variety of activities, and includes a large
5 percentage of low-income educationally disadvantaged minority
6 students in the college reach-out program.

7 (e) An applicant that demonstrates commitment to the
8 program by proposing to match the grant funds at least
9 one-to-one in cash or services, with cash being the preferred
10 match.

11 (f) An applicant that demonstrates an interest in
12 cultural diversity and that addresses the unmet regional needs
13 of varying communities.

14 (6) A participating postsecondary educational
15 institution is encouraged to use its resources to meet program
16 objectives. A participating postsecondary educational
17 institution must establish an advisory committee composed of
18 high school and middle school personnel, as well as community
19 leaders, to provide advice and assistance in implementing its
20 program.

21 (7) A proposal must contain the following information:

22 (a) A statement of purpose that includes a description
23 of the need for, and the results expected from, the proposed
24 program.

25 (b) An identification of the service area that names
26 the schools to be served, provides community and school
27 demographics, and sets forth the postsecondary enrollment
28 rates of high school graduates within the area.

29 (c) An identification of existing programs for
30 enhancing the academic performance of minority and low-income
31

1 educationally disadvantaged students for enrollment in
2 postsecondary education.

3 (d) A description of the proposed program that
4 describes criteria to be used to identify schools for
5 participation in the program. At least 60 percent of the
6 students recruited in any one year must be in grades 6-9.

7 (e) A description of the program activities that must
8 support the following goals:

9 1. Motivate students to pursue a postsecondary
10 education.

11 2. Enhance students' basic learning skills and
12 performance.

13 3. Strengthen students' and parents' understanding of
14 the benefits of postsecondary education.

15 4. Foster academic, personal, and career development
16 through supplemental instruction.

17 (f) An evaluation component that provides for the
18 collection, maintenance, retrieval, and analysis of the data
19 required by this paragraph. The data must be used to assess
20 the extent to which programs have accomplished specific
21 objectives and achieved the goals of the college reach-out
22 program. The Department of Education shall develop
23 specifications and procedures for the collection and
24 transmission of the data. The annual project evaluation
25 component must contain:

26 1. The student identification number and social
27 security number, if available; the name of the public school
28 attended; gender; ethnicity; grade level; and grade point
29 average of each participant at the time of entry into the
30 program.

31

1 2. The grade point average, grade, and promotion
2 status of each of the participants in the program at the end
3 of the academic year and any suspension or expulsion of a
4 participant, if applicable.

5 3. The number and percentage of high school
6 participants who satisfactorily complete 2 sequential years of
7 a foreign language and Level 2 and 3 mathematics and science
8 courses.

9 4. The number and percentage of participants eligible
10 for high school graduation who receive a standard high school
11 diploma or a high school equivalency diploma, pursuant to s.
12 229.814.

13 5. The number and percentage of 12th grade
14 participants who are accepted for enrollment and who enroll in
15 a postsecondary educational institution.

16 6. The number of participants who receive
17 scholarships, grant aid, and work-study awards.

18 7. The number and percentage of participants who
19 enroll in a public postsecondary educational institution and
20 who fail to achieve a passing score, as defined in State Board
21 of Education rule, on college placement tests pursuant to s.
22 1008.30.

23 8. The number and percentage of participants who
24 enroll in a postsecondary educational institution and have a
25 minimum cumulative 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale by
26 the end of the second semester.

27 9. The number of disabled students participating in
28 the project and the nature of their disabilities.

29 (8) Proposals must be funded competitively in
30 accordance with the following methodology:

31

1 (a) The funds appropriated must be distributed to
2 projects on the basis of minimum standards that include:

3 1. A summer residency program of at least 1 week in
4 duration.

5 2. A minimum number of hours of academic instructional
6 and developmental activities, career counseling, and personal
7 counseling.

8 (b) Subject to legislative appropriations,
9 continuation projects that satisfy the minimum requirements
10 should have their funds increased each year by the same
11 percentage as the rate of inflation. Projects funded for 3
12 consecutive years should have a cumulative institutional cash
13 match of not less than 50 percent of the total cost of the
14 project over the 3-year period. Any college reach-out program
15 project operating for 3 years which does not provide the
16 minimum 50-percent institutional cash match must not be
17 considered for continued funding.

18 (9) The Commissioner of Education shall appoint an
19 advisory council to review the proposals and recommend to the
20 State Board of Education an order of priority for funding the
21 proposals.

22 (10) On or before February 15 of each year, each
23 participating institution shall submit to the Department of
24 Education an interim report containing program expenditures
25 and participant information as required in State Board of
26 Education rules.

27 (11) On or before November 1 of each year,
28 postsecondary educational institutions participating in the
29 program shall submit to the Department of Education an
30 end-of-the-year report on the effectiveness of their
31

1 participation in the program. The end-of-the-year report must
2 include, without limitation:
3 (a) A copy of the certificate-of-expenditures form
4 showing expenditures by category, state grant funds, and
5 institutional matching in cash and in-kind services.
6 (b) A listing of students participating in the program
7 by grade level, gender, and race.
8 (c) A statement of how the program addresses the four
9 program goals identified in paragraph (7)(e).
10 (d) A brief description and analysis of program
11 characteristics and activities critical to program success.
12 (e) A description of the cooperation received from
13 other units or organizations.
14 (f) An explanation of the program's outcomes,
15 including data related to student performance on the measures
16 provided for in paragraph (7)(f).
17 (12) By February 15 of each year, the Department of
18 Education shall submit to the President of the Senate, the
19 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Commissioner of
20 Education, and the Governor a report that evaluates the
21 effectiveness of the college reach-out program. To the extent
22 feasible, the performance of college reach-out program
23 participants must be compared to the performance of comparable
24 cohorts of students in public school and postsecondary
25 education.
26 (13) Funding for the college reach-out program shall
27 be provided in the General Appropriations Act.
28 Section 362. Chapter 1008, Florida Statutes, shall be
29 entitled "Assessment and Accountability" and shall consist of
30 ss. 1008.01-1008.51.
31

1 Section 363. Part I of chapter 1008, Florida Statutes,
2 shall be entitled "Assessment, K-20" and shall consist of ss.
3 1008.21-1008.30.

4 Section 364. Effective upon this act becoming a law,
5 section 1008.21, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

6 1008.21 School readiness uniform screening
7 (kindergarten).--

8 (1) The Department of Education shall implement the
9 school readiness uniform screening developed by the Florida
10 Partnership for School Readiness, and shall require that all
11 school districts administer the kindergarten uniform screening
12 to each kindergarten student in the district school system
13 upon the student's entry into kindergarten.

14 (2)(a) The Department of Education shall implement the
15 school readiness uniform screening to validate the system
16 recommended by the Florida Partnership for School Readiness as
17 part of a comprehensive evaluation design. Beginning with the
18 2002-2003 school year, the department shall require that all
19 school districts administer the school readiness uniform
20 screening to each kindergarten student in the district school
21 system upon the student's entry into kindergarten. Children
22 who enter public school for the first time in first grade must
23 be administered the school readiness uniform screening adopted
24 for use in first grade. The department shall incorporate
25 school readiness data into the K-20 data warehouse for
26 longitudinal tracking.

27 (b) The uniform screening shall provide objective data
28 regarding the following expectations for school readiness
29 which shall include, at a minimum:

30
31

- 1 1. The child's immunizations and other health
2 requirements as necessary, including appropriate vision and
3 hearing screening and examinations.
4 2. The child's physical development.
5 3. The child's compliance with rules, limitations, and
6 routines.
7 4. The child's ability to perform tasks.
8 5. The child's interactions with adults.
9 6. The child's interactions with peers.
10 7. The child's ability to cope with challenges.
11 8. The child's self-help skills.
12 9. The child's ability to express his or her needs.
13 10. The child's verbal communication skills.
14 11. The child's problem-solving skills.
15 12. The child's ability to follow verbal directions.
16 13. The child's demonstration of curiosity,
17 persistence, and exploratory behavior.
18 14. The child's interest in books and other printed
19 materials.
20 15. The child's ability to pay attention to stories.
21 16. The child's participation in art and music
22 activities.
23 17. The child's ability to identify colors, geometric
24 shapes, letters of the alphabet, numbers, and spatial and
25 temporal relationships.
26 Section 365. Section 1008.22, Florida Statutes, is
27 created to read:
28 1008.22 Student assessment program for public
29 schools.--
30 (1) PURPOSE.--The primary purposes of the student
31 assessment program are to provide information needed to

1 improve the public schools by enhancing the learning gains of
2 all students and to inform parents of the educational progress
3 of their public school children. The program must be designed
4 to:

5 (a) Assess the annual learning gains of each student
6 toward achieving the Sunshine State Standards appropriate for
7 the student's grade level.

8 (b) Provide data for making decisions regarding school
9 accountability and recognition.

10 (c) Identify the educational strengths and needs of
11 students and the readiness of students to be promoted to the
12 next grade level or to graduate from high school with a
13 standard high school diploma.

14 (d) Assess how well educational goals and performance
15 standards are met at the school, district, and state levels.

16 (e) Provide information to aid in the evaluation and
17 development of educational programs and policies.

18 (f) Provide information on the performance of Florida
19 students compared with others across the United States.

20 (2) NATIONAL EDUCATION COMPARISONS.--It is Florida's
21 intent to participate in the measurement of national
22 educational goals. The Commissioner of Education shall direct
23 Florida school districts to participate in the administration
24 of the National Assessment of Educational Progress, or a
25 similar national assessment program, both for the national
26 sample and for any state-by-state comparison programs which
27 may be initiated. Such assessments must be conducted using
28 the data collection procedures, the student surveys, the
29 educator surveys, and other instruments included in the
30 National Assessment of Educational Progress or similar program
31 being administered in Florida. The results of these

1 assessments shall be included in the annual report of the
2 Commissioner of Education specified in this section. The
3 administration of the National Assessment of Educational
4 Progress or similar program shall be in addition to and
5 separate from the administration of the statewide assessment
6 program.

7 (3) STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM.--The commissioner
8 shall design and implement a statewide program of educational
9 assessment that provides information for the improvement of
10 the operation and management of the public schools, including
11 schools operating for the purpose of providing educational
12 services to youth in Department of Juvenile Justice programs.
13 Pursuant to the statewide assessment program, the commissioner
14 shall:

15 (a) Submit to the State Board of Education a list that
16 specifies student skills and competencies to which the goals
17 for education specified in the state plan apply, including,
18 but not limited to, reading, writing, science, and
19 mathematics. The skills and competencies must include
20 problem-solving and higher-order skills as appropriate and
21 shall be known as the Sunshine State Standards as defined in
22 s. 1000.21. The commissioner shall select such skills and
23 competencies after receiving recommendations from educators,
24 citizens, and members of the business community. The
25 commissioner shall submit to the State Board of Education
26 revisions to the list of student skills and competencies in
27 order to maintain continuous progress toward improvements in
28 student proficiency.

29 (b) Develop and implement a uniform system of
30 indicators to describe the performance of public school
31 students and the characteristics of the public school

1 districts and the public schools. These indicators must
2 include, without limitation, information gathered by the
3 comprehensive management information system created pursuant
4 to s. 1008.385 and student achievement information obtained
5 pursuant to this section.

6 (c) Develop and implement a student achievement
7 testing program known as the Florida Comprehensive Assessment
8 Test (FCAT) as part of the statewide assessment program, to be
9 administered annually in grades 3 through 10 to measure
10 reading, writing, science, and mathematics. Other content
11 areas may be included as directed by the commissioner. The
12 testing program must be designed so that:

13 1. The tests measure student skills and competencies
14 adopted by the State Board of Education as specified in
15 paragraph (a). The tests must measure and report student
16 proficiency levels in reading, writing, mathematics, and
17 science. The commissioner shall provide for the tests to be
18 developed or obtained, as appropriate, through contracts and
19 project agreements with private vendors, public vendors,
20 public agencies, postsecondary educational institutions, or
21 school districts. The commissioner shall obtain input with
22 respect to the design and implementation of the testing
23 program from state educators and the public.

24 2. The testing program will include a combination of
25 norm-referenced and criterion-referenced tests and include, to
26 the extent determined by the commissioner, questions that
27 require the student to produce information or perform tasks in
28 such a way that the skills and competencies he or she uses can
29 be measured.

30 3. Each testing program, whether at the elementary,
31 middle, or high school level, includes a test of writing in

1 which students are required to produce writings that are then
2 scored by appropriate methods.

3 4. A score is designated for each subject area tested,
4 below which score a student's performance is deemed
5 inadequate. The school districts shall provide appropriate
6 remedial instruction to students who score below these levels.

7 5. Students must earn a passing score on the grade 10
8 assessment test described in this paragraph in reading,
9 writing, and mathematics to qualify for a regular high school
10 diploma. The State Board of Education shall designate a
11 passing score for each part of the grade 10 assessment test.
12 In establishing passing scores, the state board shall consider
13 any possible negative impact of the test on minority students.
14 All students who took the grade 10 FCAT during the 2000-2001
15 school year shall be required to earn the passing scores in
16 reading and mathematics established by the State Board of
17 Education for the March 2001 test administration. Such
18 students who did not earn the established passing scores and
19 must repeat the grade 10 FCAT are required to earn the passing
20 scores established for the March 2001 test administration.
21 All students who take the grade 10 FCAT for the first time in
22 March 2002 and thereafter shall be required to earn the
23 passing scores in reading and mathematics established by the
24 State Board of Education for the March 2002 test
25 administration. The State Board of Education shall adopt
26 rules which specify the passing scores for the grade 10 FCAT.
27 Any such rules, which have the effect of raising the required
28 passing scores, shall only apply to students taking the grade
29 10 FCAT after such rules are adopted by the State Board of
30 Education. If a student does not participate in the statewide
31 assessment, the district must notify the student's parent and

1 provide the parent with information regarding the implications
2 of such nonparticipation. If modifications are made in the
3 student's instruction to provide accommodations that would not
4 be permitted on the statewide assessment tests, the district
5 must notify the student's parent of the implications of such
6 instructional modifications. A parent must provide signed
7 consent for a student to receive instructional modifications
8 that would not be permitted on the statewide assessments and
9 must acknowledge in writing that he or she understands the
10 implications of such accommodations.

11 6. Participation in the testing program is mandatory
12 for all students attending public school, including students
13 served in Department of Juvenile Justice programs, except as
14 otherwise prescribed by the commissioner. The State Board of
15 Education shall adopt rules, based upon recommendations of the
16 commissioner, for the provision of test accommodations and
17 modifications of procedures as necessary for students in
18 exceptional education programs and for students who have
19 limited English proficiency.

20 7. A student seeking an adult high school diploma must
21 meet the same testing requirements that a regular high school
22 student must meet.

23 8. District school boards must provide instruction to
24 prepare students to demonstrate proficiency in the skills and
25 competencies necessary for successful grade-to-grade
26 progression and high school graduation. If a student is
27 provided with accommodations or modifications that are not
28 allowable in the statewide assessment program, as described in
29 the test manuals, the district must inform the parent in
30 writing and must provide the parent with information regarding
31 the impact on the student's ability to meet expected

1 proficiency levels in reading, writing, and math. The
2 commissioner shall conduct studies as necessary to verify that
3 the required skills and competencies are part of the district
4 instructional programs.

5 9. The Department of Education must develop, or
6 select, and implement a common battery of assessment tools
7 that will be used in all juvenile justice programs in the
8 state. These tools must accurately measure the skills and
9 competencies established in the Florida Sunshine State
10 Standards.

11
12 The commissioner may design and implement student testing
13 programs, for any grade level and subject area, necessary to
14 effectively monitor educational achievement in the state.

15 (d) Conduct ongoing research to develop improved
16 methods of assessing student performance, including, without
17 limitation, the use of technology to administer tests, score,
18 or report the results of, the use of electronic transfer of
19 data, the development of work-product assessments, and the
20 development of process assessments.

21 (e) Conduct ongoing research and analysis of student
22 achievement data, including, without limitation, monitoring
23 trends in student achievement, identifying school programs
24 that are successful, and analyzing correlates of school
25 achievement.

26 (f) Provide technical assistance to school districts
27 in the implementation of state and district testing programs
28 and the use of the data produced pursuant to such programs.

29 (4) DISTRICT TESTING PROGRAMS.--Each district school
30 board shall periodically assess student performance and
31 achievement within each school of the district. The assessment

1 programs must be based upon local goals and objectives that
2 are compatible with the state plan for education and that
3 supplement the skills and competencies adopted by the State
4 Board of Education. All school districts must participate in
5 the statewide assessment program designed to measure annual
6 student learning and school performance. All district school
7 boards shall report assessment results as required by the
8 state management information system.

9 (5) SCHOOL TESTING PROGRAMS.--Each public school shall
10 participate in the statewide assessment program, unless
11 specifically exempted by state board rule based on serving a
12 specialized population for which standardized testing is not
13 appropriate. Student performance data shall be analyzed and
14 reported to parents, the community, and the state. Student
15 performance data shall be used in developing objectives of the
16 school improvement plan, evaluation of instructional
17 personnel, evaluation of administrative personnel, assignment
18 of staff, allocation of resources, acquisition of
19 instructional materials and technology, performance-based
20 budgeting, and promotion and assignment of students into
21 educational programs. The analysis of student performance data
22 also must identify strengths and needs in the educational
23 program and trends over time. The analysis must be used in
24 conjunction with the budgetary planning processes developed
25 pursuant to s. 1008.385 and the development of the programs of
26 remediation.

27 (6) REQUIRED ANALYSES.--The commissioner shall
28 provide, at a minimum, for the following analyses of data
29 produced by the student achievement testing program:

30 (a) The statistical system for the annual assessments
31 shall use measures of student learning, such as the FCAT, to

1 determine teacher, school, and school district statistical
2 distributions, which shall be determined using available data
3 from the FCAT, and other data collection as deemed appropriate
4 by the Department of Education, to measure the differences in
5 student prior year achievement compared to the current year
6 achievement for the purposes of accountability and
7 recognition.

8 (b) The statistical system shall provide the best
9 estimates of teacher, school, and school district effects on
10 student progress. The approach used by the department shall be
11 approved by the commissioner before implementation.

12 (c) The annual testing program shall be administered
13 to provide for valid statewide comparisons of learning gains
14 to be made for purposes of accountability and recognition. The
15 commissioner shall establish a schedule for the administration
16 of the statewide assessments. In establishing such schedule,
17 the commissioner is charged with the duty to accomplish the
18 latest possible administration of the statewide assessments
19 and the earliest possible provision of the results to the
20 school districts feasible within available technology and
21 specific appropriation. District school boards shall not
22 establish school calendars that jeopardize or limit the valid
23 testing and comparison of student learning gains.

24 (7) LOCAL ASSESSMENTS.--Measurement of the learning
25 gains of students in all subjects and grade levels other than
26 subjects and grade levels required for the state student
27 achievement testing program is the responsibility of the
28 school districts.

29 (8) APPLICABILITY OF TESTING STANDARDS.--A student
30 must meet the testing requirements for high school graduation
31

1 that were in effect at the time the student entered 9th grade,
2 provided the student's enrollment was continuous.

3 (9) RULES.--The State Board of Education shall adopt
4 rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the
5 provisions of this section.

6 Section 366. Section 1008.23, Florida Statutes, is
7 created to read:

8 1008.23 Confidentiality of assessment
9 instruments.--All examination and assessment instruments,
10 including developmental materials and workpapers directly
11 related thereto, which are prepared, prescribed, or
12 administered pursuant to ss. 1003.43, 1008.22, and 1008.25
13 shall be confidential and exempt from the provisions of s.
14 119.07(1) and from s. 1001.52. Provisions governing access,
15 maintenance, and destruction of such instruments and related
16 materials shall be prescribed by rules of the State Board of
17 Education.

18 Section 367. Section 1008.24, Florida Statutes, is
19 created to read:

20 1008.24 Test security.--

21 (1) It is unlawful for anyone knowingly and willfully
22 to violate test security rules adopted by the State Board of
23 Education for mandatory tests administered by or through the
24 State Board of Education or the Commissioner of Education to
25 students, educators, or applicants for certification or
26 administered by school districts pursuant to s. 1008.22, or,
27 with respect to any such test, knowingly and willfully to:

28 (a) Give examinees access to test questions prior to
29 testing;

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31

1 (b) Copy, reproduce, or use in any manner inconsistent
2 with test security rules all or any portion of any secure test
3 booklet;

4 (c) Coach examinees during testing or alter or
5 interfere with examinees' responses in any way;

6 (d) Make answer keys available to examinees;

7 (e) Fail to follow security rules for distribution and
8 return of secure test as directed, or fail to account for all
9 secure test materials before, during, and after testing;

10 (f) Fail to follow test administration directions
11 specified in the test administration manuals; or

12 (g) Participate in, direct, aid, counsel, assist in,
13 or encourage any of the acts prohibited in this section.

14 (2) Any person who violates this section commits a
15 misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s.
16 775.082 or s. 775.083.

17 (3) A district school superintendent, a president of a
18 public postsecondary educational institution, or a president
19 of a nonpublic postsecondary educational institution shall
20 cooperate with the Commissioner of Education in any
21 investigation concerning the administration of a test
22 administered pursuant to state statute or rule.

23 Section 368. Section 1008.25, Florida Statutes, is
24 created to read:

25 1008.25 Public school student progression; remedial
26 instruction; reporting requirements.--

27 (1) INTENT.--It is the intent of the Legislature that
28 each student's progression from one grade to another be
29 determined, in part, upon proficiency in reading, writing,
30 science, and mathematics; that district school board policies
31

1 facilitate such proficiency; and that each student and his or
2 her parent be informed of that student's academic progress.

3 (2) COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM.--Each district school board
4 shall establish a comprehensive program for student
5 progression which must include:

6 (a) Standards for evaluating each student's
7 performance, including how well he or she masters the
8 performance standards approved by the State Board of
9 Education.

10 (b) Specific levels of performance in reading,
11 writing, science, and mathematics for each grade level,
12 including the levels of performance on statewide assessments
13 as defined by the commissioner, below which a student must
14 receive remediation, or be retained within an intensive
15 program that is different from the previous year's program and
16 that takes into account the student's learning style.

17 (c) Appropriate alternative placement for a student
18 who has been retained 2 or more years.

19 (3) ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES.--District school boards
20 shall allocate remedial and supplemental instruction resources
21 to students in the following priority:

22 (a) Students who are deficient in reading by the end
23 of grade 3.

24 (b) Students who fail to meet performance levels
25 required for promotion consistent with the district school
26 board's plan for student progression required in paragraph
27 (2)(b).

28 (4) ASSESSMENT AND REMEDIATION.--

29 (a) Each student must participate in the statewide
30 assessment tests required by s. 1008.22. Each student who does
31 not meet specific levels of performance as determined by the

1 district school board in reading, writing, science, and
2 mathematics for each grade level, or who does not meet
3 specific levels of performance as determined by the
4 commissioner on statewide assessments at selected grade
5 levels, must be provided with additional diagnostic
6 assessments to determine the nature of the student's
7 difficulty and areas of academic need.

8 (b) The school in which the student is enrolled must
9 develop, in consultation with the student's parent, and must
10 implement an academic improvement plan designed to assist the
11 student in meeting state and district expectations for
12 proficiency. Beginning with the 2002-2003 school year, if the
13 student has been identified as having a deficiency in reading,
14 the academic improvement plan shall identify the student's
15 specific areas of deficiency in phonemic awareness, phonics,
16 fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary; the desired levels of
17 performance in these areas; and the instructional and support
18 services to be provided to meet the desired levels of
19 performance. Schools shall also provide for the frequent
20 monitoring of the student's progress in meeting the desired
21 levels of performance. District school boards shall assist
22 schools and teachers to implement research-based reading
23 activities that have been shown to be successful in teaching
24 reading to low-performing students. Remedial instruction
25 provided during high school may not be in lieu of English and
26 mathematics credits required for graduation.

27 (c) Upon subsequent evaluation, if the documented
28 deficiency has not been remediated in accordance with the
29 academic improvement plan, the student may be retained. Each
30 student who does not meet the minimum performance expectations
31 defined by the Commissioner of Education for the statewide

1 assessment tests in reading, writing, science, and mathematics
2 must continue to be provided with remedial or supplemental
3 instruction until the expectations are met or the student
4 graduates from high school or is not subject to compulsory
5 school attendance.

6 (5) READING DEFICIENCY AND PARENTAL NOTIFICATION.--

7 (a) It is the ultimate goal of the Legislature that
8 every student read at or above grade level. Any student who
9 exhibits a substantial deficiency in reading, based upon
10 locally determined or statewide assessments conducted in
11 kindergarten or grade 1, grade 2, or grade 3, or through
12 teacher observations, must be given intensive reading
13 instruction immediately following the identification of the
14 reading deficiency. The student's reading proficiency must be
15 reassessed by locally determined assessments or through
16 teacher observations at the beginning of the grade following
17 the intensive reading instruction. The student must continue
18 to be provided with intensive reading instruction until the
19 reading deficiency is remedied.

20 (b) Beginning with the 2002-2003 school year, if the
21 student's reading deficiency, as identified in paragraph (a),
22 is not remedied by the end of grade 3, as demonstrated by
23 scoring at Level 2 or higher on the statewide assessment test
24 in reading for grade 3, the student must be retained.

25 (c) Beginning with the 2002-2003 school year, the
26 parent of any student who exhibits a substantial deficiency in
27 reading, as described in paragraph (a), must be notified in
28 writing of the following:

29 1. That his or her child has been identified as having
30 a substantial deficiency in reading.

31

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

3 3. A description of the proposed supplemental
4 instructional services and supports that will be provided to
5 the child that are designed to remediate the identified area
6 of reading deficiency.

7 4. That if the child's reading deficiency is not
8 remediated by the end of grade 3, the child must be retained
9 unless he or she is exempt from mandatory retention for good
10 cause.

11 (6) ELIMINATION OF SOCIAL PROMOTION.--

12 (a) No student may be assigned to a grade level based
13 solely on age or other factors that constitute social
14 promotion.

15 (b) The district school board may only exempt students
16 from mandatory retention, as provided in paragraph (5)(b), for
17 good cause. Good cause exemptions shall be limited to the
18 following:

19 1. Limited English proficient students who have had
20 less than 2 years of instruction in an English for Speakers of
21 Other Languages program.

22 2. Students with disabilities whose individual
23 education plan indicates that participation in the statewide
24 assessment program is not appropriate, consistent with the
25 requirements of State Board of Education rule.

26 3. Students who demonstrate an acceptable level of
27 performance on an alternative standardized reading assessment
28 approved by the State Board of Education.

29 4. Students who demonstrate, through a student
30 portfolio, that the student is reading on grade level as
31 evidenced by demonstration of mastery of the Sunshine State

1 Standards in reading equal to at least a Level 2 performance
2 on the FCAT.

3 5. Students with disabilities who participate in the
4 FCAT and who have an individual education plan or a Section
5 504 plan that reflects that the student has received the
6 intensive remediation in reading, as required by paragraph
7 (4)(b), for more than 2 years but still demonstrates a
8 deficiency in reading and was previously retained in
9 kindergarten, grade 1, or grade 2.

10 6. Students who have received the intensive
11 remediation in reading as required by paragraph (4)(b) for 2
12 or more years but still demonstrate a deficiency in reading
13 and who were previously retained in kindergarten, grade 1, or
14 grade 2 for a total of 2 years. Intensive reading instruction
15 for students so promoted must include an altered instructional
16 day based upon an academic improvement plan that includes
17 specialized diagnostic information and specific reading
18 strategies for each student. The district school board shall
19 assist schools and teachers to implement reading strategies
20 that research has shown to be successful in improving reading
21 among low performing readers.

22 (c) Requests for good cause exemptions for students
23 from the mandatory retention requirement as described in
24 subparagraphs (b)3. and 4. shall be made consistent with the
25 following:

26 1. Documentation shall be submitted from the student's
27 teacher to the school principal that indicates that the
28 promotion of the student is appropriate and is based upon the
29 student's academic record. In order to minimize paperwork
30 requirements, such documentation shall consist only of the
31

1 existing academic improvement plan, individual educational
2 plan, if applicable, report card, or student portfolio.
3 2. The school principal shall review and discuss such
4 recommendation with the teacher and make the determination as
5 to whether the student should be promoted or retained. If the
6 school principal determines that the student should be
7 promoted, the school principal shall make such recommendation
8 in writing to the district school superintendent. The
9 district school superintendent shall accept or reject the
10 school principal's recommendation in writing.

11 (7) ANNUAL REPORT.--

12 (a) In addition to the requirements in paragraph
13 (5)(b), each district school board must annually report to the
14 parent of each student the progress of the student towards
15 achieving state and district expectations for proficiency in
16 reading, writing, science, and mathematics. The district
17 school board must report to the parent the student's results
18 on each statewide assessment test. The evaluation of each
19 student's progress must be based upon the student's classroom
20 work, observations, tests, district and state assessments, and
21 other relevant information. Progress reporting must be
22 provided to the parent in writing in a format adopted by the
23 district school board.

24 (b) Beginning with the 2001-2002 school year, each
25 district school board must annually publish in the local
26 newspaper, and report in writing to the State Board of
27 Education by September 1 of each year, the following
28 information on the prior school year:

29 1. The provisions of this section relating to public
30 school student progression and the district school board's
31 policies and procedures on student retention and promotion.

1 2. By grade, the number and percentage of all students
2 in grades 3 through 10 performing at Levels 1 and 2 on the
3 reading portion of the FCAT.

4 3. By grade, the number and percentage of all students
5 retained in grades 3 through 10.

6 4. Information on the total number of students who
7 were promoted for good cause, by each category of good cause
8 as specified in paragraph (6)(b).

9 5. Any revisions to the district school board's policy
10 on student retention and promotion from the prior year.

11 (8) STATE BOARD AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES.--

12 (a) The State Board of Education shall have authority
13 as provided in s. 1008.32 to enforce this section.

14 (b) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
15 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 for the administration
16 of this section.

17 (9) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.--The department shall
18 provide technical assistance as needed to aid district school
19 boards in administering this section.

20 Section 369. Section 1008.29, Florida Statutes, is
21 created to read:

22 1008.29 College-level communication and mathematics
23 skills examination (CLAST).--

24 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature that the
25 examination of college-level communication and mathematics
26 skills provided in s. 1008.345(3) serve as a mechanism for
27 students to demonstrate that they have mastered the academic
28 competencies prerequisite to upper-division undergraduate
29 instruction. It is further intended that the examination
30 serve as both a summative evaluation instrument prior to
31 student enrollment in upper-division programs and as a source

1 of information for student advisers. It is not intended that
2 student passage of the examination supplant the need for a
3 student to complete the general education curriculum
4 prescribed by an institution.

5 (2) Public postsecondary educational institutions
6 shall administer a minimum of two administrations, one of
7 which may consist of an alternative administration, of the
8 college-level communication and computation skills examination
9 per academic term. Such administrations shall be available to
10 all lower-division students seeking associate in arts or
11 baccalaureate degrees upon completion of at least 18 semester
12 hours or the equivalent. Public postsecondary educational
13 institutions shall report at a minimum the examination scores
14 of all students tested at each administration of the
15 college-level communication and computation skills
16 examination.

17 (3) No public postsecondary educational institution
18 shall confer an associate in arts or baccalaureate degree upon
19 any student who fails to complete successfully the examination
20 of college-level communication and computation skills.
21 Students who received their associate in arts degree prior to
22 September 1, 1982, shall be exempt from the provisions of this
23 subsection.

24 (4) The State Board of Education, by rule, shall set
25 the minimum scores that constitute successful completion of
26 the examination. In establishing the minimum scores that
27 constitute successful completion of the examination, the State
28 Board of Education shall consider any possible negative impact
29 of the tests on minority students. Determinations regarding a
30 student's successful completion of the examination shall be
31

1 based on the minimum standards prescribed by rule for the date
2 the student initially takes the examination.

3 (5) Any student who, in the best professional opinion
4 of the university, has a specific learning disability such
5 that the student can not demonstrate successful completion of
6 one or more sections of the college-level communication and
7 computation skills examination and is achieving at the college
8 level in every area except that of the disability, and whose
9 diagnosis indicates that further remediation will not succeed
10 in overcoming the disability, may appeal through the
11 appropriate dean to a committee appointed by the president or
12 vice president for academic affairs for special consideration.
13 The committee shall examine the evidence of the student's
14 academic and medical records and may hear testimony relevant
15 to the case. The committee may grant a waiver for one or more
16 sections of the college-level communication and computation
17 skills examination based on the results of its review.

18 (6) Each public postsecondary educational institution
19 president shall establish a committee to consider requests for
20 waivers from the provisions of subsection (3). The committee
21 shall be chaired by the chief academic officer of the
22 institution and shall have four additional members appointed
23 by the president: a member of the mathematics department, a
24 member of the English department, the institutional test
25 administrator, and a fourth faculty member from a department
26 other than English or mathematics. Any student who has taken a
27 subtest of the examination required by this section at least
28 four times and has not achieved a passing score, but has
29 otherwise demonstrated proficiency in coursework in the same
30 subject area, may request a waiver from that particular
31 subtest. Waivers shall be considered only after students have

1 been provided test accommodations or other administrative
2 adjustments to permit the accurate measurement of the
3 student's proficiency in the subject areas measured by the
4 examination authorized in this section. The committee shall
5 consider the student's educational records and other evidence
6 as to whether the student should be able to pass the subtest
7 under consideration. A waiver may be recommended to the
8 president upon majority vote of the committee. The president
9 may approve or disapprove the recommendation. The president
10 may not approve a request which the committee has disapproved.
11 If a waiver for a given subtest is approved, the student's
12 transcript shall include a statement that the student did not
13 meet the requirements of subsection (3) and that a waiver was
14 granted.

15 (7) The State Board of Education, by rule, shall
16 establish fees for the administration of the examination to
17 private postsecondary students.

18 (8) The State Board of Education, by rule, shall
19 establish fees for the administration of the examination at
20 times other than regularly scheduled dates to accommodate
21 examinees who are unable to be tested on those dates. The
22 board shall establish the conditions under which examinees may
23 be admitted to the special administrations.

24 (9) Any student fulfilling one or both of the
25 following requirements before completion of associate in arts
26 degree requirements or baccalaureate degree requirements is
27 exempt from the testing requirements of this section:

28 (a) Achieves a score that meets or exceeds a minimum
29 score on a nationally standardized examination, as established
30 by the State Board of Education; or

31

1 (b) Demonstrates successful remediation of any
2 academic deficiencies identified by the college placement test
3 and achieves a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or above,
4 on a 4.0 scale, in postsecondary-level coursework identified
5 by the State Board of Education. The Department of Education
6 shall specify the means by which a student may demonstrate
7 successful remediation.

8
9 Any student denied a degree prior to January 1, 1996, based on
10 the failure of at least one subtest of the CLAST may use
11 either of the alternatives specified in this subsection for
12 receipt of a degree if such student meets all degree program
13 requirements at the time of application for the degree under
14 the exemption provisions of this subsection. This section does
15 not require a student to take the CLAST before being given the
16 opportunity to use any of the alternatives specified in this
17 subsection. The exemptions provided herein do not apply to
18 requirements for certification as provided in s. 1012.56.

19 Section 370. Section 1008.30, Florida Statutes, is
20 created to read:

21 1008.30 Common placement testing for public
22 postsecondary education.--

23 (1) The State Board of Education shall develop and
24 implement a common placement test for the purpose of assessing
25 the basic computation and communication skills of students who
26 intend to enter a degree program at any public postsecondary
27 educational institution. The State Board of Education shall
28 adopt rules which enable public postsecondary educational
29 institutions to implement appropriate modifications of the
30 test instruments or test procedures for students with
31 disabilities.

1 (2) The common placement testing program shall include
2 at a minimum the following: the capacity to diagnose basic
3 competencies in the areas of English, reading, and mathematics
4 which are essential to perform college-level work;
5 prerequisite skills that relate to progressively advanced
6 instruction in mathematics, such as algebra and geometry;
7 prerequisite skills that relate to progressively advanced
8 instruction in language arts, such as English composition and
9 literature; prerequisite skills which relate to the College
10 Level Academic Skills Test (CLAST); and provision of test
11 information to students on the specific deficiencies.

12 (3) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
13 that would require high schools to give the common placement
14 test prescribed in this section, or an equivalent test
15 identified by the State Board of Education, at the beginning
16 of the tenth grade year before enrollment in the eleventh
17 grade year in public high school for the purpose of obtaining
18 remedial instruction prior to entering public postsecondary
19 education.

20 (4)(a) Public postsecondary educational institution
21 students who have been identified as requiring additional
22 preparation pursuant to subsection (1) shall enroll in
23 college-preparatory or other adult education pursuant to s.
24 1004.93 in community colleges to develop needed college-entry
25 skills. These students shall be permitted to take courses
26 within their degree program concurrently in other curriculum
27 areas for which they are qualified while enrolled in
28 college-preparatory instruction courses. A student enrolled
29 in a college-preparatory course may concurrently enroll only
30 in college credit courses that do not require the skills
31 addressed in the college-preparatory course. The State Board

1 of Education shall specify the college credit courses that are
2 acceptable for students enrolled in each college-preparatory
3 skill area, pursuant to s. 1001.02(7)(g). A student who wishes
4 to earn an associate in arts or a baccalaureate degree, but
5 who is required to complete a college-preparatory course, must
6 successfully complete the required college-preparatory studies
7 by the time the student has accumulated 12 hours of
8 lower-division college credit degree coursework; however, a
9 student may continue enrollment in degree-earning coursework
10 provided the student maintains enrollment in
11 college-preparatory coursework for each subsequent semester
12 until college-preparatory coursework requirements are
13 completed, and the student demonstrates satisfactory
14 performance in degree-earning coursework. A passing score on
15 a standardized, institutionally developed test must be
16 achieved before a student is considered to have met basic
17 computation and communication skills requirements; however, no
18 student shall be required to retake any test or subtest that
19 was previously passed by said student. Credit awarded for
20 college-preparatory instruction may not be counted towards
21 fulfilling the number of credits required for a degree.

22 (b) The university board of trustees may contract with
23 a community college board of trustees for the community
24 college to provide such instruction on the state university
25 campus. Any state university in which the percentage of
26 incoming students requiring college-preparatory instruction
27 equals or exceeds the average percentage of such students for
28 the community college system may offer college-preparatory
29 instruction without contracting with a community college;
30 however, any state university offering college-preparatory
31

1 instruction as of January 1, 1996, may continue to provide
2 such services.

3 (5) A student may not be enrolled in a college credit
4 mathematics or English course on a dual enrollment basis
5 unless the student has demonstrated adequate precollegiate
6 preparation on the section of the basic computation and
7 communication skills assessment required pursuant to
8 subsection (1) that is appropriate for successful student
9 participation in the course.

10 Section 371. Part II of chapter 1008, Florida
11 Statutes, shall be entitled "Accountability, K-20" and shall
12 consist of ss. 1008.31-1008.46.

13 Section 372. Section 1008.31, Florida Statutes, is
14 created to read:

15 1008.31 Florida's K-20 education performance
16 accountability system; legislative intent; performance-based
17 funding; mission, goals, and systemwide measures.--

18 (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.--It is the intent of the
19 Legislature that:

20 (a) The performance accountability system implemented
21 to assess the effectiveness of Florida's seamless K-20
22 education delivery system provide answers to the following
23 questions in relation to its mission and goals:

24 1. What is the public receiving in return for funds it
25 invests in education?

26 2. How effectively is Florida's K-20 education system
27 educating its students?

28 3. How effectively are the major delivery sectors
29 promoting student achievement?

30 4. How are individual schools and postsecondary
31 education institutions performing their responsibility to

1 educate their students as measured by how students are
2 performing and how much they are learning?

3 (b) The State Board of Education recommend to the
4 Legislature systemwide performance standards; the Legislature
5 establish systemwide performance measures and standards; and
6 the systemwide measures and standards provide Floridians with
7 information on what the public is receiving in return for the
8 funds it invests in education and how well the K-20 system
9 educates its students.

10 (c) The State Board of Education establish performance
11 measures and set performance standards for individual
12 components of the public education system, including
13 individual schools and postsecondary educational institutions,
14 with measures and standards based primarily on student
15 achievement.

16 (2) PERFORMANCE-BASED FUNDING.--The State Board of
17 Education shall cooperate with the Commissioner of Education
18 and each delivery system to develop proposals for
19 performance-based funding, using performance measures
20 established by the Legislature. The proposals must provide
21 that at least 10 percent of the state funds appropriated for
22 the K-20 education system are conditional upon meeting or
23 exceeding established performance standards. The State Board
24 of Education must submit the recommendations to the
25 Legislature in the following sequence:

26 (a) By December 1, 2002, recommendations for state
27 universities, for consideration by the 2003 Legislature and
28 implementation in the 2003-2004 fiscal year.

29 (b) By December 1, 2003, recommendations for public
30 schools and workforce education, for consideration by the 2004
31 Legislature and implementation in the 2004-2005 fiscal year.

1 (c) By December 1, 2004, recommendations for community
2 colleges, for consideration by the 2005 Legislature and
3 implementation in the 2005-2006 fiscal year.

4 (d) By December 1, 2005, recommendations for all other
5 programs that receive state funds within the Department of
6 Education.

7 (3) MISSION, GOALS, AND SYSTEMWIDE MEASURES.--The
8 mission of Florida's K-20 education system shall be to
9 increase the proficiency of all students within one seamless,
10 efficient system, by allowing them the opportunity to expand
11 their knowledge and skills through learning opportunities and
12 research valued by students, parents, and communities, and to
13 maintain an accountability system that measures student
14 progress toward the following goals:

15 (a) Highest student achievement, as measured by:
16 student FCAT performance and annual learning gains; the number
17 and percentage of schools that improve at least one school
18 performance grade designation or maintain a school performance
19 grade designation of "A" pursuant to s. 1008.34; graduation or
20 completion rates at all learning levels; and other measures
21 identified in law or rule.

22 (b) Seamless articulation and maximum access, as
23 measured by: the percentage of students who demonstrate
24 readiness for the educational level they are entering, from
25 kindergarten through postsecondary education and into the
26 workforce; the number and percentage of students needing
27 remediation; the percentage of Floridians who complete
28 associate, baccalaureate, professional, and postgraduate
29 degrees; the number and percentage of credits that articulate;
30 the extent to which each set of exit-point requirements
31

1 matches the next set of entrance-point requirements; and other
2 measures identified in law or rule.

3 (c) Skilled workforce and economic development, as
4 measured by: the number and percentage of graduates employed
5 in their areas of preparation; the percentage of Floridians
6 with high school diplomas and postsecondary education
7 credentials; the percentage of business and community members
8 who find that Florida's graduates possess the skills they
9 need; and other measures identified in law or rule.

10 (d) Quality efficient services, as measured by: cost
11 per completer or graduate; average cost per noncompleter at
12 each educational level; cost disparity across institutions
13 offering the same degrees; the percentage of education
14 customers at each educational level who are satisfied with the
15 education provided; and other measures identified in law or
16 rule.

17 (4) SYSTEMWIDE DATA COLLECTION.--School districts and
18 public postsecondary educational institutions shall maintain
19 information systems that will provide the State Board of
20 Education and the Legislature with information and reports at
21 a level of comprehensiveness and quality no less than that
22 which was available as of June 30, 2001.

23 Section 373. Section 1008.32, Florida Statutes, is
24 created to read:

25 1008.32 State Board of Education oversight enforcement
26 authority.--The State Board of Education shall oversee the
27 performance of district school boards and public postsecondary
28 educational institution boards in enforcement of all laws and
29 rules. District school boards and public postsecondary
30 educational institution boards shall be primarily responsible
31 for compliance with law and state board rule.

1 (1) In order to ensure compliance with law or state
2 board rule, the State Board of Education shall have the
3 authority to request and receive information, data, and
4 reports from school districts and public postsecondary
5 educational institutions. District school superintendents and
6 public postsecondary educational institution presidents are
7 responsible for the accuracy of the information and data
8 reported to the state board.

9 (2) The Commissioner of Education may investigate
10 allegations of noncompliance with law or state board rule and
11 determine probable cause, the commissioner shall report to the
12 State Board of Education which shall require the district
13 school board or public postsecondary educational institution
14 board to document compliance with law or state board rule.

15 (3) If the district school board or public
16 postsecondary educational institution board cannot
17 satisfactorily document compliance, the State Board of
18 Education may order compliance within a specified timeframe.

19 (4) If the State Board of Education determines that a
20 district school board or public postsecondary educational
21 institution board is unwilling or unable to comply with law or
22 state board rule within the specified time, the state board
23 shall have the authority to initiate any of the following
24 actions:

25 (a) Report to the Legislature that the school district
26 or public postsecondary educational institution has been
27 unwilling or unable to comply with law or state board rule and
28 recommend action to be taken by the Legislature.

29 (b) Reduce the discretionary lottery appropriation
30 until the school district or public postsecondary education
31 institution complies with the law or state board rule.

1 (c) Withhold the transfer of state funds,
2 discretionary grant funds, or any other funds specified as
3 eligible for this purpose by the Legislature until the school
4 district or public postsecondary educational institution
5 complies with the law or state board rule.

6 (d) Declare the school district or public
7 postsecondary educational institution ineligible for
8 competitive grants.

9 (e) Require monthly or periodic reporting on the
10 situation related to noncompliance until it is remedied.

11 (5) Nothing in this section shall be construed to
12 create a private cause of action or create any rights for
13 individuals or entities in addition to those provided
14 elsewhere in law or rule.

15 Section 374. Section 1008.33, Florida Statutes, is
16 created to read:

17 1008.33 Authority to enforce public school
18 improvement.--It is the intent of the Legislature that all
19 public schools be held accountable for students performing at
20 acceptable levels. A system of school improvement and
21 accountability that assesses student performance by school,
22 identifies schools in which students are not making adequate
23 progress toward state standards, institutes appropriate
24 measures for enforcing improvement, and provides rewards and
25 sanctions based on performance shall be the responsibility of
26 the State Board of Education.

27 (1) Pursuant to Art. IX of the State Constitution
28 prescribing the duty of the State Board of Education to
29 supervise Florida's public school system and notwithstanding
30 any other statutory provisions to the contrary, the State
31 Board of Education shall intervene in the operation of a

1 district school system when one or more schools in the school
2 district have failed to make adequate progress for 2 school
3 years in a 4-year period. For purposes of determining when a
4 school is eligible for state board action and opportunity
5 scholarships for its students, the terms "2 years in any
6 4-year period" and "2 years in a 4-year period" mean that in
7 any year that a school has a grade of "F," the school is
8 eligible for state board action and opportunity scholarships
9 for its students if it also has had a grade of "F" in any of
10 the previous 3 school years. The State Board of Education may
11 determine that the school district or school has not taken
12 steps sufficient for students in the school to be academically
13 well served. Considering recommendations of the Commissioner
14 of Education, the State Board of Education shall recommend
15 action to a district school board intended to improve
16 educational services to students in each school that is
17 designated as performance grade category "F." Recommendations
18 for actions to be taken in the school district shall be made
19 only after thorough consideration of the unique
20 characteristics of a school, which shall include student
21 mobility rates, the number and type of exceptional students
22 enrolled in the school, and the availability of options for
23 improved educational services. The state board shall adopt by
24 rule steps to follow in this process. Such steps shall
25 provide school districts sufficient time to improve student
26 performance in schools and the opportunity to present evidence
27 of assistance and interventions that the district school board
28 has implemented.

29 (2) The State Board of Education may recommend one or
30 more of the following actions to district school boards to
31 enable students in schools designated as performance grade

1 category "F" to be academically well served by the public
2 school system:
3 (a) Provide additional resources, change certain
4 practices, and provide additional assistance if the state
5 board determines the causes of inadequate progress to be
6 related to school district policy or practice;
7 (b) Implement a plan that satisfactorily resolves the
8 education equity problems in the school;
9 (c) Contract for the educational services of the
10 school, or reorganize the school at the end of the school year
11 under a new school principal who is authorized to hire new
12 staff and implement a plan that addresses the causes of
13 inadequate progress;
14 (d) Allow parents of students in the school to send
15 their children to another district school of their choice; or
16 (e) Other action appropriate to improve the school's
17 performance.
18 (3) In recommending actions to district school boards,
19 the State Board of Education shall specify the length of time
20 available to implement the recommended action. The State
21 Board of Education may adopt rules to further specify how it
22 may respond in specific circumstances. No action taken by the
23 State Board of Education shall relieve a school from state
24 accountability requirements.
25 (4) The State Board of Education may require the
26 Department of Education or Comptroller to withhold any
27 transfer of state funds to the school district if, within the
28 timeframe specified in state board action, the school district
29 has failed to comply with the action ordered to improve the
30 district's low-performing schools. Withholding the transfer of
31 funds shall occur only after all other recommended actions for

1 school improvement have failed to improve performance. The
2 State Board of Education may impose the same penalty on any
3 district school board that fails to develop and implement a
4 plan for assistance and intervention for low-performing
5 schools as specified in s. 1001.42(16)(c).

6 Section 375. Section 1008.34, Florida Statutes, is
7 created to read:

8 1008.34 School grading system; district performance
9 grade.--

10 (1) ANNUAL REPORTS.--The Commissioner of Education
11 shall prepare annual reports of the results of the statewide
12 assessment program which describe student achievement in the
13 state, each district, and each school. The commissioner shall
14 prescribe the design and content of these reports, which must
15 include, without limitation, descriptions of the performance
16 of all schools participating in the assessment program and all
17 of their major student populations as determined by the
18 Commissioner of Education, and must also include the median
19 scores of all eligible students who scored at or in the lowest
20 25th percentile of the state in the previous school year;
21 provided, however, that the provisions of s. 1002.22
22 pertaining to student records apply to this section.

23 (2) SCHOOL PERFORMANCE GRADE CATEGORIES.--The annual
24 report shall identify schools as being in one of the following
25 grade categories defined according to rules of the State Board
26 of Education:

- 27 (a) "A," schools making excellent progress.
28 (b) "B," schools making above average progress.
29 (c) "C," schools making satisfactory progress.
30 (d) "D," schools making less than satisfactory
31 progress.

- 1 (e) "F," schools failing to make adequate progress.
2
- 3 Each school designated in performance grade category "A,"
4 making excellent progress, or having improved at least two
5 performance grade categories, shall have greater authority
6 over the allocation of the school's total budget generated
7 from the FEFP, state categoricals, lottery funds, grants, and
8 local funds, as specified in state board rule. The rule must
9 provide that the increased budget authority shall remain in
10 effect until the school's performance grade declines.
- 11 (3) DESIGNATION OF SCHOOL PERFORMANCE GRADE
12 CATEGORIES.--School performance grade category designations
13 itemized in subsection (2) shall be based on the following:
- 14 (a) Timeframes.--
- 15 1. School performance grade category designations
16 shall be based on the school's current year performance and
17 the school's annual learning gains.
- 18 2. A school's performance grade category designation
19 shall be based on a combination of student achievement scores,
20 student learning gains as measured by annual FCAT assessments
21 in grades 3 through 10, and improvement of the lowest 25th
22 percentile of students in the school in reading, math, or
23 writing on the FCAT, unless these students are performing
24 above satisfactory performance.
- 25 (b) Student assessment data.--Student assessment data
26 used in determining school performance grade categories shall
27 include:
- 28 1. The aggregate scores of all eligible students
29 enrolled in the school who have been assessed on the FCAT.
- 30 2. The aggregate scores of all eligible students
31 enrolled in the school who have been assessed on the FCAT,

1 including Florida Writes, and who have scored at or in the
2 lowest 25th percentile of students in the school in reading,
3 math, or writing, unless these students are performing above
4 satisfactory performance.

5
6 The Department of Education shall study the effects of
7 mobility on the performance of highly mobile students and
8 recommend programs to improve the performance of such
9 students. The State Board of Education shall adopt appropriate
10 criteria for each school performance grade category. The
11 criteria must also give added weight to student achievement in
12 reading. Schools designated as performance grade category "C,"
13 making satisfactory progress, shall be required to demonstrate
14 that adequate progress has been made by students in the school
15 who are in the lowest 25th percentile in reading, math, or
16 writing on the FCAT, including Florida Writes, unless these
17 students are performing above satisfactory performance.

18 (4) SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT RATINGS.--The annual report
19 shall identify each school's performance as having improved,
20 remained the same, or declined. This school improvement rating
21 shall be based on a comparison of the current year's and
22 previous year's student and school performance data. Schools
23 that improve at least one performance grade category are
24 eligible for school recognition awards pursuant to s. 1008.36.

25 (5) SCHOOL PERFORMANCE GRADE CATEGORY AND IMPROVEMENT
26 RATING REPORTS.--School performance grade category
27 designations and improvement ratings shall apply to each
28 school's performance for the year in which performance is
29 measured. Each school's designation and rating shall be
30 published annually by the Department of Education and the
31 school district. Parents shall be entitled to an easy-to-read

1 report card about the designation and rating of the school in
2 which their child is enrolled.

3 (6) RULES.--The State Board of Education shall adopt
4 rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the
5 provisions of this section.

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

10 (8) DISTRICT PERFORMANCE GRADE.--The annual report
11 required by subsection (1) shall include district performance
12 grades, which shall consist of weighted district average
13 grades, by level, for all elementary schools, middle schools,
14 and high schools in the district. A district's weighted
15 average grade shall be calculated by weighting individual
16 school grades determined pursuant to subsection (2) by school
17 enrollment.

18 Section 376. Section 1008.345, Florida Statutes, is
19 created to read:

20 1008.345 Implementation of state system of school
21 improvement and education accountability.--

22 (1) The Commissioner of Education is responsible for
23 implementing and maintaining a system of intensive school
24 improvement and stringent education accountability, which
25 shall include policies and programs to implement the
26 following:

27 (a) A system of data collection and analysis that will
28 improve information about the educational success of
29 individual students and schools, including schools operating
30 for the purpose of providing educational services to youth in
31 Department of Juvenile Justice programs. The information and

1 analyses must be capable of identifying educational programs
2 or activities in need of improvement, and reports prepared
3 pursuant to this paragraph shall be distributed to the
4 appropriate district school boards prior to distribution to
5 the general public. This provision shall not preclude access
6 to public records as provided in chapter 119.

7 (b) A program of school improvement that will analyze
8 information to identify schools, including schools operating
9 for the purpose of providing educational services to youth in
10 Department of Juvenile Justice programs, educational programs,
11 or educational activities in need of improvement.

12 (c) A method of delivering services to assist school
13 districts and schools to improve, including schools operating
14 for the purpose of providing educational services to youth in
15 Department of Juvenile Justice programs.

16 (d) A method of coordinating with the state
17 educational goals and school improvement plans any other state
18 program that creates incentives for school improvement.

19 (2) The commissioner shall be held responsible for the
20 implementation and maintenance of the system of school
21 improvement and education accountability outlined in this
22 section. There shall be an annual determination of whether
23 adequate progress is being made toward implementing and
24 maintaining a system of school improvement and education
25 accountability.

26 (3) The annual feedback report shall be developed by
27 the Department of Education.

28 (4) The commissioner shall review each district school
29 board's feedback report and submit findings to the State Board
30 of Education. If adequate progress is not being made toward
31 implementing and maintaining a system of school improvement

1 and education accountability, the State Board of Education
2 shall direct the commissioner to prepare and implement a
3 corrective action plan. The commissioner and State Board of
4 Education shall monitor the development and implementation of
5 the corrective action plan.

6 (5) The commissioner shall report to the Legislature
7 and recommend changes in state policy necessary to foster
8 school improvement and education accountability. Included in
9 the report shall be a list of the schools, including schools
10 operating for the purpose of providing educational services to
11 youth in Department of Juvenile Justice programs, for which
12 district school boards have developed assistance and
13 intervention plans and an analysis of the various strategies
14 used by the school boards. School reports shall be distributed
15 pursuant to this subsection and s. 1001.42(16)(e) and
16 according to rules adopted by the State Board of Education.

17 (6)(a) The Department of Education shall implement a
18 training program to develop among state and district educators
19 a cadre of facilitators of school improvement. These
20 facilitators shall assist schools and districts to conduct
21 needs assessments and develop and implement school improvement
22 plans to meet state goals.

23 (b) Upon request, the department shall provide
24 technical assistance and training to any school, including any
25 school operating for the purpose of providing educational
26 services to youth in Department of Juvenile Justice programs,
27 school advisory council, district, or district school board
28 for conducting needs assessments, developing and implementing
29 school improvement plans, developing and implementing
30 assistance and intervention plans, or implementing other
31 components of school improvement and accountability. Priority

1 for these services shall be given to schools designated as
2 performance grade category "D" or "F" and school districts in
3 rural and sparsely populated areas of the state.

4 (c) Pursuant to s. 24.121(5)(d), the department shall
5 not release funds from the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund
6 to any district in which a school, including schools operating
7 for the purpose of providing educational services to youth in
8 Department of Juvenile Justice programs, does not have an
9 approved school improvement plan, pursuant to s. 1001.42(16),
10 after 1 full school year of planning and development, or does
11 not comply with school advisory council membership composition
12 requirements pursuant to s. 1001.452. The department shall
13 send a technical assistance team to each school without an
14 approved plan to develop such school improvement plan or to
15 each school without appropriate school advisory council
16 membership composition to develop a strategy for corrective
17 action. The department shall release the funds upon approval
18 of the plan or upon establishment of a plan of corrective
19 action. Notice shall be given to the public of the
20 department's intervention and shall identify each school
21 without a plan or without appropriate school advisory council
22 membership composition.

23 (d) The department shall assign a community assessment
24 team to each school district with a school designated as
25 performance grade category "D" or "F" to review the school
26 performance data and determine causes for the low performance.
27 The team shall make recommendations to the school board, to
28 the department, and to the State Board of Education for
29 implementing an assistance and intervention plan that will
30 address the causes of the school's low performance. The
31 assessment team shall include, but not be limited to, a

1 department representative, parents, business representatives,
2 educators, and community activists, and shall represent the
3 demographics of the community from which they are appointed.
4 (7)(a) Schools designated in performance grade
5 category "A," making excellent progress, shall, if requested
6 by the school, be given deregulated status as specified in s.
7 1003.63(5), (7), (8), (9), and (10).
8 (b) Schools that have improved at least two
9 performance grade categories and that meet the criteria of the
10 Florida School Recognition Program pursuant to s. 1008.36 may
11 be given deregulated status as specified in s. 1003.63(5),
12 (7), (8), (9), and (10).
13 (8) As a part of the system of educational
14 accountability, the Department of Education shall:
15 (a) Develop minimum performance standards for various
16 grades and subject areas, as required in ss. 1001.03, 1008.22,
17 and 1008.34.
18 (b) Administer the statewide assessment testing
19 program created by s. 1008.22.
20 (c) Review the school advisory councils of each
21 district as required by s. 1001.452.
22 (d) Conduct the program evaluations required by s.
23 1001.03.
24 (e) Maintain a listing of college-level communication
25 and mathematics skills defined by the State Board of Education
26 as being associated with successful student performance
27 through the baccalaureate level and submit the same to the
28 State Board of Education for approval.
29 (f) Maintain a listing of tests and other assessment
30 procedures which measure and diagnose student achievement of
31

1 college-level communication and computation skills and submit
2 the same to the State Board of Education for approval.

3 (g) Maintain for the information of the State Board of
4 Education and the Legislature a file of data to reflect
5 achievement of college-level communication and mathematics
6 competencies by students in state universities and community
7 colleges.

8 (h) Develop or contract for, and submit to the State
9 Board of Education for approval, tests which measure and
10 diagnose student achievement of college-level communication
11 and mathematics skills. Any tests and related documents
12 developed are exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1). The
13 commissioner shall maintain statewide responsibility for the
14 administration of such tests and may assign administrative
15 responsibilities for the tests to any state university or
16 community college. The state board, upon recommendation of
17 the commissioner, may enter into contracts for such services
18 beginning in one fiscal year and continuing into the next year
19 which are paid from the appropriation for either or both
20 fiscal years.

21 (i) Perform any other functions that may be involved
22 in educational planning, research, and evaluation or that may
23 be required by the commissioner, the State Board of Education,
24 or law.

25 Section 377. Section 1008.35, Florida Statutes, is
26 created to read:

27 1008.35 Best financial management practices for school
28 districts; standards; reviews; designation of school
29 districts.--

30 (1) The purpose of best financial management practices
31 reviews is to improve Florida school district management and

1 use of resources and to identify cost savings. The Office of
2 Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA)
3 and the Office of the Auditor General are directed to develop
4 a system for reviewing the financial management practices of
5 school districts. In this system, the Auditor General shall
6 assist OPPAGA in examining district operations to determine
7 whether they meet "best financial management practices."

8 (2) The best financial management practices adopted by
9 the Commissioner of Education may be updated periodically
10 after consultation with the Legislature, the Governor, the
11 Department of Education, school districts, and the Auditor
12 General. OPPAGA shall submit to the Commissioner of Education
13 for review and adoption proposed revisions to the best
14 financial management practices adopted by the commissioner.
15 The best financial management practices, at a minimum, must
16 instill public confidence by addressing the school district's
17 use of resources, identifying ways that the district could
18 save funds, and improving districts' performance
19 accountability systems, including public accountability. To
20 achieve these objectives, best practices shall be developed
21 for, but need not be limited to, the following areas:

22 (a) Management structures.

23 (b) Performance accountability.

24 (c) Efficient delivery of educational services,
25 including instructional materials.

26 (d) Administrative and instructional technology.

27 (e) Personnel systems and benefits management.

28 (f) Facilities construction.

29 (g) Facilities maintenance.

30 (h) Student transportation.

31 (i) Food service operations.

1 (j) Cost control systems, including asset management,
2 risk management, financial management, purchasing, internal
3 auditing, and financial auditing.

4
5 In areas for which the commissioner has not adopted best
6 practices, OPPAGA may develop additional best financial
7 management practices, with input from a broad range of
8 stakeholders. OPPAGA shall present any additional best
9 practices to the commissioner for review and adoption. Revised
10 best financial management practices adopted by the
11 commissioner must be used in the next year's scheduled school
12 district reviews conducted according to this section.

13 (3) OPPAGA shall contract with a private firm selected
14 through a formal request for proposal process to perform the
15 review, to the extent that funds are provided for this purpose
16 in the General Appropriations Act each year. When sufficient
17 funds are not provided to contract for all the scheduled best
18 financial management practices reviews, OPPAGA shall conduct
19 the remaining reviews scheduled for that year, except as
20 otherwise provided in this act. At least one member of the
21 private firm review team shall have expertise in school
22 district finance. The scope of the review shall focus on the
23 best practices adopted by the Commissioner of Education,
24 pursuant to subsection (2). OPPAGA may include additional
25 items in the scope of the review after seeking input from the
26 school district and the Department of Education.

27 (4) OPPAGA shall consult with the Commissioner of
28 Education throughout the best practices review process to
29 ensure that the technical expertise of the Department of
30 Education benefits the review process and supports the school
31 districts before, during, and after the review.

1 (5) It is the intent of the Legislature that each
2 school district shall be subject to a best financial
3 management practices review. The Legislature also intends that
4 all school districts shall be reviewed on a continuing 5-year
5 cycle, as follows, unless specified otherwise in the General
6 Appropriations Act, or as provided in this section:

7 (a) Year 1: Hillsborough, Sarasota, Collier, Okaloosa,
8 Alachua, St. Lucie, Santa Rosa, Hernando, Indian River,
9 Monroe, Osceola, and Bradford.

10 (b) Year 2: Miami-Dade, Duval, Volusia, Bay, Columbia,
11 Suwannee, Wakulla, Baker, Union, Hamilton, Jefferson, Gadsden,
12 and Franklin.

13 (c) Year 3: Palm Beach, Orange, Seminole, Lee,
14 Escambia, Leon, Levy, Taylor, Madison, Gilchrist, Gulf, Dixie,
15 Liberty, and Lafayette.

16 (d) Year 4: Pinellas, Pasco, Marion, Manatee, Clay,
17 Charlotte, Citrus, Highlands, Nassau, Hendry, Okeechobee,
18 Hardee, DeSoto, and Glades.

19 (e) Year 5: Broward, Polk, Brevard, Lake, St. Johns,
20 Martin, Putnam, Jackson, Flagler, Walton, Sumter, Holmes,
21 Washington, and Calhoun.

22 (6)(a) The Joint Legislative Auditing Committee may
23 adjust the schedule of districts to be reviewed when
24 unforeseen circumstances prevent initiation of reviews
25 scheduled in a given year.

26 (b) Once the 5-year cycle has been completed, reviews
27 shall continue, beginning again with those districts included
28 in year one of the cycle unless a district has requested and
29 received a waiver as provided in subsection (17).

30 (7) At the direction of the Joint Legislative Auditing
31 Committee or the President of the Senate and the Speaker of

1 the House of Representatives, and subject to funding by the
2 Legislature, OPPAGA may conduct, or contract with a private
3 firm to conduct, up to two additional best financial
4 management practices reviews in districts not scheduled for
5 review during that year if such review is necessary to address
6 adverse financial conditions.

7 (8) Reviews shall be conducted by OPPAGA and the
8 consultant to the extent specifically funded by the
9 Legislature in the General Appropriations Act for this
10 purpose. Such funds may be used for the cost of reviews by
11 OPPAGA and private consultants contracted by the director of
12 OPPAGA. Costs may include professional services, travel
13 expenses of OPPAGA and staff of the Auditor General, and any
14 other necessary expenses incurred as part of a best financial
15 management practices review.

16 (9) Districts scheduled for review must complete a
17 self-assessment instrument provided by OPPAGA which indicates
18 the school district's evaluation of its performance on each
19 best practice. The district must begin the self-assessment not
20 later than 60 days prior to the commencement of the review.
21 The completed self-assessment instrument and supporting
22 documentation must be submitted to OPPAGA not later than the
23 date of commencement of the review as notified by OPPAGA. The
24 best practice review team will use this self-assessment
25 information during their review of the district.

26 (10) During the review, OPPAGA and the consultant
27 conducting the review, if any, shall hold at least one
28 advertised public forum as part of the review in order to
29 explain the best financial management practices review process
30 and obtain input from students, parents, the business
31 community, and other district residents regarding their

1 concerns about the operations and management of the school
2 district.

3 (11) District reviews conducted under this section
4 must be completed within 6 months after commencement. OPPAGA
5 shall issue a final report to the President of the Senate, the
6 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the district
7 regarding the district's use of best financial management
8 practices and cost savings recommendations within 60 days
9 after completing the reviews. Copies of the final report shall
10 be provided to the Governor, the Commissioner of Education,
11 and to the chairs of school advisory councils and district
12 advisory councils established pursuant to s. 229.58(1)(a) and
13 (b). The district school board shall notify all members of
14 the school advisory councils and district advisory council by
15 mail that the final report has been delivered to the school
16 district and to the council chairs. The notification shall
17 also inform members of the OPPAGA website address at which an
18 electronic copy of the report is available.

19 (12) After receipt of the final report and before the
20 district school board votes whether to adopt the action plan,
21 or if no action plan was required because the district was
22 found to be using the best practices, the district school
23 board shall hold an advertised public forum to accept public
24 input and review the findings and recommendations of the
25 report. The district school board shall advertise and promote
26 this forum in a manner appropriate to inform school and
27 district advisory councils, parents, school district
28 employees, the business community, and other district
29 residents of the opportunity to attend this meeting. OPPAGA
30 and the consultant, if any, shall also be represented at this
31 forum.

1 (13)(a) If the district is found not to conform to
2 best financial management practices, the report must contain
3 an action plan detailing how the district could meet the best
4 practices within 2 years. The district school board must
5 decide, by a majority plus one vote within 90 days after
6 receipt of the final report, whether or not to implement the
7 action plan and pursue a "Seal of Best Financial Management"
8 awarded by the State Board of Education to qualified school
9 districts. If a district fails to vote on the action plan
10 within 90 days, district school board members may be required
11 to appear and present testimony before a legislative
12 committee, pursuant to s. 11.143.

13 (b) The district school board may vote to reverse a
14 decision not to implement an action plan, provided that the
15 action plan is implemented and there is still sufficient time,
16 as determined by the district school board, to meet the best
17 practices within 2 years after issuance of the final report.

18 (c) Within 90 days after the receipt of the final
19 report, the district school board must notify OPPAGA and the
20 Commissioner of Education in writing of the date and outcome
21 of the district school board vote on whether to adopt the
22 action plan. If the district school board fails to vote on
23 whether to adopt the action plan, the district school
24 superintendent must notify OPPAGA and the Commissioner of
25 Education. The Department of Education may contact the school
26 district, assess the situation, urge the district school board
27 to vote, and offer technical assistance, if needed.

28 (14) If a district school board votes to implement the
29 action plan:

30 (a) No later than 1 year after receipt of the final
31 report, the district school board must submit an initial

1 status report to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of
2 the House of Representatives, the Governor, OPPAGA, the
3 Auditor General, the State Board of Education, and the
4 Commissioner of Education on progress made towards
5 implementing the action plan and whether changes have occurred
6 in other areas of operation that would affect compliance with
7 the best practices.

8 (b) A second status report must be submitted by the
9 school district to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of
10 the House of Representatives, the Governor, OPPAGA, the
11 Auditor General, the Commissioner of Education, and the State
12 Board of Education no later than 1 year after submission of
13 the initial report.

14
15 Status reports are not required once OPPAGA concludes that the
16 district is using best practices.

17 (15) After receipt of each of a district's two status
18 reports required by subsection (14), OPPAGA shall assess the
19 district's implementation of the action plan and progress
20 toward implementing the best financial management practices in
21 areas covered by the plan. Following each assessment, OPPAGA
22 shall issue a report to the President of the Senate, the
23 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the district
24 indicating whether the district has successfully implemented
25 the best financial management practices. Copies of the report
26 must be provided to the Governor, the Auditor General, the
27 Commissioner of Education, and the State Board of Education.
28 If a district has failed to implement an action plan adopted
29 pursuant to subsection (13), district school board members and
30 the district school superintendent may be required to appear
31 before a legislative committee, pursuant to s. 11.143, to

1 present testimony regarding the district's failure to
2 implement such action plan.
3 (16) District school boards that successfully
4 implement the best financial management practices within 2
5 years, or are determined in the review to be using the best
6 practices, are eligible to receive a "Seal of Best Financial
7 Management." Upon notification to the Commissioner of
8 Education and the State Board of Education by OPPAGA that a
9 district has been found to be using the best financial
10 management practices, the State Board of Education shall award
11 that district a "Seal of Best Financial Management" certifying
12 that the district is adhering to the state's best financial
13 management practices. The State Board of Education designation
14 shall be effective for 5 years from the certification date or
15 until the next review is completed, whichever is later. During
16 the designation period, the district school board shall
17 annually, not later than the anniversary date of the
18 certification, notify OPPAGA, the Auditor General, the
19 Commissioner of Education, and the State Board of Education of
20 any changes in policies or operations or any other situations
21 that would not conform to the state's best financial
22 management practices. The State Board of Education may revoke
23 the designation of a district school board at any time if it
24 determines that a district is no longer complying with the
25 state's best financial management practices. If no such
26 changes have occurred and the district school board determines
27 that the school district continues to conform to the best
28 financial management practices, the district school board
29 shall annually report that information to the State Board of
30 Education, with copies to OPPAGA, the Auditor General, and the
31 Commissioner of Education.

1 (17)(a) A district school board that has been awarded
2 a "Seal of Best Financial Management" by the State Board of
3 Education and has annually reported to the State Board of
4 Education that the district is still conforming to the best
5 financial management practices may request a waiver from
6 undergoing its next scheduled Best Financial Management
7 Practices review.

8 (b) To apply for such waiver, not later than September
9 1 of the fiscal year prior to the fiscal year in which the
10 district is next scheduled for review, the district school
11 board shall certify to OPPAGA and the Department of Education
12 the district school board's determination that the school
13 district is still conforming to the best financial management
14 practices.

15 (c) After consultation with the Department of
16 Education and review of the district school board's
17 determination, OPPAGA may recommend to the Legislative Budget
18 Commission that the district be granted a waiver for the next
19 scheduled Best Financial Management Practices review. If
20 approved for waiver, OPPAGA shall notify the school district
21 and the Department of Education that no review of that
22 district will be conducted during the next scheduled review
23 cycle. In that event, the district school board must continue
24 annual reporting to the State Board of Education as required
25 in subsection (16). District school boards granted a waiver
26 for one review cycle are not eligible for waiver of the next
27 scheduled review cycle.

28 (18) District school boards that receive a best
29 financial management practices review must maintain records
30 that will enable independent verification of the
31

1 implementation of the action plan and any related fiscal
2 impacts.
3 (19) Unrestricted cost savings resulting from
4 implementation of the best financial management practices must
5 be spent at the school and classroom levels for teacher
6 salaries, teacher training, improved classroom facilities,
7 student supplies, textbooks, classroom technology, and other
8 direct student instruction activities. Cost savings identified
9 for a program that has restrictive expenditure requirements
10 shall be used for the enhancement of the specific program.
11 Section 378. Section 1008.36, Florida Statutes, is
12 created to read:
13 1008.36 Florida School Recognition Program.--
14 (1) The Legislature finds that there is a need for a
15 performance incentive program for outstanding faculty and
16 staff in highly productive schools. The Legislature further
17 finds that performance-based incentives are commonplace in the
18 private sector and should be infused into the public sector as
19 a reward for productivity.
20 (2) The Florida School Recognition Program is created
21 to provide financial awards to public schools that:
22 (a) Sustain high performance by receiving a school
23 grade of "A," making excellent progress; or
24 (b) Demonstrate exemplary improvement due to
25 innovation and effort by improving a letter grade.
26 (3) All public schools, including charter schools,
27 that receive a school grade pursuant to s. 1008.34 are
28 eligible to participate in the program.
29 (4) All selected schools shall receive financial
30 awards depending on the availability of funds appropriated and
31 the number and size of schools selected to receive an award.

1 Funds must be distributed to the school's fiscal agent and
2 placed in the school's account and must be used for purposes
3 listed in subsection (5) as determined jointly by the school's
4 staff and school advisory council. If school staff and the
5 school advisory council cannot reach agreement by November 1,
6 the awards must be equally distributed to all classroom
7 teachers currently teaching in the school.

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

10 (a) Nonrecurring bonuses to the faculty and staff;

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

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

16
17 Notwithstanding statutory provisions to the contrary,
18 incentive awards are not subject to collective bargaining.

19 Section 379. Section 1008.37, Florida Statutes, is
20 created to read:

21 1008.37 Postsecondary feedback of information to high
22 schools.--

23 (1) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
24 that require the Commissioner of Education to report to the
25 State Board of Education, the Legislature, and the district
26 school boards on the performance of each
27 first-time-in-postsecondary education student from each public
28 high school in this state who is enrolled in a public
29 postsecondary institution or public technical center. Such
30 reports must be based on information databases maintained by
31 the Department of Education. In addition, the public

1 postsecondary educational institutions and technical centers
2 shall provide district school boards access to information on
3 student performance in regular and preparatory courses and
4 shall indicate students referred for remediation pursuant to
5 s. 1008.30 or s. 1008.28.

6 (2) The Commissioner of Education shall report, by
7 high school, to the State Board of Education and the
8 Legislature, no later than November 31 of each year, on the
9 number of prior year Florida high school graduates who
10 enrolled for the first time in public postsecondary education
11 in this state during the previous summer, fall, or spring
12 term, indicating the number of students whose scores on the
13 common placement test indicated the need for remediation
14 through college-preparatory or vocational-preparatory
15 instruction pursuant to s. 1004.91 or s. 1008.30.

16 (3) The Commissioner of Education shall organize
17 school summary reports and student-level records by school
18 district and high school in which the postsecondary education
19 students were enrolled and report the information to each
20 school district no later than January 31 of each year.

21 (4) As a part of the school improvement plan pursuant
22 to s. 1008.345, the State Board of Education shall ensure that
23 each school district and high school develops strategies to
24 improve student readiness for the public postsecondary level
25 based on annual analysis of the feedback report data.

26 (5) The Commissioner of Education shall annually
27 recommend to the Legislature statutory changes to reduce the
28 incidence of postsecondary remediation in mathematics,
29 reading, and writing for first-time-enrolled recent high
30 school graduates.

31

1 Section 380. Section 1008.38, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1008.38 Articulation accountability process.--The
4 State Board of Education shall develop articulation
5 accountability measures which assess the status of systemwide
6 articulation processes authorized under s. 1007.23. The State
7 Board of Education shall establish an articulation
8 accountability process which at a minimum shall address:

9 (1) The impact of articulation processes on ensuring
10 educational continuity and the orderly and unobstructed
11 transition of students between public secondary and
12 postsecondary education systems and facilitating the
13 transition of students between the public and private sectors.

14 (2) The adequacy of preparation of public secondary
15 students to smoothly articulate to a public postsecondary
16 institution.

17 (3) The effectiveness of articulated acceleration
18 mechanisms available to secondary students.

19 (4) The smooth transfer of community college associate
20 in arts degree graduates to a state university.

21 (5) An examination of degree requirements that exceed
22 the parameters of 60 credit hours for an associate degree and
23 120 hours for a baccalaureate degree in public postsecondary
24 programs.

25 (6) The relationship between the College Level
26 Academic Skills Test Program and articulation to the upper
27 division in public postsecondary institutions.

28 Section 381. Section 1008.385, Florida Statutes, is
29 created to read:

30 1008.385 Educational planning and information
31 systems.--

1 (1) EDUCATIONAL PLANNING.--

2 (a) The Commissioner of Education is responsible for
3 all planning functions for the department, including
4 collection, analysis, and interpretation of all data,
5 information, test results, evaluations, and other indicators
6 that are used to formulate policy, identify areas of concern
7 and need, and serve as the basis for short-range and
8 long-range planning. Such planning shall include assembling
9 data, conducting appropriate studies and surveys, and
10 sponsoring research and development activities designed to
11 provide information about educational needs and the effect of
12 alternative educational practices.

13 (b) Each district school board shall maintain a
14 continuing system of planning and budgeting designed to aid in
15 identifying and meeting the educational needs of students and
16 the public. Provision shall be made for coordination between
17 district school boards and community college boards of
18 trustees concerning the planning for career and technical
19 education and adult educational programs. The major emphasis
20 of the system shall be upon locally determined goals and
21 objectives, the state plan for education, and the Sunshine
22 State Standards developed by the Department of Education and
23 adopted by the State Board of Education. The district
24 planning and budgeting system must include consideration of
25 student achievement data obtained pursuant to ss. 1008.22 and
26 1008.34. The system shall be structured to meet the specific
27 management needs of the district and to align the budget
28 adopted by the district school board with the plan the board
29 has also adopted. Each district school board shall utilize its
30 system of planning and budgeting to emphasize a system of
31 school-based management in which individual school centers

1 become the principal planning units and to integrate planning
2 and budgeting at the school level.

3 (2) COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS.--The
4 Commissioner of Education shall develop and implement an
5 integrated information system for educational management. The
6 system must be designed to collect, via electronic transfer,
7 all student and school performance data required to ascertain
8 the degree to which schools and school districts are meeting
9 state performance standards, and must be capable of producing
10 data for a comprehensive annual report on school and district
11 performance. In addition, the system shall support, as
12 feasible, the management decisions to be made in each division
13 of the department and at the individual school and district
14 levels. Similar data elements among divisions and levels
15 shall be compatible. The system shall be based on an overall
16 conceptual design; the information needed for such decisions,
17 including fiscal, student, program, personnel, facility,
18 community, evaluation, and other relevant data; and the
19 relationship between cost and effectiveness. The system shall
20 be managed and administered by the commissioner and shall
21 include a district subsystem component to be administered at
22 the district level, with input from the reports-and-forms
23 control management committees. Each district school system
24 with a unique management information system shall assure that
25 compatibility exists between its unique system and the
26 district component of the state system so that all data
27 required as input to the state system is made available via
28 electronic transfer and in the appropriate input format.

29 (a) The specific responsibilities of the commissioner
30 shall include:

31

- 1 1. Consulting with school district representatives in
2 the development of the system design model and implementation
3 plans for the management information system for public school
4 education management;
- 5 2. Providing operational definitions for the proposed
6 system;
- 7 3. Determining the information and specific data
8 elements required for the management decisions made at each
9 educational level, recognizing that the primary unit for
10 information input is the individual school and recognizing
11 that time and effort of instructional personnel expended in
12 collection and compilation of data should be minimized;
- 13 4. Developing standardized terminology and procedures
14 to be followed at all levels of the system;
- 15 5. Developing a standard transmittal format to be used
16 for collection of data from the various levels of the system;
- 17 6. Developing appropriate computer programs to assure
18 integration of the various information components dealing with
19 students, personnel, facilities, fiscal, program, community,
20 and evaluation data;
- 21 7. Developing the necessary programs to provide
22 statistical analysis of the integrated data provided in
23 subparagraph 6. in such a way that required reports may be
24 disseminated, comparisons may be made, and relationships may
25 be determined in order to provide the necessary information
26 for making management decisions at all levels;
- 27 8. Developing output report formats which will provide
28 district school systems with information for making management
29 decisions at the various educational levels;
- 30 9. Developing a phased plan for distributing computer
31 services equitably among all public schools and school

1 districts in the state as rapidly as possible. The plan shall
2 describe alternatives available to the state in providing such
3 computing services and shall contain estimates of the cost of
4 each alternative, together with a recommendation for action.
5 In developing the plan, the feasibility of shared use of
6 computing hardware and software by school districts, community
7 colleges, and universities shall be examined. Laws or
8 administrative rules regulating procurement of data processing
9 equipment, communication services, or data processing services
10 by state agencies shall not be construed to apply to local
11 agencies which share computing facilities with state agencies;

12 10. Assisting the district school systems in
13 establishing their subsystem components and assuring
14 compatibility with current district systems;

15 11. Establishing procedures for continuous evaluation
16 of system efficiency and effectiveness;

17 12. Initiating a reports-management and
18 forms-management system to ascertain that duplication in
19 collection of data does not exist and that forms and reports
20 for reporting under state and federal requirements and other
21 forms and reports are prepared in a logical and uncomplicated
22 format, resulting in a reduction in the number and complexity
23 of required reports, particularly at the school level; and

24 13. Initiating such other actions as are necessary to
25 carry out the intent of the Legislature that a management
26 information system for public school management needs be
27 implemented. Such other actions shall be based on criteria
28 including, but not limited to:

29 a. The purpose of the reporting requirement;

30 b. The origination of the reporting requirement;

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1 c. The date of origin of the reporting requirement;
2 and
3 d. The date of repeal of the reporting requirement.
4 (b) The specific responsibilities of each district
5 school system shall include:
6 1. Establishing, at the district level, a
7 reports-control and forms-control management system committee
8 composed of school administrators and classroom teachers. The
9 district school board shall appoint school administrator
10 members and classroom teacher members or, in school districts
11 where appropriate, the classroom teacher members shall be
12 appointed by the bargaining agent. Teachers shall constitute a
13 majority of the committee membership. The committee shall
14 periodically recommend procedures to the district school board
15 for eliminating, reducing, revising, and consolidating
16 paperwork and data collection requirements and shall submit to
17 the district school board an annual report of its findings.
18 2. With assistance from the commissioner, developing
19 systems compatibility between the state management information
20 system and unique local systems.
21 3. Providing, with the assistance of the department,
22 inservice training dealing with management information system
23 purposes and scope, a method of transmitting input data, and
24 the use of output report information.
25 4. Establishing a plan for continuous review and
26 evaluation of local management information system needs and
27 procedures.
28 5. Advising the commissioner of all district
29 management information needs.
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1 6. Transmitting required data input elements to the
2 appropriate processing locations in accordance with guidelines
3 established by the commissioner.

4 7. Determining required reports, comparisons, and
5 relationships to be provided to district school systems by the
6 system output reports, continuously reviewing these reports
7 for usefulness and meaningfulness, and submitting recommended
8 additions, deletions, and change requirements in accordance
9 with the guidelines established by the commissioner.

10 8. Being responsible for the accuracy of all data
11 elements transmitted to the department.

12 (c) It is the intent of the Legislature that the
13 expertise in the state system of public education, as well as
14 contracted services, be utilized to hasten the plan for full
15 implementation of a comprehensive management information
16 system.

17 (3) RULES.--The State Board of Education shall adopt
18 rules to administer this section.

19 Section 382. Section 1008.386, Florida Statutes, is
20 created to read:

21 1008.386 Social security numbers used as student
22 identification numbers.--Each district school board shall
23 request that each student enrolled in a public school in this
24 state provide his or her social security number. Each school
25 district shall use social security numbers as student
26 identification numbers in the management information system
27 maintained by the school district. However, a student is not
28 required to provide his or her social security number as a
29 condition for enrollment or graduation. A student satisfies
30 this requirement by presenting to school enrollment officials
31 his or her social security card or a copy of the card. The

1 school district shall include the social security number in
2 the student's permanent records and shall indicate if the
3 student identification number is not a social security number.
4 The Commissioner of Education shall provide assistance to
5 school districts to assure that the assignment of student
6 identification numbers other than social security numbers is
7 kept to a minimum and to avoid duplication of any student
8 identification number.

9 Section 383. Section 1008.39, Florida Statutes, is
10 created to read:

11 1008.39 Florida Education and Training Placement
12 Information Program.--

13 (1) The Department of Education shall develop and
14 maintain a continuing program of information management named
15 the "Florida Education and Training Placement Information
16 Program," the purpose of which is to compile, maintain, and
17 disseminate information concerning the educational histories,
18 placement and employment, enlistments in the United States
19 armed services, and other measures of success of former
20 participants in state educational and workforce development
21 programs. Placement and employment information shall contain
22 data appropriate to calculate job retention and job retention
23 rates.

24 (2) Any project conducted by the Department of
25 Education or the workforce development system that requires
26 placement information shall use information provided through
27 the Florida Education and Training Placement Information
28 Program, and shall not initiate automated matching of records
29 in duplication of methods already in place in the Florida
30 Education and Training Placement Information Program. The
31 department shall implement an automated system which matches

1 the social security numbers of former participants in state
2 educational and training programs with information in the
3 files of state and federal agencies that maintain educational,
4 employment, and United States armed service records and shall
5 implement procedures to identify the occupations of those
6 former participants whose social security numbers are found in
7 employment records, as required by Specific Appropriation
8 337A, chapter 84-220, Laws of Florida; Specific Appropriation
9 337B, chapter 85-119, Laws of Florida; Specific Appropriation
10 350A, chapter 86-167, Laws of Florida; and Specific
11 Appropriation 351, chapter 87-98, Laws of Florida.

12 (3) The Florida Education and Training Placement
13 Information Program must not make public any information that
14 could identify an individual or the individual's employer. The
15 Department of Education must ensure that the purpose of
16 obtaining placement information is to evaluate and improve
17 public programs or to conduct research for the purpose of
18 improving services to the individuals whose social security
19 numbers are used to identify their placement. If an agreement
20 assures that this purpose will be served and that privacy will
21 be protected, the Department of Education shall have access to
22 the unemployment insurance wage reports maintained by the
23 Department of Labor and Employment Security, the files of the
24 Department of Children and Family Services that contain
25 information about the distribution of public assistance, the
26 files of the Department of Corrections that contain records of
27 incarcerations, and the files of the Department of Business
28 and Professional Regulation that contain the results of
29 licensure examination.

30 (4) The Florida Education and Training Placement
31 Information Program may perform longitudinal analyses for all

1 levels of education and workforce development. These analyses
2 must include employment stability, annual earnings, and
3 relatedness of employment to education.

4 Section 384. Section 1008.40, Florida Statutes, is
5 created to read:

6 1008.40 Workforce Development Information System.--The
7 Department of Education shall:

8 (1) Design specifications for the collection and
9 reporting of data and performance specifications for the
10 Workforce Development Information System. This design must
11 enable parallel reporting and state-level access of workforce
12 data necessary to use the data reports as a basis for
13 calculating funding allocations. In addition, the design must
14 be capable of providing reports necessary to comply with other
15 program performance documentation required by state or federal
16 law, without requiring additional data collection or reporting
17 from local educational agencies.

18 (2) Develop the computer programs, software, and edit
19 processes necessary for local and state users to produce a
20 single, unified Workforce Development Information System.

21 Section 385. Section 1008.405, Florida Statutes, is
22 created to read:

23 1008.405 Adult student information.--Each school
24 district and community college shall maintain sufficient
25 information for each student enrolled in workforce development
26 education to allow local and state administrators to locate
27 such student upon the termination of instruction and to
28 determine the appropriateness of student placement in specific
29 instructional programs. The State Board of Education shall
30 adopt, in rule, specific information that must be maintained
31 and acceptable means of maintaining that information.

1 Section 386. Section 1008.41, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1008.41 Workforce Development Education; management
4 information system.--

5 (1) The Commissioner of Education shall coordinate
6 uniform program structures, common definitions, and uniform
7 management information systems for workforce development
8 education for all divisions within the department. In
9 performing these functions, the commissioner shall designate
10 deadlines after which data elements may not be changed for the
11 coming fiscal or school year. School districts and community
12 colleges shall be notified of data element changes at least 90
13 days prior to the start of the subsequent fiscal or school
14 year. Such systems must provide for:

15 (a) Individual student reporting.

16 (b) Compliance with state and federal confidentiality
17 requirements, except that the department shall have access to
18 the unemployment insurance wage reports to collect and report
19 placement information about former students. Such placement
20 reports must not disclose the individual identities of former
21 students.

22 (c) Maximum use of automated technology and records in
23 existing data bases and data systems. To the extent feasible,
24 the Florida Information Resource Network shall be employed for
25 this purpose.

26 (d) Annual reports of student enrollment, completion,
27 and placement by program.

28 (2) The State Board of Education shall identify, by
29 rule, the components to be included in the workforce
30 development education management information system. All such
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1 components shall be comparable between school districts and
2 community colleges.

3 (3) Planning and evaluation of job-preparatory
4 programs shall be based on standard sources of data and use
5 standard occupational definitions and coding structures,
6 including, but not limited to:

7 (a) The Florida Occupational Information System;

8 (b) The Florida Education and Training Placement
9 Information Program;

10 (c) The Agency for Workforce Innovation;

11 (d) The United States Department of Labor; and

12 (e) Other sources of data developed using
13 statistically valid procedures.

14 Section 387. Section 1008.42, Florida Statutes, is
15 created to read:

16 1008.42 Public information on career and technical
17 education programs.--

18 (1) The Department of Education shall disseminate
19 information derived from the reports required by s. 1008.43.
20 The department shall ensure that the information disseminated
21 does not name or otherwise identify a student, a former
22 student, or the student's employer.

23 (2) The dissemination shall be conducted in accordance
24 with the following procedures:

25 (a) Annually, the Department of Education shall
26 publish the placement rates and average quarterly earnings for
27 students who complete each type of technical certificate
28 program and technical degree program. This information must be
29 aggregated to the state level and must be included in any
30 accountability reports. A program that was created or modified
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1 so that placement rates cannot be calculated must be so
2 identified in such reports.

3 (b)1. Each district school board shall publish, at a
4 minimum, the most recently available placement rate for each
5 technical certificate program conducted by that school
6 district at the secondary school level and at the technical
7 degree level. The placement rates for the preceding 3 years
8 shall be published if available, shall be included in each
9 publication that informs the public of the availability of the
10 program, and shall be made available to each school guidance
11 counselor. If a program does not have a placement rate, a
12 publication that lists or describes that program must state
13 that the rate is unavailable.

14 2. Each community college shall publish, at a minimum,
15 the most recent placement rate for each technical certificate
16 program and for each technical degree program in its annual
17 catalog. The placement rates for the preceding 3 years shall
18 be published, if available, and shall be included in any
19 publication that informs the public of the availability of the
20 program. If a program does not have a placement rate, the
21 publication that lists or describes that program must state
22 that the rate is unavailable.

23 3. If a school district or a community college has
24 calculated for a program a placement rate that differs from
25 the rate reported by the department, and if each record of a
26 placement was obtained through a process that was capable of
27 being audited, procedurally sound, and consistent statewide,
28 the district or the community college may use the locally
29 calculated placement rate in the report required by this
30 section. However, that rate may not be combined with the rate
31 maintained in the computer files of the Department of

1 Education's Florida Education and Training Placement
2 Information Program.

3 4. An independent career and technical, trade, or
4 business school may not publish a placement rate unless the
5 placement rate was determined as provided by this section.

6 Section 388. Section 1008.43, Florida Statutes, is
7 created to read:

8 1008.43 Career and technical program reporting
9 requirements.--

10 (1)(a) The Department of Education shall develop a
11 system of performance measures in order to evaluate the career
12 and technical education programs as required in s. 1008.42.
13 This system must measure program enrollment, completion rates,
14 placement rates, and amount of earnings at the time of
15 placement. Placement and employment information, where
16 applicable, shall contain data relevant to job retention,
17 including retention rates. The State Board of Education shall
18 adopt by rule the specific measures and any definitions needed
19 to establish the system of performance measures.

20 (b) To measure and report program enrollment and
21 completion rates, the Department of Education shall use data
22 in the automated student databases generated by the public
23 schools and community colleges. To measure and report
24 placement rates and amount of earnings at the time of
25 placement, the department shall use data in the reports
26 produced by the Florida Education and Training Placement
27 Information Program as required in s. 1008.39. If any
28 placement information is not available from the Florida
29 Education and Training Placement Information Program, the
30 school district or the community college may provide placement
31 information collected by the school district or the community

1 college. However, this supplemental information must be
2 verifiable by the department and must not be commingled with
3 the database maintained by the Florida Education and Training
4 Placement Information Program. The State Board of Education
5 shall specify by rule the statistically valid, verifiable,
6 uniform procedures by which school districts and community
7 colleges may collect and report placement information to
8 supplement the reports from the Florida Education and Training
9 Placement Information Program.

10 (c) The State Board of Education shall adopt standards
11 for the department, district school boards, and community
12 college district boards of trustees to use in program
13 planning, program review, and program evaluation. The
14 standards must include, at a minimum, the completion rates,
15 placement rates, and earnings from employment of former
16 students of career and technical education programs.

17 (2) The State Board of Education shall adopt
18 procedures for reviewing the career and technical education
19 programs administered by the district school boards and the
20 community college district boards of trustees when program
21 performance falls below the standards required by this
22 section.

23 (3) Annually the department shall compile the reports
24 submitted in compliance with the rules adopted under this
25 section and shall produce a statewide report that addresses
26 the extent to which school districts and community colleges
27 are meeting the standards established under paragraph (1)(c).

28 (4) The State Board of Education may adopt rules
29 necessary to administer this section.

30 Section 389. Section 1008.45, Florida Statutes, is
31 created to read:

1 1008.45 Community college accountability process.--
2 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature that a
3 management and accountability process be implemented which
4 provides for the systematic, ongoing improvement and
5 assessment of the improvement of the quality and efficiency of
6 the Florida community colleges. Accordingly, the State Board
7 of Education and the community college boards of trustees
8 shall develop and implement an accountability plan to improve
9 and evaluate the instructional and administrative efficiency
10 and effectiveness of the Florida Community College System.
11 This plan shall be designed in consultation with staff of the
12 Governor and the Legislature and must address the following
13 issues:
14 (a) Graduation rates of A.A. and A.S. degree-seeking
15 students compared to first-time-enrolled students seeking the
16 associate degree.
17 (b) Minority student enrollment and retention rates.
18 (c) Student performance, including student performance
19 in college-level academic skills, mean grade point averages
20 for community college A.A. transfer students, and community
21 college student performance on state licensure examinations.
22 (d) Job placement rates of community college career
23 and technical students.
24 (e) Student progression by admission status and
25 program.
26 (f) Career and technical accountability standards
27 identified in s. 1008.42.
28 (g) Institutional assessment efforts related to the
29 requirements of s. III in the Criteria for Accreditation of
30 the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of
31 Colleges and Schools.

1 (h) Other measures as identified by the Council for
2 Education Policy Research and Improvement and approved by the
3 State Board of Education.

4 (2) The State Board of Education shall submit an
5 annual report, to coincide with the submission of the agency
6 strategic plan required by law, providing the results of
7 initiatives taken during the prior year and the initiatives
8 and related objective performance measures proposed for the
9 next year.

10 (3) The State Board of Education shall address within
11 the annual evaluation of the performance of the executive
12 director, and the community college boards of trustees shall
13 address within the annual evaluation of the presidents, the
14 achievement of the performance goals established by the
15 accountability process.

16 Section 390. Section 1008.46, Florida Statutes, is
17 created to read:

18 1008.46 State university accountability process.--It
19 is the intent of the Legislature that an accountability
20 process be implemented that provides for the systematic,
21 ongoing evaluation of quality and effectiveness of state
22 universities. It is further the intent of the Legislature that
23 this accountability process monitor performance at the system
24 level in each of the major areas of instruction, research, and
25 public service, while recognizing the differing missions of
26 each of the state universities. The accountability process
27 shall provide for the adoption of systemwide performance
28 standards and performance goals for each standard identified
29 through a collaborative effort involving state universities,
30 the Legislature, and the Governor's Office. These standards
31 and goals shall be consistent with s. 216.011(1) to maintain

1 congruity with the performance-based budgeting process. This
2 process requires that university accountability reports
3 reflect measures defined through performance-based budgeting.
4 The performance-based budgeting measures must also reflect the
5 elements of teaching, research, and service inherent in the
6 missions of the state universities.

7 (1) By December 31 of each year, the State Board of
8 Education shall submit an annual accountability report
9 providing information on the implementation of performance
10 standards, actions taken to improve university achievement of
11 performance goals, the achievement of performance goals during
12 the prior year, and initiatives to be undertaken during the
13 next year. The accountability reports shall be designed in
14 consultation with the Governor's Office, the Office of Program
15 Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, and the
16 Legislature.

17 (2) The State Board of Education shall recommend in
18 the annual accountability report any appropriate modifications
19 to this section.

20 Section 391. Part III of chapter 1008, Florida
21 Statutes, shall be entitled "Council for Education Policy
22 Research and Improvement (CEPRI)" and shall consist of s.
23 1008.51.

24 Section 392. Section 1008.51, Florida Statutes, is
25 created to read:

26 1008.51 Council for Education Policy Research and
27 Improvement.--The Council for Education Policy Research and
28 Improvement is created as an independent office under the
29 Office of Legislative Services, pursuant to s. 11.147. The
30 council shall conduct and review education research, provide
31 independent analysis on education progress, and provide

1 independent evaluation of education issues of statewide
2 concern. The Office of Legislative Services shall provide
3 administrative functions of the council, pursuant to joint
4 policies of the Legislature.

5 (1) The council shall serve as a citizen board for
6 independent policy research and analysis. The council shall be
7 composed of five members appointed by the Governor, two
8 members appointed by the Speaker of the House of
9 Representatives, and two members appointed by the President of
10 the Senate. Each member shall be appointed for a term of 6
11 years. However, for purposes of continuity, the Governor shall
12 appoint two members, the Speaker of the House of
13 Representatives shall appoint one member, and the President of
14 the Senate shall appoint one member for a first term of 4
15 years. Members appointed for 4 years may be reappointed to one
16 additional term. Members shall not include elected officials
17 or employees of public or independent education entities.
18 Members who miss two consecutive meetings may be replaced by
19 the appointing officer.

20 (2) The council shall meet as often as it considers
21 necessary to carry out its duties and responsibilities.
22 Members shall be paid travel and per diem expenses as provided
23 in s. 112.061 while performing their duties under this
24 section.

25 (3) The council shall appoint an executive director,
26 who shall serve at the pleasure of the council and shall
27 perform the duties assigned to him or her by the council. The
28 executive director is the chief administrative officer of the
29 council and shall appoint all employees and staff members of
30 the council, who shall serve under the executive director's
31 direction and control.

- 1 (4) The council shall:
2 (a) Provide state policymakers, educators, and the
3 public with objective and timely information that supports the
4 seamless K-20 education system and the K-20 education
5 accountability process designed to provide all students an
6 opportunity for a high-quality education, in accordance with
7 the policies and guiding principles of s. 1000.02 and the
8 performance accountability system in s. 1008.31.
9 (b) Explore national and state emerging educational
10 issues and examine how these issues should be addressed by
11 education institutions in Florida.
12 (c) Prepare and submit to the State Board of Education
13 a long-range master plan for education. The plan must include
14 consideration of the promotion of quality, fundamental
15 educational goals, programmatic access, needs for remedial
16 education, regional and state economic development,
17 international education programs, demographic patterns,
18 student demand for programs, needs of particular subgroups of
19 the population, implementation of innovative educational
20 techniques and technology, and requirements of the labor
21 market. The plan must evaluate the capacity of existing
22 programs in public and independent institutions to respond to
23 identified needs, and the council shall recommend efficient
24 alternatives to address unmet needs. The council shall update
25 the master plan at least every 5 years.
26 (d) Prepare and submit for approval by the State Board
27 of Education a long-range performance plan for K-20 education
28 in Florida, and annually review and recommend improvement in
29 the implementation of the plan.
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1 (e) Annually report on the progress of public schools
2 and postsecondary education institutions toward meeting
3 educational goals and standards as defined by s. 1008.31.

4 (f) Recommend to the Legislature and the State Board
5 of Education legislation and rules for the educational
6 accountability system that support the policies and guiding
7 principles of s. 1000.02.

8 (g) Recommend to the State Board of Education
9 revisions and new initiatives to further improve the K-20
10 education accountability system.

11 (h) Provide public education institutions and the
12 public with information on the K-20 education accountability
13 system, recommend refinements and improvements, and evaluate
14 issues pertaining to student learning gains.

15 (i) On its own initiative or in response to the
16 Governor, the Legislature, the State Board of Education, or
17 the Commissioner of Education, issue reports and
18 recommendations on matters relating to any education sector.

19 (j) By January 1, 2003, and on a 3-year cycle
20 thereafter, review and make recommendations to the Legislature
21 regarding the activities of research centers and institutes
22 supported with state funds to assess the return on the state's
23 investment in research conducted by public postsecondary
24 education institutions, in coordination with the Leadership
25 Board for Applied Research and Public Service, created
26 pursuant to s. 1004.58.

27 (k) Apply for and receive grants for the study of K-20
28 education system improvement consistent with its
29 responsibilities.

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1 (1) Assist the State Board of Education in the conduct
2 of its educational responsibilities in such capacities as the
3 board considers appropriate.
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1 Section 393. Chapter 1009, Florida Statutes, shall be
2 entitled "Educational Scholarships, Fees, and Financial
3 Assistance" and shall consist of ss. 1009.01-1009.9994.

4 Section 394. Part I of chapter 1009, Florida Statutes,
5 shall be entitled "General Provisions" and shall consist of s.
6 1009.01.

7 Section 395. Section 1009.01, Florida Statutes, is
8 created to read:

9 1009.01 Definitions.--The term:

10 (1) "Tuition" means the basic fee charged to a student
11 for instruction provided by a public postsecondary educational
12 institution in this state. A charge for any other purpose
13 shall not be included within this fee.

14 (2) "Out-of-state fee" means the additional fee for
15 instruction provided by a public postsecondary educational
16 institution in this state, which fee is charged to a
17 non-Florida student as defined in rules of the State Board of
18 Education. A charge for any other purpose shall not be
19 included within this fee.

20 Section 396. Part II of chapter 1009, Florida
21 Statutes, shall be entitled "Postsecondary Student Fees" and
22 shall consist of ss. 1009.21-1009.29.

23 Section 397. Section 1009.21, Florida Statutes, is
24 created to read:

25 1009.21 Determination of resident status for tuition
26 purposes.--Students shall be classified as residents or
27 nonresidents for the purpose of assessing tuition in community
28 colleges and state universities.

29 (1) As used in this section:

30 (a) The term "dependent child" means any person,
31 whether or not living with his or her parent, who is eligible

1 to be claimed by his or her parent as a dependent under the
2 federal income tax code.

3 (b) The term "institution of higher education" means
4 any public community college or state university.

5 (c) A "legal resident" or "resident" is a person who
6 has maintained his or her residence in this state for the
7 preceding year, has purchased a home which is occupied by him
8 or her as his or her residence, or has established a domicile
9 in this state pursuant to s. 222.17.

10 (d) The term "parent" means the natural or adoptive
11 parent or legal guardian of a dependent child.

12 (e) A "resident for tuition purposes" is a person who
13 qualifies as provided in subsection (2) for the in-state
14 tuition rate; a "nonresident for tuition purposes" is a person
15 who does not qualify for the in-state tuition rate.

16 (2)(a) To qualify as a resident for tuition purposes:

17 1. A person or, if that person is a dependent child,
18 his or her parent or parents must have established legal
19 residence in this state and must have maintained legal
20 residence in this state for at least 12 months immediately
21 prior to his or her qualification.

22 2. Every applicant for admission to an institution of
23 higher education shall be required to make a statement as to
24 his or her length of residence in the state and, further,
25 shall establish that his or her presence or, if the applicant
26 is a dependent child, the presence of his or her parent or
27 parents in the state currently is, and during the requisite
28 12-month qualifying period was, for the purpose of maintaining
29 a bona fide domicile, rather than for the purpose of
30 maintaining a mere temporary residence or abode incident to
31 enrollment in an institution of higher education.

1 (b) However, with respect to a dependent child living
2 with an adult relative other than the child's parent, such
3 child may qualify as a resident for tuition purposes if the
4 adult relative is a legal resident who has maintained legal
5 residence in this state for at least 12 months immediately
6 prior to the child's qualification, provided the child has
7 resided continuously with such relative for the 5 years
8 immediately prior to the child's qualification, during which
9 time the adult relative has exercised day-to-day care,
10 supervision, and control of the child.

11 (c) The legal residence of a dependent child whose
12 parents are divorced, separated, or otherwise living apart
13 will be deemed to be this state if either parent is a legal
14 resident of this state, regardless of which parent is entitled
15 to claim, and does in fact claim, the minor as a dependent
16 pursuant to federal individual income tax provisions.

17 (3) An individual shall not be classified as a
18 resident for tuition purposes and, thus, shall not be eligible
19 to receive the in-state tuition rate until he or she has
20 provided such evidence related to legal residence and its
21 duration as may be required by officials of the institution of
22 higher education from which he or she seeks the in-state
23 tuition rate.

24 (4) With respect to a dependent child, the legal
25 residence of such individual's parent or parents is prima
26 facie evidence of the individual's legal residence, which
27 evidence may be reinforced or rebutted, relative to the age
28 and general circumstances of the individual, by the other
29 evidence of legal residence required of or presented by the
30 individual. However, the legal residence of an individual
31 whose parent or parents are domiciled outside this state is

1 not prima facie evidence of the individual's legal residence
2 if that individual has lived in this state for 5 consecutive
3 years prior to enrolling or reregistering at the institution
4 of higher education at which resident status for tuition
5 purposes is sought.

6 (5) In making a domiciliary determination related to
7 the classification of a person as a resident or nonresident
8 for tuition purposes, the domicile of a married person,
9 irrespective of sex, shall be determined, as in the case of an
10 unmarried person, by reference to all relevant evidence of
11 domiciliary intent. For the purposes of this section:

12 (a) A person shall not be precluded from establishing
13 or maintaining legal residence in this state and subsequently
14 qualifying or continuing to qualify as a resident for tuition
15 purposes solely by reason of marriage to a person domiciled
16 outside this state, even when that person's spouse continues
17 to be domiciled outside of this state, provided such person
18 maintains his or her legal residence in this state.

19 (b) A person shall not be deemed to have established
20 or maintained a legal residence in this state and subsequently
21 to have qualified or continued to qualify as a resident for
22 tuition purposes solely by reason of marriage to a person
23 domiciled in this state.

24 (c) In determining the domicile of a married person,
25 irrespective of sex, the fact of the marriage and the place of
26 domicile of such person's spouse shall be deemed relevant
27 evidence to be considered in ascertaining domiciliary intent.

28 (6) Any nonresident person, irrespective of sex, who
29 marries a legal resident of this state or marries a person who
30 later becomes a legal resident may, upon becoming a legal
31 resident of this state, accede to the benefit of the spouse's

1 immediately precedent duration as a legal resident for
2 purposes of satisfying the 12-month durational requirement of
3 this section.

4 (7) A person shall not lose his or her resident status
5 for tuition purposes solely by reason of serving, or, if such
6 person is a dependent child, by reason of his or her parent's
7 or parents' serving, in the Armed Forces outside this state.

8 (8) A person who has been properly classified as a
9 resident for tuition purposes but who, while enrolled in an
10 institution of higher education in this state, loses his or
11 her resident tuition status because the person or, if he or
12 she is a dependent child, the person's parent or parents
13 establish domicile or legal residence elsewhere shall continue
14 to enjoy the in-state tuition rate for a statutory grace
15 period, which period shall be measured from the date on which
16 the circumstances arose that culminated in the loss of
17 resident tuition status and shall continue for 12 months.
18 However, if the 12-month grace period ends during a semester
19 or academic term for which such former resident is enrolled,
20 such grace period shall be extended to the end of that
21 semester or academic term.

22 (9) Any person who ceases to be enrolled at or who
23 graduates from an institution of higher education while
24 classified as a resident for tuition purposes and who
25 subsequently abandons his or her domicile in this state shall
26 be permitted to reenroll at an institution of higher education
27 in this state as a resident for tuition purposes without the
28 necessity of meeting the 12-month durational requirement of
29 this section if that person has reestablished his or her
30 domicile in this state within 12 months of such abandonment
31 and continuously maintains the reestablished domicile during

1 the period of enrollment. The benefit of this subsection shall
2 not be accorded more than once to any one person.

3 (10) The following persons shall be classified as
4 residents for tuition purposes:

5 (a) Active duty members of the Armed Services of the
6 United States residing or stationed in this state, their
7 spouses, and dependent children.

8 (b) Active duty members of the Armed Services of the
9 United States and their spouses attending a public community
10 college or state university within 50 miles of the military
11 establishment where they are stationed, if such military
12 establishment is within a county contiguous to Florida.

13 (c) United States citizens living on the Isthmus of
14 Panama, who have completed 12 consecutive months of college
15 work at the Florida State University Panama Canal Branch, and
16 their spouses and dependent children.

17 (d) Full-time instructional and administrative
18 personnel employed by state public schools, community
19 colleges, and institutions of higher education, as defined in
20 s. 1000.04, and their spouses and dependent children.

21 (e) Students from Latin America and the Caribbean who
22 receive scholarships from the federal or state government.
23 Any student classified pursuant to this paragraph shall
24 attend, on a full-time basis, a Florida institution of higher
25 education.

26 (f) Southern Regional Education Board's Academic
27 Common Market graduate students attending Florida's state
28 universities.

29 (g) Full-time employees of state agencies or political
30 subdivisions of the state when the student fees are paid by
31

1 the state agency or political subdivision for the purpose of
2 job-related law enforcement or corrections training.

3 (h) McKnight Doctoral Fellows and Finalists who are
4 United States citizens.

5 (i) United States citizens living outside the United
6 States who are teaching at a Department of Defense Dependent
7 School or in an American International School and who enroll
8 in a graduate level education program which leads to a Florida
9 teaching certificate.

10 (j) Active duty members of the Canadian military
11 residing or stationed in this state under the North American
12 Air Defense (NORAD) agreement, and their spouses and dependent
13 children, attending a community college or state university
14 within 50 miles of the military establishment where they are
15 stationed.

16 (11) The State Board of Education shall by rule
17 designate classifications of students as residents or
18 nonresidents for tuition purposes at community colleges and
19 state universities.

20 Section 398. Section 1009.22, Florida Statutes, is
21 created to read:

22 1009.22 Workforce development postsecondary student
23 fees.--

24 (1) This section applies to students enrolled in
25 workforce development programs who are reported for funding
26 through the Workforce Development Education Fund, except that
27 college credit fees for the community colleges are governed by
28 s. 1009.23.

29 (2) All students shall be charged fees except students
30 who are exempt from fees or students whose fees are waived.

31

1 (3)(a) The Commissioner of Education shall provide to
2 the State Board of Education no later than December 31 of each
3 year a schedule of fees for workforce development education,
4 excluding continuing workforce education, for school districts
5 and community colleges. The fee schedule shall be based on the
6 amount of student fees necessary to produce 25 percent of the
7 prior year's average cost of a course of study leading to a
8 certificate or diploma. Except as otherwise provided by law,
9 fees for students who are not residents for tuition purposes
10 must offset the full cost of instruction. Fee-nonexempt
11 students enrolled in vocational-preparatory instruction shall
12 be charged fees equal to the fees charged for certificate
13 career education instruction. Each community college that
14 conducts college-preparatory and vocational-preparatory
15 instruction in the same class section may charge a single fee
16 for both types of instruction.

17 (b) Fees for continuing workforce education shall be
18 locally determined by the district school board or community
19 college board. However, at least 50 percent of the
20 expenditures for the continuing workforce education program
21 provided by the community college or school district must be
22 derived from fees.

23 (c) The State Board of Education shall adopt a fee
24 schedule for school districts and community colleges that
25 produces the fee revenues calculated pursuant to paragraph
26 (a). The schedule so calculated shall take effect, unless
27 otherwise specified in the General Appropriations Act.

28 (d) The State Board of Education shall adopt, by rule,
29 the definitions and procedures that district school boards
30 shall use in the calculation of cost borne by students.

31

1 (4) A district school board or community college board
2 that has a service area that borders another state may
3 implement a plan for a differential out-of-state fee.

4 (5) Each district school board and community college
5 board of trustees may establish a separate fee for financial
6 aid purposes in an additional amount of up to 10 percent of
7 the student fees collected for workforce development programs
8 funded through the Workforce Development Education Fund. All
9 fees collected shall be deposited into a separate workforce
10 development student financial aid fee trust fund of the school
11 district or community college to support students enrolled in
12 workforce development programs. Any undisbursed balance
13 remaining in the trust fund and interest income accruing to
14 investments from the trust fund shall increase the total funds
15 available for distribution to workforce development education
16 students. Awards shall be based on student financial need and
17 distributed in accordance with a nationally recognized system
18 of need analysis approved by the State Board of Education.
19 Fees collected pursuant to this subsection shall be allocated
20 in an expeditious manner.

21 (6) Each district school board and community college
22 board of trustees may establish a separate fee for capital
23 improvements, technology enhancements, or equipping buildings
24 which may not exceed 5 percent of tuition for resident
25 students or 5 percent of tuition and out-of-state fees for
26 nonresident students. Funds collected by community colleges
27 through these fees may be bonded only for the purpose of
28 financing or refinancing new construction and equipment,
29 renovation, or remodeling of educational facilities. The fee
30 shall be collected as a component part of the tuition and
31 fees, paid into a separate account, and expended only to

1 construct and equip, maintain, improve, or enhance the
2 certificate career education or adult education facilities of
3 the school district or community college. Projects funded
4 through the use of the capital improvement fee must meet the
5 survey and construction requirements of chapter 1013. Pursuant
6 to s. 216.0158, each district school board and community
7 college board of trustees shall identify each project,
8 including maintenance projects, proposed to be funded in whole
9 or in part by such fee. Capital improvement fee revenues may
10 be pledged by a board of trustees as a dedicated revenue
11 source to the repayment of debt, including lease-purchase
12 agreements and revenue bonds, with a term not to exceed 20
13 years, and not to exceed the useful life of the asset being
14 financed, only for the new construction and equipment,
15 renovation, or remodeling of educational facilities. Community
16 colleges may use the services of the Division of Bond Finance
17 of the State Board of Administration to issue any bonds
18 authorized through the provisions of this subsection. Any such
19 bonds issued by the Division of Bond Finance shall be in
20 compliance with the provisions of the State Bond Act. Bonds
21 issued pursuant to the State Bond Act shall be validated in
22 the manner provided by chapter 75. The complaint for such
23 validation shall be filed in the circuit court of the county
24 where the seat of state government is situated, the notice
25 required to be published by s. 75.06 shall be published only
26 in the county where the complaint is filed, and the complaint
27 and order of the circuit court shall be served only on the
28 state attorney of the circuit in which the action is pending.
29 A maximum of 15 cents per credit hour may be allocated from
30 the capital improvement fee for child care centers conducted
31

1 by the district school board or community college board of
2 trustees.

3 (7) Each district school board and community college
4 board of trustees is authorized to establish a separate fee
5 for technology, not to exceed \$1.80 per credit hour or
6 credit-hour equivalent for resident students and not more than
7 \$5.40 per credit hour or credit-hour equivalent for
8 nonresident students, or the equivalent, to be expended in
9 accordance with technology improvement plans. The technology
10 fee may apply only to associate degree programs and courses.
11 Fifty percent of technology fee revenues may be pledged by a
12 community college board of trustees as a dedicated revenue
13 source for the repayment of debt, including lease-purchase
14 agreements, not to exceed the useful life of the asset being
15 financed. Revenues generated from the technology fee may not
16 be bonded.

17 (8) Each district school board and community college
18 board of trustees is authorized to establish specific fees for
19 workforce development instruction not reported for state
20 funding purposes or for workforce development instruction not
21 reported as state funded full-time equivalent students.
22 District school boards and community college boards of
23 trustees are not required to charge any other fee specified in
24 this section for this type of instruction.

25 (9) Community college boards of trustees and district
26 school boards are not authorized to charge students enrolled
27 in workforce development programs any fee that is not
28 specifically authorized by statute. In addition to tuition,
29 out-of-state, financial aid, capital improvement, and
30 technology fees, as authorized in this section, community
31 college boards of trustees and district school boards are

1 authorized to establish fee schedules for the following user
2 fees and fines: laboratory fees; parking fees and fines;
3 library fees and fines; fees and fines relating to facilities
4 and equipment use or damage; access or identification card
5 fees; duplicating, photocopying, binding, or microfilming
6 fees; standardized testing fees; diploma replacement fees;
7 transcript fees; application fees; graduation fees; and late
8 fees related to registration and payment. Such user fees and
9 fines shall not exceed the cost of the services provided and
10 shall only be charged to persons receiving the service.
11 Parking fee revenues may be pledged by a community college
12 board of trustees as a dedicated revenue source for the
13 repayment of debt, including lease-purchase agreements and
14 revenue bonds with terms not exceeding 20 years and not
15 exceeding the useful life of the asset being financed.
16 Community colleges shall use the services of the Division of
17 Bond Finance of the State Board of Administration to issue any
18 revenue bonds authorized by the provisions of this subsection.
19 Any such bonds issued by the Division of Bond Finance shall be
20 in compliance with the provisions of the State Bond Act. Bonds
21 issued pursuant to the State Bond Act shall be validated in
22 the manner established in chapter 75. The complaint for such
23 validation shall be filed in the circuit court of the county
24 where the seat of state government is situated, the notice
25 required to be published by s. 75.06 shall be published only
26 in the county where the complaint is filed, and the complaint
27 and order of the circuit court shall be served only on the
28 state attorney of the circuit in which the action is pending.
29 (10) Each year the State Board of Education shall
30 review and evaluate the percentage of the cost of adult
31 programs and certificate career education programs supported

1 through student fees. For students who are residents for
2 tuition purposes, the schedule adopted pursuant to subsection
3 (3) must produce revenues equal to 25 percent of the prior
4 year's average program cost for college-preparatory and
5 certificate-level workforce development programs. Fees for
6 continuing workforce education shall be locally determined by
7 the district school board or community college board. However,
8 at least 50 percent of the expenditures for the continuing
9 workforce education program provided by the community college
10 or school district must be derived from fees. Except as
11 otherwise provided by law, fees for students who are not
12 residents for tuition purposes must offset the full cost of
13 instruction.

14 (11) Each school district and community college may
15 assess a service charge for the payment of tuition and fees in
16 installments. Such service charge must be approved by the
17 district school board or community college board of trustees.

18 (12) Any school district or community college that
19 reports students who have not paid fees in an approved manner
20 in calculations of full-time equivalent enrollments for state
21 funding purposes shall be penalized at a rate equal to 2 times
22 the value of such enrollments. Such penalty shall be charged
23 against the following year's allocation from the Florida
24 Workforce Development Education Fund or the Community College
25 Program Fund and shall revert to the General Revenue Fund.
26 The State Board of Education shall specify, in rule, approved
27 methods of student fee payment. Such methods must include,
28 but need not be limited to, student fee payment; payment
29 through federal, state, or institutional financial aid; and
30 employer fee payments.

31

1 (13) Each school district and community college shall
2 report only those students who have actually enrolled in
3 instruction provided or supervised by instructional personnel
4 under contract with the district or community college in
5 calculations of actual full-time enrollments for state funding
6 purposes. A student who has been exempted from taking a
7 course or who has been granted academic or technical credit
8 through means other than actual coursework completed at the
9 granting institution may not be calculated for enrollment in
10 the course from which the student has been exempted or for
11 which the student has been granted credit. School districts
12 and community colleges that report enrollments in violation of
13 this subsection shall be penalized at a rate equal to 2 times
14 the value of such enrollments. Such penalty shall be charged
15 against the following year's allocation from the Workforce
16 Development Education Fund and shall revert to the General
17 Revenue Fund.

18 Section 399. Section 1009.23, Florida Statutes, is
19 created to read:

20 1009.23 Community college student fees.--

21 (1) Unless otherwise provided, the provisions of this
22 section apply only to fees charged for college credit
23 instruction leading to an associate in arts degree, an
24 associate in applied science degree, or an associate in
25 science degree and noncollege credit college-preparatory
26 courses defined in s. 1004.02.

27 (2) All students shall be charged fees except students
28 who are exempt from fees or students whose fees are waived.

29 (3) The State Board of Education shall adopt by
30 December 31 of each year a resident fee schedule for the
31 following fall for advanced and professional, associate in

1 science degree, and college-preparatory programs that produce
2 revenues in the amount of 25 percent of the full prior year's
3 cost of these programs. Fees for courses in
4 college-preparatory programs and associate in arts and
5 associate in science degree programs may be established at the
6 same level. In the absence of a provision to the contrary in
7 an appropriations act, the fee schedule shall take effect and
8 the colleges shall expend the funds on instruction. If the
9 Legislature provides for an alternative fee schedule in an
10 appropriations act, the fee schedule shall take effect the
11 subsequent fall semester.

12 (4) Each community college board of trustees shall
13 establish tuition and out-of-state fees, which may vary no
14 more than 10 percent below and 15 percent above the combined
15 total of the fee schedule adopted by the State Board of
16 Education and the technology fee adopted by a board of
17 trustees, provided that any amount from 10 to 15 percent above
18 the fee schedule is used only to support safety and security
19 purposes. In order to assess an additional amount for safety
20 and security purposes, a community college board of trustees
21 must provide written justification to the State Board of
22 Education based on criteria approved by the board of trustees,
23 including, but not limited to, criteria such as local crime
24 data and information, and strategies for the implementation of
25 local safety plans. Should a college decide to increase the
26 tuition fee, the funds raised by increasing the tuition fee
27 must be expended solely for additional safety and security
28 purposes and shall not supplant funding expended in the
29 1998-1999 budget for safety and security purposes.

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1 (5) Except as otherwise provided in law, the sum of
2 nonresident student tuition and out-of-state fees must be
3 sufficient to defray the full cost of each program.

4 (6) A community college board of trustees that has a
5 service area that borders another state may implement a plan
6 for a differential out-of-state fee.

7 (7) Each community college board of trustees may
8 establish a separate activity and service fee not to exceed 10
9 percent of the tuition fee, according to rules of the State
10 Board of Education. The student activity and service fee shall
11 be collected as a component part of the tuition and fees. The
12 student activity and service fees shall be paid into a student
13 activity and service fund at the community college and shall
14 be expended for lawful purposes to benefit the student body in
15 general. These purposes include, but are not limited to,
16 student publications and grants to duly recognized student
17 organizations, the membership of which is open to all students
18 at the community college without regard to race, sex, or
19 religion.

20 (8)(a) Each community college board of trustees is
21 authorized to establish a separate fee for financial aid
22 purposes in an additional amount up to, but not to exceed, 5
23 percent of the total student tuition or out-of-state fees
24 collected. Each community college board of trustees may
25 collect up to an additional 2 percent if the amount generated
26 by the total financial aid fee is less than \$250,000. If the
27 amount generated is less than \$250,000, a community college
28 that charges tuition and out-of-state fees at least equal to
29 the average fees established by rule may transfer from the
30 general current fund to the scholarship fund an amount equal
31 to the difference between \$250,000 and the amount generated by

1 the total financial aid fee assessment. No other transfer from
2 the general current fund to the loan, endowment, or
3 scholarship fund, by whatever name known, is authorized.

4 (b) All funds collected under this program shall be
5 placed in the loan and endowment fund or scholarship fund of
6 the college, by whatever name known. Such funds shall be
7 disbursed to students as quickly as possible. An amount not
8 greater than 40 percent of the fees collected in a fiscal year
9 may be carried forward unexpended to the following fiscal
10 year. However, funds collected prior to July 1, 1989, and
11 placed in an endowment fund may not be considered part of the
12 balance of funds carried forward unexpended to the following
13 fiscal year.

14 (c) Up to 25 percent or \$300,000, whichever is
15 greater, of the financial aid fees collected may be used to
16 assist students who demonstrate academic merit; who
17 participate in athletics, public service, cultural arts, and
18 other extracurricular programs as determined by the
19 institution; or who are identified as members of a targeted
20 gender or ethnic minority population. The financial aid fee
21 revenues allocated for athletic scholarships and fee
22 exemptions provided pursuant to s. 1009.25(3) for athletes
23 shall be distributed equitably as required by s.
24 1000.05(3)(d). A minimum of 75 percent of the balance of these
25 funds for new awards shall be used to provide financial aid
26 based on absolute need, and the remainder of the funds shall
27 be used for academic merit purposes and other purposes
28 approved by the boards of trustees. Such other purposes shall
29 include the payment of child care fees for students with
30 financial need. The State Board of Education shall develop
31 criteria for making financial aid awards. Each college shall

1 report annually to the Department of Education on the revenue
2 collected pursuant to this paragraph, the amount carried
3 forward, the criteria used to make awards, the amount and
4 number of awards for each criterion, and a delineation of the
5 distribution of such awards. The report shall include an
6 assessment by category of the financial need of every student
7 who receives an award, regardless of the purpose for which the
8 award is received. Awards which are based on financial need
9 shall be distributed in accordance with a nationally
10 recognized system of need analysis approved by the State Board
11 of Education. An award for academic merit shall require a
12 minimum overall grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or
13 the equivalent for both initial receipt of the award and
14 renewal of the award.

15 (d) These funds may not be used for direct or indirect
16 administrative purposes or salaries.

17 (9) Any community college that reports students who
18 have not paid fees in an approved manner in calculations of
19 full-time equivalent enrollments for state funding purposes
20 shall be penalized at a rate equal to two times the value of
21 such enrollments. Such penalty shall be charged against the
22 following year's allocation from the Community College Program
23 Fund and shall revert to the General Revenue Fund.

24 (10) Each community college board of trustees is
25 authorized to establish a separate fee for technology, which
26 may not exceed \$1.80 per credit hour or credit-hour equivalent
27 for resident students and not more than \$5.40 per credit hour
28 or credit-hour equivalent for nonresident students, to be
29 expended according to technology improvement plans. The
30 technology fee may apply to both college credit and
31 college-preparatory instruction. Fifty percent of technology

1 fee revenues may be pledged by a community college board of
2 trustees as a dedicated revenue source for the repayment of
3 debt, including lease-purchase agreements, not to exceed the
4 useful life of the asset being financed. Revenues generated
5 from the technology fee may not be bonded.
6 (11) Each community college board of trustees may
7 establish a separate fee for capital improvements, technology
8 enhancements, or equipping student buildings which may not
9 exceed \$1 per credit hour or credit-hour equivalent for
10 residents and which equals or exceeds \$3 per credit hour for
11 nonresidents. Funds collected by community colleges through
12 these fees may be bonded only for the purpose of financing or
13 refinancing new construction and equipment, renovation, or
14 remodeling of educational facilities. The fee shall be
15 collected as a component part of the tuition and fees, paid
16 into a separate account, and expended only to construct and
17 equip, maintain, improve, or enhance the educational
18 facilities of the community college. Projects funded through
19 the use of the capital improvement fee shall meet the survey
20 and construction requirements of chapter 1013. Pursuant to s.
21 216.0158, each community college shall identify each project,
22 including maintenance projects, proposed to be funded in whole
23 or in part by such fee. Capital improvement fee revenues may
24 be pledged by a board of trustees as a dedicated revenue
25 source to the repayment of debt, including lease-purchase
26 agreements and revenue bonds, with a term not to exceed 20
27 years, and not to exceed the useful life of the asset being
28 financed, only for the new construction and equipment,
29 renovation, or remodeling of educational facilities. Community
30 colleges may use the services of the Division of Bond Finance
31 of the State Board of Administration to issue any bonds

1 authorized through the provisions of this subsection. Any such
2 bonds issued by the Division of Bond Finance shall be in
3 compliance with the provisions of the State Bond Act. Bonds
4 issued pursuant to the State Bond Act shall be validated in
5 the manner provided by chapter 75. The complaint for such
6 validation shall be filed in the circuit court of the county
7 where the seat of state government is situated, the notice
8 required to be published by s. 75.06 shall be published only
9 in the county where the complaint is filed, and the complaint
10 and order of the circuit court shall be served only on the
11 state attorney of the circuit in which the action is pending.
12 A maximum of 15 cents per credit hour may be allocated from
13 the capital improvement fee for child care centers conducted
14 by the community college.

15 (12) In addition to tuition, out-of-state, financial
16 aid, capital improvement, student activity and service, and
17 technology fees authorized in this section, each community
18 college board of trustees is authorized to establish fee
19 schedules for the following user fees and fines: laboratory
20 fees; parking fees and fines; library fees and fines; fees and
21 fines relating to facilities and equipment use or damage;
22 access or identification card fees; duplicating, photocopying,
23 binding, or microfilming fees; standardized testing fees;
24 diploma replacement fees; transcript fees; application fees;
25 graduation fees; and late fees related to registration and
26 payment. Such user fees and fines shall not exceed the cost of
27 the services provided and shall only be charged to persons
28 receiving the service. A community college may not charge any
29 fee except as authorized by law or rules of the State Board of
30 Education. Parking fee revenues may be pledged by a community
31 college board of trustees as a dedicated revenue source for

1 the repayment of debt, including lease-purchase agreements and
2 revenue bonds with terms not exceeding 20 years and not
3 exceeding the useful life of the asset being financed.
4 Community colleges shall use the services of the Division of
5 Bond Finance of the State Board of Administration to issue any
6 revenue bonds authorized by the provisions of this subsection.
7 Any such bonds issued by the Division of Bond Finance shall be
8 in compliance with the provisions of the State Bond Act. Bonds
9 issued pursuant to the State Bond Act shall be validated in
10 the manner established in chapter 75. The complaint for such
11 validation shall be filed in the circuit court of the county
12 where the seat of state government is situated, the notice
13 required to be published by s. 75.06 shall be published only
14 in the county where the complaint is filed, and the complaint
15 and order of the circuit court shall be served only on the
16 state attorney of the circuit in which the action is pending.

17 (13) The State Board of Education shall specify, as
18 necessary, by rule, approved methods of student fee payment.
19 Such methods shall include, but not be limited to, student fee
20 payment; payment through federal, state, or institutional
21 financial aid; and employer fee payments.

22 (14) Each community college board of trustees shall
23 report only those students who have actually enrolled in
24 instruction provided or supervised by instructional personnel
25 under contract with the community college in calculations of
26 actual full-time equivalent enrollments for state funding
27 purposes. No student who has been exempted from taking a
28 course or who has been granted academic or technical credit
29 through means other than actual coursework completed at the
30 granting institution shall be calculated for enrollment in the
31 course from which he or she has been exempted or granted

1 credit. Community colleges that report enrollments in
2 violation of this subsection shall be penalized at a rate
3 equal to two times the value of such enrollments. Such penalty
4 shall be charged against the following year's allocation from
5 the Community College Program Fund and shall revert to the
6 General Revenue Fund.

7 (15) Each community college may assess a service
8 charge for the payment of tuition and fees in installments.
9 Such service charge must be approved by the community college
10 board of trustees.

11 (16) The State Board of Education shall adopt a rule
12 specifying the definitions and procedures to be used in the
13 calculation of the percentage of cost paid by students. The
14 rule must provide for the calculation of the full cost of
15 educational programs based on the allocation of all funds
16 provided through the general current fund to programs of
17 instruction, and other activities as provided in the annual
18 expenditure analysis. The rule shall be developed in
19 consultation with the Legislature.

20 Section 400. Section 1009.24, Florida Statutes, is
21 created to read:

22 1009.24 State university student fees.--

23 (1) This section applies to students enrolled in
24 college credit programs at state universities.

25 (2) All students shall be charged fees except students
26 who are exempt from fees or students whose fees are waived.

27 (3) Within proviso in the General Appropriations Act
28 and law, each board of trustees shall set university tuition
29 and fees. The sum of the activity and service, health, and
30 athletic fees a student is required to pay to register for a
31 course shall not exceed 40 percent of the tuition established

1 in law or in the General Appropriations Act. No university
2 shall be required to lower any fee in effect on the effective
3 date of this act in order to comply with this subsection.
4 Within the 40 percent cap, universities may not increase the
5 aggregate sum of activity and service, health, and athletic
6 fees more than 5 percent per year unless specifically
7 authorized in law or in the General Appropriations Act. This
8 subsection does not prohibit a university from increasing or
9 assessing optional fees related to specific activities if
10 payment of such fees is not required as a part of registration
11 for courses.

12 (4) A university that has a service area that borders
13 another state may implement a plan for a differential
14 out-of-state fee.

15 (5) Students who are enrolled in Programs in Medical
16 Sciences are considered graduate students for the purpose of
17 enrollment and student fees.

18 (6) A university board of trustees is authorized to
19 collect for financial aid purposes an amount not to exceed 5
20 percent of the tuition and out-of-state fee. The revenues from
21 fees are to remain at each campus and replace existing
22 financial aid fees. Such funds shall be disbursed to students
23 as quickly as possible. A minimum of 75 percent of funds from
24 the student financial aid fee for new financial aid awards
25 shall be used to provide financial aid based on absolute need.
26 A student who has received an award prior to July 1, 1984,
27 shall have his or her eligibility assessed on the same
28 criteria that were used at the time of his or her original
29 award. The State Board of Education shall develop criteria for
30 making financial aid awards. Each university shall report
31 annually to the Department of Education on the revenue

1 collected pursuant to this subsection, the amount carried
2 forward, the criteria used to make awards, the amount and
3 number of awards for each criterion, and a delineation of the
4 distribution of such awards. The report shall include an
5 assessment by category of the financial need of every student
6 who receives an award, regardless of the purpose for which the
7 award is received. Awards which are based on financial need
8 shall be distributed in accordance with a nationally
9 recognized system of need analysis approved by the State Board
10 of Education. An award for academic merit shall require a
11 minimum overall grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or
12 the equivalent for both initial receipt of the award and
13 renewal of the award.

14 (7) The Capital Improvement Trust Fund fee is
15 established as \$2.44 per credit hour per semester. The
16 building fee is established as \$2.32 per credit hour per
17 semester.

18 (8) Each university board of trustees is authorized to
19 establish separate activity and service, health, and athletic
20 fees. When duly established, the fees shall be collected as
21 component parts of tuition and fees and shall be retained by
22 the university and paid into the separate activity and
23 service, health, and athletic funds.

24 (9)(a) Each university board of trustees shall
25 establish a student activity and service fee on the main
26 campus of the university. The university board may also
27 establish a student activity and service fee on any branch
28 campus or center. Any subsequent increase in the activity and
29 service fee must be recommended by an activity and service fee
30 committee, at least one-half of whom are students appointed by
31 the student body president. The remainder of the committee

1 shall be appointed by the university president. A chairperson,
2 appointed jointly by the university president and the student
3 body president, shall vote only in the case of a tie. The
4 recommendations of the committee shall take effect only after
5 approval by the university president, after consultation with
6 the student body president, with final approval by the
7 university board of trustees. An increase in the activity and
8 service fee may occur only once each fiscal year and must be
9 implemented beginning with the fall term. The State Board of
10 Education is responsible for promulgating the rules and
11 timetables necessary to implement this fee.

12 (b) The student activity and service fees shall be
13 expended for lawful purposes to benefit the student body in
14 general. This shall include, but shall not be limited to,
15 student publications and grants to duly recognized student
16 organizations, the membership of which is open to all students
17 at the university without regard to race, sex, or religion.
18 The fund may not benefit activities for which an admission fee
19 is charged to students, except for
20 student-government-association-sponsored concerts. The
21 allocation and expenditure of the fund shall be determined by
22 the student government association of the university, except
23 that the president of the university may veto any line item or
24 portion thereof within the budget when submitted by the
25 student government association legislative body. The
26 university president shall have 15 school days from the date
27 of presentation of the budget to act on the allocation and
28 expenditure recommendations, which shall be deemed approved if
29 no action is taken within the 15 school days. If any line item
30 or portion thereof within the budget is vetoed, the student
31 government association legislative body shall within 15 school

1 days make new budget recommendations for expenditure of the
2 vetoed portion of the fund. If the university president vetoes
3 any line item or portion thereof within the new budget
4 revisions, the university president may reallocate by line
5 item that vetoed portion to bond obligations guaranteed by
6 activity and service fees. Unexpended funds and undisbursed
7 funds remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall be carried
8 over and remain in the student activity and service fund and
9 be available for allocation and expenditure during the next
10 fiscal year.

11 (10) Each university board of trustees shall establish
12 a student health fee on the main campus of the university. The
13 university board of trustees may also establish a student
14 health fee on any branch campus or center. Any subsequent
15 increase in the health fee must be recommended by a health
16 committee, at least one-half of whom are students appointed by
17 the student body president. The remainder of the committee
18 shall be appointed by the university president. A chairperson,
19 appointed jointly by the university president and the student
20 body president, shall vote only in the case of a tie. The
21 recommendations of the committee shall take effect only after
22 approval by the university president, after consultation with
23 the student body president, with final approval by the
24 university board of trustees. An increase in the health fee
25 may occur only once each fiscal year and must be implemented
26 beginning with the fall term. The State Board of Education is
27 responsible for promulgating the rules and timetables
28 necessary to implement this fee.

29 (11) Each university board of trustees shall establish
30 a separate athletic fee on the main campus of the university.
31 The university board may also establish a separate athletic

1 fee on any branch campus or center. Any subsequent increase in
2 the athletic fee must be recommended by an athletic fee
3 committee, at least one-half of whom are students appointed by
4 the student body president. The remainder of the committee
5 shall be appointed by the university president. A chairperson,
6 appointed jointly by the university president and the student
7 body president, shall vote only in the case of a tie. The
8 recommendations of the committee shall take effect only after
9 approval by the university president, after consultation with
10 the student body president, with final approval by the
11 university board of trustees. An increase in the athletic fee
12 may occur only once each fiscal year and must be implemented
13 beginning with the fall term. The State Board of Education is
14 responsible for promulgating the rules and timetables
15 necessary to implement this fee.

16 (12) Each university board of trustees is authorized
17 to establish the following fees:

18 (a) A nonrefundable application fee in an amount not
19 to exceed \$30.

20 (b) An orientation fee in an amount not to exceed \$35.

21 (c) A fee for security, access, or identification
22 cards. The annual fee for such a card may not exceed \$10 per
23 card. The maximum amount charged for a replacement card may
24 not exceed \$15.

25 (d) Registration fees for audit and zero-hours
26 registration; a service charge, which may not exceed \$15, for
27 the payment of tuition in installments; and a
28 late-registration fee in an amount not less than \$50 nor more
29 than \$100 to be imposed on students who fail to initiate
30 registration during the regular registration period.

31

- 1 (e) A late-payment fee in an amount not less than \$50
2 nor more than \$100 to be imposed on students who fail to pay
3 or fail to make appropriate arrangements to pay (by means of
4 installment payment, deferment, or third-party billing)
5 tuition by the deadline set by each university. Each
6 university may adopt specific procedures or policies for
7 waiving the late-payment fee for minor underpayments.
- 8 (f) A fee for miscellaneous health-related charges for
9 services provided at cost by the university health center
10 which are not covered by the health fee set under subsection
11 (10).
- 12 (g) Materials and supplies fees to offset the cost of
13 materials or supplies that are consumed in the course of the
14 student's instructional activities, excluding the cost of
15 equipment replacement, repairs, and maintenance.
- 16 (h) Housing rental rates and miscellaneous housing
17 charges for services provided by the university at the request
18 of the student.
- 19 (i) A charge representing the reasonable cost of
20 efforts to collect payment of overdue accounts.
- 21 (j) A service charge on university loans in lieu of
22 interest and administrative handling charges.
- 23 (k) A fee for off-campus course offerings when the
24 location results in specific, identifiable increased costs to
25 the university.
- 26 (l) Library fees and fines, including charges for
27 damaged and lost library materials, overdue reserve library
28 books, interlibrary loans, and literature searches.
- 29 (m) Fees relating to duplicating, photocopying,
30 binding, and microfilming; copyright services; and
31

1 standardized testing. These fees may be charged only to those
2 who receive the services.

3 (n) Fees and fines relating to the use, late return,
4 and loss and damage of facilities and equipment.

5 (o) A returned-check fee as authorized by s. 832.07(1)
6 for unpaid checks returned to the university.

7 (p) Traffic and parking fines, charges for parking
8 decals, and transportation access fees.

9 (q) An Educational Research Center for Child
10 Development fee for child care and services offered by the
11 center.

12 (r) Fees for transcripts and diploma replacement, not
13 to exceed \$10 per item.

14 (13) The board of trustees of the University of
15 Florida is authorized to establish an admissions deposit fee
16 for the University of Florida College of Dentistry in an
17 amount not to exceed \$200.

18 (14) Each university may assess a service charge for
19 the payment of tuition and fees in installments. Such service
20 charge must be approved by the university board of trustees.

21 Section 401. Section 1009.25, Florida Statutes, is
22 created to read:

23 1009.25 Fee exemptions.--

24 (1) The following students are exempt from any
25 requirement for the payment of tuition and fees, including lab
26 fees, for adult basic, adult secondary, or
27 vocational-preparatory instruction:

28 (a) A student who does not have a high school diploma
29 or its equivalent.

30 (b) A student who has a high school diploma or its
31 equivalent and who has academic skills at or below the eighth

1 grade level pursuant to state board rule. A student is
2 eligible for this exemption from fees if the student's skills
3 are at or below the eighth grade level as measured by a test
4 administered in the English language and approved by the
5 Department of Education, even if the student has skills above
6 that level when tested in the student's native language.

7 (2) The following students are exempt from the payment
8 of tuition and fees, including lab fees, at a school district
9 that provides postsecondary career and technical programs,
10 community college, or state university:

11 (a) A student enrolled in a dual enrollment or early
12 admission program pursuant to s. 1007.27 or s. 1007.271.

13 (b) A student enrolled in an approved apprenticeship
14 program, as defined in s. 446.021.

15 (c) A student for whom the state is paying a foster
16 care board payment pursuant to s. 409.145(3) or pursuant to
17 parts II and III of chapter 39, for whom the permanency
18 planning goal pursuant to part III of chapter 39 is long-term
19 foster care or independent living, or who is adopted from the
20 Department of Children and Family Services after May 5, 1997.
21 Such exemption includes fees associated with enrollment in
22 vocational-preparatory instruction and completion of the
23 college-level communication and computation skills testing
24 program. Such exemption shall be available to any student
25 adopted from the Department of Children and Family Services
26 after May 5, 1997; however, the exemption shall be valid for
27 no more than 4 years after the date of graduation from high
28 school.

29 (d) A student enrolled in an employment and training
30 program under the welfare transition program. The regional
31 workforce board shall pay the state university, community

1 college, or school district for costs incurred for welfare
2 transition program participants.

3 (e) A student who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate
4 nighttime residence or whose primary nighttime residence is a
5 public or private shelter designed to provide temporary
6 residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or
7 a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used
8 as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

9 (f) A student who is a proprietor, owner, or worker of
10 a company whose business has been at least 50 percent
11 negatively financially impacted by the buy-out of property
12 around Lake Apopka by the State of Florida. Such a student may
13 receive a fee exemption only if the student has not received
14 compensation because of the buy-out, the student is designated
15 a Florida resident for tuition purposes, pursuant to s.
16 1009.21, and the student has applied for and been denied
17 financial aid, pursuant to s. 1009.40, which would have
18 provided, at a minimum, payment of all student fees. The
19 student is responsible for providing evidence to the
20 postsecondary education institution verifying that the
21 conditions of this paragraph have been met, including support
22 documentation provided by the Department of Revenue. The
23 student must be currently enrolled in, or begin coursework
24 within, a program area by fall semester 2000. The exemption
25 is valid for a period of 4 years from the date that the
26 postsecondary education institution confirms that the
27 conditions of this paragraph have been met.

28 (3) Each community college is authorized to grant
29 student fee exemptions from all fees adopted by the State
30 Board of Education and the community college board of trustees
31

1 for up to 40 full-time equivalent students at each
2 institution.

3 Section 402. Section 1009.26, Florida Statutes, is
4 created to read:

5 1009.26 Fee waivers.--

6 (1) School districts and community colleges may waive
7 fees for any fee-nonexempt student. The total value of fee
8 waivers granted by the school district or community college
9 may not exceed the amount established annually in the General
10 Appropriations Act. Any student whose fees are waived in
11 excess of the authorized amount may not be reported for state
12 funding purposes. Any school district or community college
13 that waives fees and requests state funding for a student in
14 violation of the provisions of this section shall be penalized
15 at a rate equal to 2 times the value of the full-time student
16 enrollment reported.

17 (2) A state university may waive any or all
18 application, tuition, and related fees for persons who
19 supervise student interns for a state university.

20 (3) A university board of trustees is authorized to
21 permit full-time university employees who meet academic
22 requirements to enroll for up to 6 credit hours of
23 tuition-free courses per term on a space-available basis.

24 (4) A state university may waive any or all
25 application, tuition, and related fees for persons 60 years of
26 age or older who are residents of this state and who attend
27 classes for credit. No academic credit shall be awarded for
28 attendance in classes for which fees are waived under this
29 subsection. This privilege may be granted only on a
30 space-available basis, if such classes are not filled as of
31 the close of registration. A university may limit or deny the

1 privilege for courses which are in programs for which the
2 State Board of Education has established selective admissions
3 criteria. Persons paying full fees and state employees taking
4 courses on a space-available basis shall have priority over
5 those persons whose fees are waived in all cases where
6 classroom spaces are limited.

7 (5) Any graduate student enrolled in a state-approved
8 school psychology training program shall be entitled to a
9 waiver of registration fees for internship credit hours
10 applicable to an internship in the public school system under
11 the supervision of a Department of Education certified school
12 psychologist employed by the school system.

13 (6) The State Board of Education may establish rules
14 to allow for the waiver of out-of-state fees for
15 nondegree-seeking students enrolled at a state university if
16 the earned student credit hours generated by such students are
17 nonfundable and the direct cost for the program of study is
18 recovered from the fees charged to all students.

19 (7) The spouse of a deceased state employee is
20 entitled, when eligible for the payment of student fees by the
21 state as employer pursuant to s. 440.16, in lieu of such
22 payment, to a full waiver of student fees for up to 80
23 semester hours in any community college.

24 (8) Fees shall be waived for certain members of the
25 active Florida National Guard pursuant to s. 250.10(8).

26 Section 403. Section 1009.265, Florida Statutes, is
27 created to read:

28 1009.265 State employee fee waivers.--

29 (1) As a benefit to the employer and employees of the
30 state, subject to approval by an employee's agency head or the
31 equivalent, each state university and community college shall

1 waive tuition and fees for state employees to enroll for up to
2 6 credit hours of courses per term on a space-available basis.

3 (2) The Comptroller, in cooperation with the community
4 colleges and state universities, shall identify and implement
5 ways to ease the administrative burden to community colleges
6 and state universities, including, but not limited to,
7 providing easier access to verify state employment.

8 (3) From funds appropriated by the Legislature for
9 implementation of this section, community colleges and state
10 universities shall be reimbursed for administrative costs on a
11 pro rata basis according to the cost assessment data developed
12 by the Department of Education.

13 Section 404. Section 1009.27, Florida Statutes, is
14 created to read:

15 1009.27 Deferral of fees.--

16 (1) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to
17 allow the deferral of tuition and registration fees for
18 students receiving financial aid from a federal or state
19 assistance program when the aid is delayed in being
20 transmitted to the student through circumstances beyond the
21 control of the student. The failure to make timely application
22 for the aid is an insufficient reason to receive a deferral of
23 fees. The rules must provide for the enforcement and
24 collection or other settlement of delinquent accounts.

25 (2) Any veteran or other eligible student who receives
26 benefits under chapter 30, chapter 31, chapter 32, chapter 34,
27 or chapter 35 of Title 38, U.S.C., or chapter 106 of Title 10,
28 U.S.C., is entitled to one deferment each academic year and an
29 additional deferment each time there is a delay in the receipt
30 of benefits.

31

1 (3) Each school district, community college, and state
2 university is responsible for collecting all deferred fees. If
3 a school district, community college, or state university has
4 not collected a deferred fee, the student may not earn state
5 funding for any course for which the student subsequently
6 registers until the fee has been paid.

7 Section 405. Section 1009.28, Florida Statutes, is
8 created to read:

9 1009.28 Fees for repeated enrollment in
10 college-preparatory classes.--A student enrolled in the same
11 college-preparatory class more than twice shall pay 100
12 percent of the full cost of instruction to support continuous
13 enrollment of that student in the same class, and the student
14 shall not be included in calculations of full-time equivalent
15 enrollments for state funding purposes; however, students who
16 withdraw or fail a class due to extenuating circumstances may
17 be granted an exception only once for each class, provided
18 approval is granted according to policy established by the
19 board of trustees. Each community college may review and
20 reduce fees paid by students due to continued enrollment in a
21 college-preparatory class on an individual basis contingent
22 upon the student's financial hardship, pursuant to definitions
23 and fee levels established by the State Board of Education.

24 Section 406. Section 1009.285, Florida Statutes, is
25 created to read:

26 1009.285 Fees for repeated enrollment in
27 college-credit courses.--A student enrolled in the same
28 undergraduate college-credit course more than twice shall pay
29 tuition at 100 percent of the full cost of instruction and
30 shall not be included in calculations of full-time equivalent
31 enrollments for state funding purposes. However, students who

1 withdraw or fail a class due to extenuating circumstances may
2 be granted an exception only once for each class, provided
3 that approval is granted according to policy established by
4 the community college board of trustees or the university
5 board of trustees. Each community college and state university
6 may review and reduce fees paid by students due to continued
7 enrollment in a college-credit class on an individual basis
8 contingent upon the student's financial hardship, pursuant to
9 definitions and fee levels established by the State Board of
10 Education. For purposes of this section, first-time enrollment
11 in a class shall mean enrollment in a class beginning fall
12 semester 1997, and calculations of the full cost of
13 instruction shall be based on the systemwide average of the
14 prior year's cost of undergraduate programs for the community
15 colleges and the state universities. Boards of trustees may
16 make exceptions to this section for individualized study,
17 elective coursework, courses that are repeated as a
18 requirement of a major, and courses that are intended as
19 continuing over multiple semesters, excluding the repeat of
20 coursework more than two times to increase grade point average
21 or meet minimum course grade requirements.

22 Section 407. Section 1009.29, Florida Statutes, is
23 created to read:

24 1009.29 Increased fees for funding financial aid
25 program.--

26 (1) Student tuition and registration fees at each
27 state university and community college shall include up to
28 \$4.68 per quarter, or \$7.02 per semester, per full-time
29 student, or the per-student credit hour equivalents of such
30 amounts. The fees provided for by this section shall be
31 adjusted from time to time, as necessary, to comply with the

1 debt service coverage requirements of the student loan revenue
2 bonds issued pursuant to s. 1009.79. If the Division of Bond
3 Finance of the State Board of Education and the Commissioner
4 of Education determine that such fees are no longer required
5 as security for revenue bonds issued pursuant to ss.
6 1009.78-1009.88, moneys previously collected pursuant to this
7 section which are held in escrow, after administrative
8 expenses have been met and up to \$150,000 has been used to
9 establish a financial aid data processing system for the state
10 universities incorporating the necessary features to meet the
11 needs of all nine universities for application through
12 disbursement processing, shall be reallocated to the
13 generating institutions to be used for student financial aid
14 programs, including, but not limited to, scholarships and
15 grants for educational purposes. Upon such determination, such
16 fees shall no longer be assessed and collected.

17 (2) The Department of Education may, in accordance
18 with rules established by the State Board of Administration,
19 receive and administer grants and donations from any source
20 and, in its discretion, establish criteria, select recipients,
21 and award scholarships and loans from the fees provided for by
22 this section, and fix the interest rates and terms of
23 repayment.

24 Section 408. Part III of chapter 1009, Florida
25 Statutes, shall be entitled "Financial Assistance" and shall
26 consist of ss. 1009.40-1009.96.

27 Section 409. Part III.a. of chapter 1009, Florida
28 Statutes, shall be entitled "General Provisions" and shall
29 consist of ss. 1009.40-1009.44.

30 Section 410. Section 1009.40, Florida Statutes, is
31 created to read:

1 1009.40 General requirements for student eligibility
2 for state financial aid.--

3 (1)(a) The general requirements for eligibility of
4 students for state financial aid awards consist of the
5 following:

6 1. Achievement of the academic requirements of and
7 acceptance at a state university or community college; a
8 nursing diploma school approved by the Florida Board of
9 Nursing; a Florida college, university, or community college
10 which is accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the
11 State Board of Education; any Florida institution the credits
12 of which are acceptable for transfer to state universities;
13 any technical center; or any private technical institution
14 accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the State
15 Board of Education.

16 2. Residency in this state for no less than 1 year
17 preceding the award of aid for a program established pursuant
18 to s. 1009.50, s. 1009.51, s. 1009.52, s. 1009.56, s. 1009.53,
19 s. 1009.54, s. 1009.57, s. 1009.60, s. 1009.60, s. 1009.62, s.
20 1009.63, s. 1009.76, s. 1009.72, s. 1009.73, s. 1009.77, or s.
21 1009.89. Residency in this state must be for purposes other
22 than to obtain an education. Resident status for purposes of
23 receiving state financial aid awards shall be determined in
24 the same manner as resident status for tuition purposes
25 pursuant to s. 1009.21 and rules of the State Board of
26 Education.

27 3. Submission of certification attesting to the
28 accuracy, completeness, and correctness of information
29 provided to demonstrate a student's eligibility to receive
30 state financial aid awards. Falsification of such information
31 shall result in the denial of any pending application and

1 revocation of any award currently held to the extent that no
2 further payments shall be made. Additionally, students who
3 knowingly make false statements in order to receive state
4 financial aid awards shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the
5 second degree subject to the provisions of s. 837.06 and shall
6 be required to return all state financial aid awards
7 wrongfully obtained.

8 (b)1. Eligibility for the renewal of undergraduate
9 financial aid awards shall be evaluated at the end of the
10 second semester or third quarter of each academic year. As a
11 condition for renewal, a student shall:

12 a. Have earned a minimum cumulative grade point
13 average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale; and

14 b. Have earned, for full-time study, 12 credits per
15 term or the equivalent for the number of terms for which aid
16 was received.

17 2. A student who earns the minimum number of credits
18 required for renewal, but who fails to meet the minimum 2.0
19 cumulative grade point average, may be granted a probationary
20 award for up to the equivalent of 1 academic year and shall be
21 required to earn a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a
22 4.0 scale by the end of the probationary period to be eligible
23 for subsequent renewal. A student who receives a probationary
24 award and who fails to meet the conditions for renewal by the
25 end of his or her probationary period shall be ineligible to
26 receive additional awards for the equivalent of 1 academic
27 year following his or her probationary period. Each such
28 student may, however, reapply for assistance during a
29 subsequent application period and may be eligible for an award
30 if he or she has earned a cumulative grade point average of
31 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.

1 3. A student who fails to earn the minimum number of
2 credits required for renewal shall lose his or her eligibility
3 for renewal for a period equivalent to 1 academic year.
4 However, the student may reapply during a subsequent
5 application period and may be eligible for an award if he or
6 she has earned a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0
7 on a 4.0 scale.

8 4. Students who receive state student aid and
9 subsequently fail to meet state academic progress requirements
10 due to verifiable illness or other emergencies may be granted
11 an exception from the academic requirements. Such students
12 shall make a written appeal to the institution. The appeal
13 shall include a description and verification of the
14 circumstances. Verification of illness or other emergencies
15 may include but not be limited to a physician's statement or
16 written statement of a parent or college official. The
17 institution shall recommend exceptions with necessary
18 documentation to the department. The department may accept or
19 deny such recommendations for exception from the institution.

20 (2) These requirements do not preclude higher
21 standards specified in other sections of this part, in rules
22 of the state board, or in rules of a participating
23 institution.

24 (3) Undergraduate students are be eligible to receive
25 financial aid for a maximum of 8 semesters or 12 quarters.
26 However, undergraduate students participating in
27 college-preparatory instruction, students requiring additional
28 time to complete the college-level communication and
29 computation skills testing programs, or students enrolled in a
30 5-year undergraduate degree program are eligible to receive
31 financial aid for a maximum of 10 semesters or 15 quarters.

1 (4) No student is eligible to receive more than one
2 state scholarship that is based on academic merit. Students
3 who qualify for more than one such scholarship shall be
4 notified of all awards for which they qualify and shall be
5 provided the opportunity to accept one of their choosing.

6 Section 411. Section 1009.41, Florida Statutes, is
7 created to read:

8 1009.41 State financial aid; students with a
9 disability.--Notwithstanding the provisions of s.
10 1009.40(1)(b)1.b. regarding the number of credits earned per
11 term, or other financial aid eligibility requirements related
12 to the number of required credits earned per term, a student
13 with a documented disability, as defined by the Americans with
14 Disabilities Act, shall be eligible to be considered for state
15 financial aid while attending an eligible postsecondary
16 institution on a part-time basis. The State Board of Education
17 shall establish the necessary criteria for documentation of
18 the student's disability and the postsecondary institution
19 shall make the determination as to whether or not the
20 disability is such that part-time status is a necessary
21 accommodation. For the purposes of this section, financial aid
22 funds may be prorated based on the number of credit hours
23 taken.

24 Section 412. Section 1009.42, Florida Statutes, is
25 created to read:

26 1009.42 Financial aid appeal process.--

27 (1) The State Board of Education shall adopt, by rule,
28 a procedure for the appeal of errors in eligibility
29 determinations, or failure to transfer awards between eligible
30 institutions, made by the Office of Student Financial
31 Assistance of the Department of Education, regarding

1 applicants' eligibility for receiving state student financial
2 aid awards. The procedure must provide for establishment of a
3 committee to consider appeals that are not resolved by other
4 administrative action. Each committee must be comprised of
5 four members appointed by the Commissioner of Education,
6 including one representative of the Office of Student
7 Financial Assistance; two practicing financial aid
8 administrators from public or private postsecondary
9 institutions in this state, one of whom must be from an
10 institution other than one to which the applicant is seeking
11 admission; and one student enrolled in a public postsecondary
12 institution in this state, nominated by the Florida Student
13 Association. An applicant for state student financial aid who
14 believes an error has been made in determining eligibility for
15 student financial assistance or who believes the department
16 has failed to transfer an award between eligible institutions
17 may appeal the decision in writing to the Office of Student
18 Financial Assistance. The Office of Student Financial
19 Assistance shall investigate the complaint and take
20 appropriate action within 30 days after its receipt of the
21 appeal. If the student wishes further review of the appeal,
22 the Office of Student Financial Assistance shall forward the
23 appeal to the committee. Within 30 days after the receipt of a
24 request for a hearing, a final decision shall be rendered by
25 the committee established under this section, and a copy of
26 the decision shall be provided to the applicant. The decision
27 rendered by the committee constitutes final agency action. A
28 description of the financial aid appeals process shall be
29 included in the application form for each state student
30 financial aid program.

31

1 (2) The president of each state university and each
2 community college shall establish a procedure for appeal, by
3 students, of grievances related to the award or administration
4 of financial aid at the institution.

5 (3) A student involved in a financial aid appeal
6 proceeding is eligible for a deferral of registration and fee
7 payments pursuant to s. 1009.27.

8 Section 413. Section 1009.43, Florida Statutes, is
9 created to read:

10 1009.43 State student financial assistance;
11 authorization for use in program of study in another state or
12 foreign country.--A student who is enrolled in a public or
13 private postsecondary educational institution in this state
14 may apply state student financial assistance towards the cost
15 of a program of study in another state or a foreign country
16 for a period of up to 1 year, if the program of study is
17 offered or promoted by the Florida institution as an integral
18 part of the academic studies of that degree-seeking student or
19 as a program that would enhance the student's academic
20 experience. This program must be approved by the president of
21 the institution in this state or by his or her designee;
22 however, private, postsecondary Florida institutions with
23 out-of-state subsidiary institutions are not authorized to
24 make Florida residents attending their out-of-state subsidiary
25 institutions eligible for Florida financial assistance.

26 Section 414. Section 1009.44, Florida Statutes, is
27 created to read:

28 1009.44 Need-based financial aid; no preference to
29 students receiving other aid.--From the funds collected by
30 state universities and community colleges as a financial aid
31 fee and from other funds appropriated by the Legislature for

1 financial aid from the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund,
2 institutions shall expend those moneys designated as
3 need-based financial aid with no preference given to students
4 who also qualify for merit-based or other financial aid
5 awards.

6 Section 415. Part III.b. of chapter 1009, Florida
7 Statutes, shall be entitled "Scholarships, Grants, and Other
8 Aid" and shall consist of ss. 1009.50-1009.89.

9 Section 416. Section 1009.50, Florida Statutes, is
10 created to read:

11 1009.50 Florida Public Student Assistance Grant
12 Program; eligibility for grants.--

13 (1) There is hereby created a Florida Public Student
14 Assistance Grant Program. The program shall be administered by
15 the participating institutions in accordance with rules of the
16 state board.

17 (2)(a) State student assistance grants through the
18 program may be made only to full-time degree-seeking students
19 who meet the general requirements for student eligibility as
20 provided in s. 1009.40, except as otherwise provided in this
21 section. The grants shall be awarded annually for the amount
22 of demonstrated unmet need for the cost of education and may
23 not exceed an amount equal to the average prior academic year
24 cost of tuition fees and other registration fees for 30 credit
25 hours at state universities or such other amount as specified
26 in the General Appropriations Act, to any recipient. A
27 demonstrated unmet need of less than \$200 shall render the
28 applicant ineligible for a state student assistance grant.
29 Recipients of the grants must have been accepted at a state
30 university or community college authorized by Florida law. No
31 student may receive an award for more than the equivalent of 9

1 semesters or 14 quarters of full-time enrollment, except as
2 otherwise provided in s. 1009.40(3).

3 (b) A student applying for a Florida public student
4 assistance grant shall be required to apply for the Pell
5 Grant. The Pell Grant entitlement shall be considered when
6 conducting an assessment of the financial resources available
7 to each student.

8 (c) Priority in the distribution of grant moneys shall
9 be given to students with the lowest total family resources,
10 in accordance with a nationally recognized system of need
11 analysis. Using the system of need analysis, the department
12 shall establish a maximum expected family contribution. An
13 institution may not make a grant from this program to a
14 student whose expected family contribution exceeds the level
15 established by the department. An institution may not impose
16 additional criteria to determine a student's eligibility to
17 receive a grant award.

18 (d) Each participating institution shall report, to
19 the department by the established date, the eligible students
20 to whom grant moneys are disbursed each academic term. Each
21 institution shall also report to the department necessary
22 demographic and eligibility data for such students.

23 (3) Based on the unmet financial need of an eligible
24 applicant, the amount of a Florida public student assistance
25 grant must be between \$200 and the weighted average of the
26 cost of tuition and other registration fees for 30 credit
27 hours at state universities per academic year or the amount
28 specified in the General Appropriations Act.

29 (4)(a) The funds appropriated for the Florida Public
30 Student Assistance Grant shall be distributed to eligible
31 institutions in accordance with a formula approved by the

1 State Board of Education. The formula shall consider at least
2 the prior year's distribution of funds, the number of
3 full-time eligible applicants who did not receive awards, the
4 standardization of the expected family contribution, and
5 provisions for unused funds.

6 (b) Payment of Florida public student assistance
7 grants shall be transmitted to the president of the state
8 university or community college, or to his or her
9 representative, in advance of the registration period.

10 Institutions shall notify students of the amount of their
11 awards.

12 (c) The eligibility status of each student to receive
13 a disbursement shall be determined by each institution as of
14 the end of its regular registration period, inclusive of a
15 drop-add period. Institutions shall not be required to
16 reevaluate a student's eligibility status after this date for
17 purposes of changing eligibility determinations previously
18 made.

19 (d) Institutions shall certify to the department the
20 amount of funds disbursed to each student and shall remit to
21 the department any undisbursed advances by June 1 of each
22 year.

23 (5) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for state
24 student assistance grants shall be deposited in the State
25 Student Financial Assistance Trust Fund. Notwithstanding the
26 provisions of s. 216.301 and pursuant to s. 216.351, any
27 balance in the trust fund at the end of any fiscal year that
28 has been allocated to the Florida Public Student Assistance
29 Grant Program shall remain therein and shall be available for
30 carrying out the purposes of this section.

31

1 (6) The State Board of Education shall establish rules
2 necessary to implement this section.

3 Section 417. Section 1009.51, Florida Statutes, is
4 created to read:

5 1009.51 Florida Private Student Assistance Grant
6 Program; eligibility for grants.--

7 (1) There is created a Florida Private Student
8 Assistance Grant Program. The program shall be administered by
9 the participating institutions in accordance with rules of the
10 State Board of Education.

11 (2)(a) Florida private student assistance grants from
12 the State Student Financial Assistance Trust Fund may be made
13 only to full-time degree-seeking students who meet the general
14 requirements for student eligibility as provided in s.
15 1009.40, except as otherwise provided in this section. Such
16 grants shall be awarded for the amount of demonstrated unmet
17 need for tuition and fees and may not exceed an amount equal
18 to the average tuition and other registration fees for 30
19 credit hours at state universities plus \$1,000 per academic
20 year, or as specified in the General Appropriations Act, to
21 any applicant. A demonstrated unmet need of less than \$200
22 shall render the applicant ineligible for a Florida private
23 student assistance grant. Recipients of such grants must have
24 been accepted at a baccalaureate-degree-granting independent
25 nonprofit college or university, which is accredited by the
26 Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges
27 and Schools and which is located in and chartered as a
28 domestic corporation by the state. No student may receive an
29 award for more than the equivalent of 9 semesters or 14
30 quarters of full-time enrollment, except as otherwise provided
31 in s. 1009.40(3).

1 (b) A student applying for a Florida private student
2 assistance grant shall be required to apply for the Pell
3 Grant. The Pell Grant entitlement shall be considered when
4 conducting an assessment of the financial resources available
5 to each student.

6 (c) Priority in the distribution of grant moneys shall
7 be given to students with the lowest total family resources,
8 in accordance with a nationally recognized system of need
9 analysis. Using the system of need analysis, the department
10 shall establish a maximum expected family contribution. An
11 institution may not make a grant from this program to a
12 student whose expected family contribution exceeds the level
13 established by the department. An institution may not impose
14 additional criteria to determine a student's eligibility to
15 receive a grant award.

16 (d) Each participating institution shall report, to
17 the department by the established date, the eligible students
18 to whom grant moneys are disbursed each academic term. Each
19 institution shall also report to the department necessary
20 demographic and eligibility data for such students.

21 (3) Based on the unmet financial need of an eligible
22 applicant, the amount of a Florida private student assistance
23 grant must be between \$200 and the average cost of tuition and
24 other registration fees for 30 credit hours at state
25 universities plus \$1,000 per academic year or the amount
26 specified in the General Appropriations Act.

27 (4)(a) The funds appropriated for the Florida Private
28 Student Assistance Grant shall be distributed to eligible
29 institutions in accordance with a formula approved by the
30 State Board of Education. The formula shall consider at least
31 the prior year's distribution of funds, the number of

1 full-time eligible applicants who did not receive awards, the
2 standardization of the expected family contribution, and
3 provisions for unused funds.

4 (b) Payment of Florida private student assistance
5 grants shall be transmitted to the president of the college or
6 university, or to his or her representative, in advance of the
7 registration period. Institutions shall notify students of the
8 amount of their awards.

9 (c) The eligibility status of each student to receive
10 a disbursement shall be determined by each institution as of
11 the end of its regular registration period, inclusive of a
12 drop-add period. Institutions shall not be required to
13 reevaluate a student's eligibility status after this date for
14 purposes of changing eligibility determinations previously
15 made.

16 (d) Institutions shall certify to the department the
17 amount of funds disbursed to each student and shall remit to
18 the department any undisbursed advances by June 1 of each
19 year.

20 (e) Each institution that receives moneys through the
21 Florida Private Student Assistance Grant Program shall cause
22 to be prepared a biennial report that includes an independent
23 external audit of the institution's administration of the
24 program and a complete accounting of moneys in the State
25 Student Financial Assistance Trust Fund allocated to the
26 institution for the program. Such report shall be submitted to
27 the department on or before March 1 every other year. The
28 department may conduct its own annual or biennial audit of an
29 institution's administration of the program and its allocated
30 funds in lieu of the required biennial report and independent
31 external audit. The department may suspend or revoke an

1 institution's eligibility to receive future moneys from the
2 trust fund for the program or request a refund of any moneys
3 overpaid to the institution through the trust fund for the
4 program if the department finds that an institution has not
5 complied with the provisions of this section. Any refund
6 requested pursuant to this paragraph shall be remitted within
7 60 days.

8 (5) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for Florida
9 private student assistance grants shall be deposited in the
10 State Student Financial Assistance Trust Fund. Notwithstanding
11 the provisions of s. 216.301 and pursuant to s. 216.351, any
12 balance in the trust fund at the end of any fiscal year that
13 has been allocated to the Florida Private Student Assistance
14 Grant Program shall remain therein and shall be available for
15 carrying out the purposes of this section and as otherwise
16 provided by law.

17 (6) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
18 necessary to implement this section.

19 Section 418. Section 1009.52, Florida Statutes, is
20 created to read:

21 1009.52 Florida Postsecondary Student Assistance Grant
22 Program; eligibility for grants.--

23 (1) There is created a Florida Postsecondary Student
24 Assistance Grant Program. The program shall be administered by
25 the participating institutions in accordance with rules of the
26 State Board of Education.

27 (2)(a) Florida postsecondary student assistance grants
28 through the State Student Financial Assistance Trust Fund may
29 be made only to full-time degree-seeking students who meet the
30 general requirements for student eligibility as provided in s.
31 1009.40, except as otherwise provided in this section. Such

1 grants shall be awarded for the amount of demonstrated unmet
2 need for tuition and fees and may not exceed an amount equal
3 to the average prior academic year cost of tuition and other
4 registration fees for 30 credit hours at state universities
5 plus \$1,000 per academic year, or as specified in the General
6 Appropriations Act, to any applicant. A demonstrated unmet
7 need of less than \$200 shall render the applicant ineligible
8 for a Florida postsecondary student assistance grant.
9 Recipients of such grants must have been accepted at a
10 postsecondary institution that is located in the state and
11 that is:

- 12 1. A private nursing diploma school approved by the
13 Florida Board of Nursing; or
14 2. A college or university licensed by the Commission
15 for Independent Education, excluding those institutions the
16 students of which are eligible to receive a Florida private
17 student assistance grant pursuant to s. 1009.51.

18
19 No student may receive an award for more than the equivalent
20 of 9 semesters or 14 quarters of full-time enrollment, except
21 as otherwise provided in s. 1009.40(3).

22 (b) A student applying for a Florida postsecondary
23 student assistance grant shall be required to apply for the
24 Pell Grant. The Pell Grant entitlement shall be considered
25 when conducting an assessment of the financial resources
26 available to each student.

27 (c) Priority in the distribution of grant moneys shall
28 be given to students with the lowest total family resources,
29 in accordance with a nationally recognized system of need
30 analysis. Using the system of need analysis, the department
31 shall establish a maximum expected family contribution. An

1 institution may not make a grant from this program to a
2 student whose expected family contribution exceeds the level
3 established by the department. An institution may not impose
4 additional criteria to determine a student's eligibility to
5 receive a grant award.

6 (d) Each participating institution shall report, to
7 the department by the established date, the eligible students
8 to whom grant moneys are disbursed each academic term. Each
9 institution shall also report to the department necessary
10 demographic and eligibility data for such students.

11 (3) Based on the unmet financial need of an eligible
12 applicant, the amount of a Florida postsecondary student
13 assistance grant must be between \$200 and the average cost of
14 tuition and other registration fees for 30 credit hours at
15 state universities plus \$1,000 per academic year or the amount
16 specified in the General Appropriations Act.

17 (4)(a) The funds appropriated for the Florida
18 Postsecondary Student Assistance Grant shall be distributed to
19 eligible institutions in accordance with a formula approved by
20 the State Board of Education. The formula shall consider at
21 least the prior year's distribution of funds, the number of
22 full-time eligible applicants who did not receive awards, the
23 standardization of the expected family contribution, and
24 provisions for unused funds.

25 (b) Payment of Florida postsecondary student
26 assistance grants shall be transmitted to the president of the
27 eligible institution, or to his or her representative, in
28 advance of the registration period. Institutions shall notify
29 students of the amount of their awards.

30 (c) The eligibility status of each student to receive
31 a disbursement shall be determined by each institution as of

1 the end of its regular registration period, inclusive of a
2 drop-add period. Institutions shall not be required to
3 reevaluate a student's eligibility status after this date for
4 purposes of changing eligibility determinations previously
5 made.

6 (d) Institutions shall certify to the department the
7 amount of funds disbursed to each student and shall remit to
8 the department any undisbursed advances by June 1 of each
9 year.

10 (e) Each institution that receives moneys through the
11 Florida Postsecondary Student Assistance Grant Program shall
12 cause to be prepared a biennial report that includes an
13 independent external audit of the institution's administration
14 of the program and a complete accounting of moneys in the
15 State Student Financial Assistance Trust Fund allocated to the
16 institution for the program. Such report shall be submitted
17 to the department on or before March 1 every other year. The
18 department may conduct its own annual or biennial audit of an
19 institution's administration of the program and its allocated
20 funds in lieu of the required biennial report and independent
21 external audit. The department may suspend or revoke an
22 institution's eligibility to receive future moneys from the
23 trust fund for the program or request a refund of any moneys
24 overpaid to the institution through the trust fund for the
25 program if the department finds that an institution has not
26 complied with the provisions of this section. Any refund
27 requested pursuant to this paragraph shall be remitted within
28 60 days.

29 (5) Any institution that was eligible to receive state
30 student assistance grants on January 1, 1989, and that is not
31

1 eligible to receive grants pursuant to s. 1009.51 is eligible
2 to receive grants pursuant to this section.

3 (6) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for Florida
4 postsecondary student assistance grants shall be deposited in
5 the State Student Financial Assistance Trust Fund.

6 Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 216.301 and pursuant to
7 s. 216.351, any balance in the trust fund at the end of any
8 fiscal year that has been allocated to the Florida
9 Postsecondary Student Assistance Grant Program shall remain
10 therein and shall be available for carrying out the purposes
11 of this section and as otherwise provided by law.

12 (7) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
13 necessary to implement this section.

14 Section 419. Section 1009.53, Florida Statutes, is
15 created to read:

16 1009.53 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program.--

17 (1) The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program is
18 created to establish a lottery-funded scholarship program to
19 reward any Florida high school graduate who merits recognition
20 of high academic achievement and who enrolls in a degree
21 program, certificate program, or applied technology program at
22 an eligible Florida public or private postsecondary education
23 institution within 3 years of graduation from high school.

24 (2) The Bright Futures Scholarship Program consists of
25 three types of awards: the Florida Academic Scholarship, the
26 Florida Medallion Scholarship, and the Florida Gold Seal
27 Vocational Scholarship.

28 (3) The Department of Education shall administer the
29 Bright Futures Scholarship Program according to rules and
30 procedures established by the State Board of Education. A
31 single application must be sufficient for a student to apply

1 for any of the three types of awards. The department must
2 advertise the availability of the scholarship program and must
3 notify students, teachers, parents, guidance counselors, and
4 principals or other relevant school administrators of the
5 criteria and application procedures. The department must begin
6 this process of notification no later than January 1 of each
7 year.

8 (4) Funding for the Bright Futures Scholarship Program
9 must be allocated from the Education Enhancement Trust Fund
10 and must be provided before allocations from that fund are
11 calculated for disbursement to other educational entities.

12 (a) If funds appropriated are not adequate to provide
13 the maximum allowable award to each eligible applicant, awards
14 in all three components of the program must be prorated using
15 the same percentage reduction.

16 (b) Notwithstanding s. 216.301, if all funds allocated
17 to the Bright Futures Scholarship Program are not used in any
18 fiscal year, up to 10 percent of the total allocation may be
19 carried forward and used for awards in the following year.

20 (5) The department shall issue awards from the
21 scholarship program annually. Annual awards may be for up to
22 45 semester credit hours or the equivalent. Before the
23 registration period each semester, the department shall
24 transmit payment for each award to the president or director
25 of the postsecondary education institution, or his or her
26 representative, except that the department may withhold
27 payment if the receiving institution fails to report or to
28 make refunds to the department as required in this section.

29 (a) Within 30 days after the end of regular
30 registration each semester, the educational institution shall
31 certify to the department the eligibility status of each

1 student who receives an award. After the end of the drop and
2 add period, an institution is not required to reevaluate or
3 revise a student's eligibility status, but must make a refund
4 to the department if a student who receives an award
5 disbursement terminates enrollment for any reason during an
6 academic term and a refund is permitted by the institution's
7 refund policy.

8 (b) An institution that receives funds from the
9 program shall certify to the department the amount of funds
10 disbursed to each student and shall remit to the department
11 any undisbursed advances within 60 days after the end of
12 regular registration.

13 (c) Each institution that receives moneys through this
14 program shall prepare an annual report that includes an
15 independent external audit or an audit prepared by the Office
16 of the Auditor General. The report shall include an audit of
17 the institution's administration of the program and a complete
18 accounting of the moneys for the program. This report must be
19 submitted to the department annually by March 1. The
20 department may conduct its own annual audit of an
21 institution's administration of the program. The department
22 may request a refund of any moneys overpaid to the institution
23 for the program. The department may suspend or revoke an
24 institution's eligibility to receive future moneys for the
25 program if the department finds that an institution has not
26 complied with this section. The institution must remit within
27 60 days any refund requested in accordance with this
28 subsection.

29 (6) A student enrolled in 6 to 8 semester credit hours
30 may receive up to one-half of the maximum award; a student
31 enrolled in 9 to 11 credit hours may receive up to

1 three-fourths of the maximum award; and a student enrolled in
2 12 or more credit hours may receive up to the full award.

3 (7) A student may receive only one type of award from
4 the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program at a time, but
5 may transfer from one type of award to another through the
6 renewal application process, if the student's eligibility
7 status changes. However, a student is not eligible to transfer
8 from a Florida Medallion Scholarship or a Florida Gold Seal
9 Vocational Scholarship to a Florida Academic Scholarship. A
10 student who receives an award from the program may also
11 receive a federal family education loan or a federal direct
12 loan, and the value of the award must be considered in the
13 certification or calculation of the student's loan
14 eligibility.

15 (8) If a recipient transfers from one eligible
16 institution to another and continues to meet eligibility
17 requirements, the award must be transferred with the student.

18 (9) A student may use an award for summer term
19 enrollment if funds are available.

20 (10) Funds from any scholarship within the Florida
21 Bright Futures Scholarship Program may not be used to pay for
22 remedial or college-preparatory coursework.

23 Section 420. Section 1009.531, Florida Statutes, is
24 created to read:

25 1009.531 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;
26 student eligibility requirements for initial awards.--

27 (1) To be eligible for an initial award from any of
28 the three types of scholarships under the Florida Bright
29 Futures Scholarship Program, a student must:

30 (a) Be a Florida resident as defined in s. 1009.40 and
31 rules of the State Board of Education.

1 (b) Earn a standard Florida high school diploma or its
2 equivalent as described in s. 1003.43 or s. 1003.45 unless:

3 1. The student is enrolled full time in the early
4 admission program of an eligible postsecondary education
5 institution or completes a home education program according to
6 s. 1002.41; or

7 2. The student earns a high school diploma from a
8 non-Florida school while living with a parent or guardian who
9 is on military or public service assignment away from Florida.

10 (c) Be accepted by and enroll in an eligible Florida
11 public or independent postsecondary education institution.

12 (d) Be enrolled for at least 6 semester credit hours
13 or the equivalent in quarter hours or clock hours.

14 (e) Not have been found guilty of, or plead nolo
15 contendere to, a felony charge, unless the student has been
16 granted clemency by the Governor and Cabinet sitting as the
17 Executive Office of Clemency.

18 (f) Apply for a scholarship from the program by high
19 school graduation.

20 (2) A student is eligible to accept an initial award
21 for 3 years following high school graduation and to accept a
22 renewal award for 7 years following high school graduation. A
23 student who applies for an award by high school graduation and
24 who meets all other eligibility requirements, but who does not
25 accept his or her award, may reapply during subsequent
26 application periods up to 3 years after high school
27 graduation.

28 (3) For purposes of calculating the grade point
29 average to be used in determining initial eligibility for a
30 Florida Bright Futures scholarship, the department shall
31

1 assign additional weights to grades earned in the following
2 courses:

3 (a) Courses identified in the course code directory as
4 Advanced Placement, pre-International Baccalaureate, or
5 International Baccalaureate.

6 (b) Courses designated as academic dual enrollment
7 courses in the statewide course numbering system.

8
9 The department may assign additional weights to courses, other
10 than those described in paragraphs (a) and (b), that are
11 identified by the Department of Education as containing
12 rigorous academic curriculum and performance standards. The
13 additional weight assigned to a course pursuant to this
14 subsection shall not exceed 0.5 per course. The weighted
15 system shall be developed and distributed to all high schools
16 in the state prior to January 1, 1998. The department may
17 determine a student's eligibility status during the senior
18 year before graduation and may inform the student of the award
19 at that time.

20 (4) A student who wishes to qualify for a particular
21 award within the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program,
22 but who does not meet all of the requirements for that level
23 of award, may, nevertheless, receive the award if the
24 principal of the student's school or the district
25 superintendent verifies that the deficiency is caused by the
26 fact that school district personnel provided inaccurate or
27 incomplete information to the student. The school district
28 must provide a means for the student to correct the
29 deficiencies and the student must correct them, either by
30 completing comparable work at the postsecondary institution or
31 by completing a directed individualized study program

1 developed and administered by the school district. If the
2 student does not complete the requirements by December 31
3 immediately following high school graduation, the student is
4 ineligible to participate in the program.

5 Section 421. Section 1009.532, Florida Statutes, is
6 created to read:

7 1009.532 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;
8 student eligibility requirements for renewal awards.--

9 (1) To be eligible to renew a scholarship from any of
10 the three types of scholarships under the Florida Bright
11 Futures Scholarship Program, a student must:

12 (a) Complete at least 12 semester credit hours or the
13 equivalent in the last academic year in which the student
14 earned a scholarship.

15 (b) Maintain the cumulative grade point average
16 required by the scholarship program, except that:

17 1. If a recipient's grades fall beneath the average
18 required to renew a Florida Academic Scholarship, but are
19 sufficient to renew a Florida Medallion Scholarship or a
20 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholarship, the Department of
21 Education may grant a renewal from one of those other
22 scholarship programs, if the student meets the renewal
23 eligibility requirements; or

24 2. If, at any time during the eligibility period, a
25 student's grades are insufficient to renew the scholarship,
26 the student may restore eligibility by improving the grade
27 point average to the required level. A student is eligible for
28 such a reinstatement only once. The Legislature encourages
29 education institutions to assist students to calculate whether
30 or not it is possible to raise the grade point average during
31 the summer term. If the institution determines that it is

1 possible, the education institution may so inform the
2 department, which may reserve the student's award if funds are
3 available. The renewal, however, must not be granted until the
4 student achieves the required cumulative grade point average.
5 If the summer term is not sufficient to raise the grade point
6 average to the required renewal level, the student's next
7 opportunity for renewal is the fall semester of the following
8 academic year.

9 (2) A student who is enrolled in a program that
10 terminates in an associate degree or a baccalaureate degree
11 may receive an award for a maximum of 110 percent of the
12 number of credit hours required to complete the program. A
13 student who is enrolled in a program that terminates in a
14 technical certificate may receive an award for a maximum of
15 110 percent of the credit hours or clock hours required to
16 complete the program up to 90 credit hours. A student who
17 transfers from one of these program levels to another becomes
18 eligible for the higher of the two credit hour limits.

19 Section 422. Section 1009.533, Florida Statutes, is
20 created to read:

21 1009.533 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;
22 eligible postsecondary education institutions.--A student is
23 eligible for an award or the renewal of an award from the
24 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program if the student
25 meets the requirements for the program as described in this
26 act and is enrolled in a postsecondary education institution
27 that meets the description in any one of the following
28 subsections:

29 (1) A Florida public university, community college, or
30 technical center.

31

1 (2) An independent Florida college or university that
2 is accredited by an accrediting association whose standards
3 are comparable to the minimum standards required to operate an
4 institution at that level in Florida, as determined by rules
5 of the Commission for Independent Education, and which has
6 operated in the state for at least 3 years.

7 (3) An independent Florida postsecondary education
8 institution that is licensed by the Commission for Independent
9 Education and that:

10 (a) Is authorized to grant degrees;

11 (b) Shows evidence of sound financial condition; and

12 (c) Has operated in the state for at least 3 years
13 without having its approval, accreditation, or license placed
14 on probation.

15 (4) A Florida independent postsecondary education
16 institution that offers a nursing diploma approved by the
17 Board of Nursing.

18 (5) A Florida independent postsecondary education
19 institution that is licensed by the Commission for Independent
20 Education and which:

21 (a) Is authorized to award certificates, diplomas, or
22 credentials other than degrees;

23 (b) Has a program completion and placement rate of at
24 least the rate required by the current Florida Statutes, the
25 Florida Administrative Code, or the Department of Education
26 for an institution at its level; and

27 (c) Shows evidence of sound financial condition; and
28 either:

29 1. Is accredited at the institutional level by an
30 accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department
31 of Education and has operated in the state for at least 3

1 years during which there has been no complaint for which
2 probable cause has been found; or

3 2. Has operated in Florida for 5 years during which
4 there has been no complaint for which probable cause has been
5 found.

6 Section 423. Section 1009.534, Florida Statutes, is
7 created to read:

8 1009.534 Florida Academic Scholars award.--

9 (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Academic
10 Scholars award if the student meets the general eligibility
11 requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship
12 Program and the student:

13 (a) Has achieved a 3.5 weighted grade point average as
14 calculated pursuant to s. 1009.531, or its equivalent, in high
15 school courses that are designated by the State Board of
16 Education as college-preparatory academic courses; and has
17 attained at least the score identified by rules of the State
18 Board of Education on the combined verbal and quantitative
19 parts of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic
20 Assessment Test, or the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test
21 of the College Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on
22 the ACT Assessment Program; or

23 (b) Has attended a home education program according to
24 s. 1002.41 during grades 11 and 12 or has completed the
25 International Baccalaureate curriculum but failed to earn the
26 International Baccalaureate Diploma, and has attained at least
27 the score identified by rules of the Department of Education
28 on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of the
29 Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or
30 the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College
31

1 Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT
2 Assessment Program; or
3 (c) Has been awarded an International Baccalaureate
4 Diploma from the International Baccalaureate Office; or
5 (d) Has been recognized by the merit or achievement
6 programs of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a
7 scholar or finalist; or
8 (e) Has been recognized by the National Hispanic
9 Recognition Program as a scholar recipient.

10

11 A student must complete a program of community service work,
12 as approved by the district school board or the administrators
13 of a nonpublic school, which shall include a minimum of 75
14 hours of service work and require the student to identify a
15 social problem that interests him or her, develop a plan for
16 his or her personal involvement in addressing the problem,
17 and, through papers or other presentations, evaluate and
18 reflect upon his or her experience.

19 (2) A Florida Academic Scholar who is enrolled in a
20 public postsecondary education institution is eligible for an
21 award equal to the amount required to pay tuition, fees, and
22 \$600 for college-related expenses annually. A student who is
23 enrolled in a nonpublic postsecondary education institution is
24 eligible for an award equal to the amount that would be
25 required to pay for the average tuition and fees of a public
26 postsecondary education institution at the comparable level,
27 plus the annual \$600.

28 (3) To be eligible for a renewal award as a Florida
29 Academic Scholar, a student must maintain the equivalent of a
30 cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale with an
31 opportunity for one reinstatement as provided in this chapter.

1 (4) In each school district, the Florida Academic
2 Scholar with the highest academic ranking shall receive an
3 additional award of \$1,500 for college-related expenses. This
4 award must be funded from the Florida Bright Futures
5 Scholarship Program.

6 Section 424. Section 1009.535, Florida Statutes, is
7 created to read:

8 1009.535 Florida Medallion Scholars award.--

9 (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Medallion
10 Scholars award if the student meets the general eligibility
11 requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship
12 Program and the student:

13 (a) Has achieved a weighted grade point average of 3.0
14 as calculated pursuant to s. 1009.531, or the equivalent, in
15 high school courses that are designated by the State Board of
16 Education as college-preparatory academic courses; and has
17 attained at least the score identified by rules of the State
18 Board of Education on the combined verbal and quantitative
19 parts of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic
20 Assessment Test, or the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test
21 of the College Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on
22 the ACT Assessment Program; or

23 (b) Has attended a home education program according to
24 s. 1002.41 during grades 11 and 12 or has completed the
25 International Baccalaureate curriculum but failed to earn the
26 International Baccalaureate Diploma, and has attained at least
27 the score identified by rules of the Department of Education
28 on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of the
29 Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or
30 the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College

31

1 Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT
2 Assessment Program; or

3 (c) Has been recognized by the merit or achievement
4 program of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a
5 scholar or finalist but has not completed a program of
6 community service as provided in s. 1009.534; or

7 (d) Has been recognized by the National Hispanic
8 Recognition Program as a scholar, but has not completed a
9 program of community service as provided in s. 1009.534.

10 (2) A Florida Medallion Scholar is eligible for an
11 award equal to the amount required to pay 75 percent of
12 tuition and fees, if the student is enrolled in a public
13 postsecondary education institution. A student who is enrolled
14 in a nonpublic postsecondary education institution is eligible
15 for an award equal to the amount that would be required to pay
16 75 percent of the tuition and fees of a public postsecondary
17 education institution at the comparable level.

18 (3) To be eligible for a renewal award as a Florida
19 Medallion Scholar, a student must maintain the equivalent of a
20 cumulative grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale with an
21 opportunity for reinstatement one time as provided in this
22 chapter.

23 Section 425. Section 1009.536, Florida Statutes, is
24 created to read:

25 1009.536 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars
26 award.--The Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award is
27 created within the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program
28 to recognize and reward academic achievement and career and
29 technical preparation by high school students who wish to
30 continue their education.

31

1 (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Gold Seal
2 Vocational Scholars award if the student meets the general
3 eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures
4 Scholarship Program and the student:

5 (a) Completes the secondary school portion of a
6 sequential program of studies that requires at least three
7 secondary school career and technical credits taken over at
8 least 2 academic years, and is continued in a planned, related
9 postsecondary education program. If the student's school does
10 not offer such a two-plus-two or tech-prep program, the
11 student must complete a job-preparatory career education
12 program selected by the Workforce Estimating Conference or
13 Workforce Florida, Inc., for its ability to provide high-wage
14 employment in an occupation with high potential for employment
15 opportunities. On-the-job training may not be substituted for
16 any of the three required career and technical credits.

17 (b) Demonstrates readiness for postsecondary education
18 by earning a passing score on the Florida College Entry Level
19 Placement Test or its equivalent as identified by the
20 Department of Education.

21 (c) Earns a minimum cumulative weighted grade point
22 average of 3.0, as calculated pursuant to s. 1009.531, on all
23 subjects required for a standard high school diploma,
24 excluding elective courses.

25 (d) Earns a minimum unweighted grade point average of
26 3.5 on a 4.0 scale for secondary career and technical courses
27 comprising the career and technical program.

28 (2) A Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholar is eligible
29 for an award equal to the amount required to pay 75 percent of
30 tuition and fees, if the student is enrolled in a public
31 postsecondary education institution. A student who is enrolled

1 in a nonpublic postsecondary education institution is eligible
2 for an award equal to the amount that would be required to pay
3 75 percent of the tuition and mandatory fees of a public
4 postsecondary education institution at the comparable level.

5 (3) To be eligible for a renewal award as a Florida
6 Gold Seal Vocational Scholar, a student must maintain the
7 equivalent of a cumulative grade point average of 2.75 on a
8 4.0 scale with an opportunity for reinstatement one time as
9 provided in this chapter.

10 (4) A student may earn a Florida Gold Seal Vocational
11 Scholarship for 110 percent of the number of credit hours
12 required to complete the program, up to 90 credit hours or the
13 equivalent. A Florida Gold Seal Scholar who has a cumulative
14 grade point average of 2.75 in all postsecondary education
15 work attempted may apply for a Florida Medallion Scholars
16 award at any renewal period. All other provisions of that
17 program apply, and the credit-hour limitation must be
18 calculated by subtracting from the student's total eligibility
19 the number of credit hours the student attempted while earning
20 the Gold Seal Vocational Scholarship.

21 Section 426. Section 1009.537, Florida Statutes, is
22 created to read:

23 1009.537 Eligibility for the Florida Bright Futures
24 Scholarship Program; transition.--

25 (1) A student who graduates from high school in 1997
26 or earlier and who is eligible for the Florida Undergraduate
27 Scholar's Program pursuant to former s. 240.402 is eligible
28 for the Florida Academic Scholars award as provided in this
29 act. A student who graduates from high school in 1998 or 1999
30 is eligible for the Florida Academic Scholars award if the
31 student meets the criteria in s. 1009.534. However, in lieu of

1 satisfying the requirements set forth in s. 1009.534(1)(a), a
2 student may meet the following criteria:
3 (a) Complete a program of at least 24 credits in
4 advanced-level studies as prescribed by the State Board of
5 Education, including as a minimum:
6 1. Four years of progressively advanced instruction in
7 language arts, including courses in English composition and
8 literature.
9 2. Four years of progressively advanced instruction in
10 science, including laboratory courses in biology, chemistry,
11 and physics where laboratory facilities are available.
12 3. Four years of progressively advanced instruction in
13 mathematics, including courses in algebra, geometry, and
14 calculus or trigonometry.
15 4. Two years of sequential foreign language.
16 5. One year of instruction in art and music or in
17 either art or music.
18 6. Three years of instruction in social studies,
19 including courses in American history and government, world
20 history, and comparative political and economic systems.
21 7. One year of instruction in health and physical
22 education to include assessment, improvement, and maintenance
23 of personal fitness.
24 (b) Obtain at least the equivalent of an unweighted
25 grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for all courses
26 taken for which high school credit may be granted.
27 (c) Achieve a score of 1180 on the combined verbal and
28 quantitative parts of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the
29 Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered Scholastic
30 Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination, or an
31

1 equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program or an
2 equivalent program.

3 (d) Complete a program of community service work, as
4 approved by the district school board or the administrators of
5 a nonpublic school, which shall include a minimum of 75 hours
6 of service work and require the student to identify a social
7 problem that interests him or her, develop a plan for his or
8 her personal involvement in addressing the problem, and,
9 through papers or other presentations, evaluate and reflect
10 upon his or her experience.

11
12 Students who graduate from high school after 1999 must meet
13 the eligibility criteria pursuant to s. 1009.534.

14 (2) A student who graduates from high school in 1997
15 or earlier and who is eligible for the Florida Vocational Gold
16 Seal Endorsement Scholarship award pursuant to former s.
17 240.4021 is eligible for the Florida Gold Seal Vocational
18 Scholars award as provided in this act. A student who
19 graduates from high school in 1998 or 1999 is eligible for the
20 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award if the student
21 meets the criteria in s. 1009.536. However, in lieu of
22 satisfying the grade point average requirement set forth in s.
23 1009.536(1)(c), a student may earn a minimum cumulative
24 unweighted grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale on all
25 subjects required for a standard high school diploma. Students
26 who graduate from high school after 1999 must meet the
27 eligibility criteria pursuant to s. 1009.536.

28 (3) Effective for the 1997-1998 academic year, a
29 student is eligible for an initial award of a Florida Merit
30 Scholarship if the student:

31

1 (a)1. Is scheduled to graduate from high school in
2 1997;

3 2. Completes, or is enrolled in all courses required
4 to complete, the high school college-preparatory coursework
5 required in this act;

6 3. Achieves an unweighted grade point average of 3.0
7 on a 4.0 scale, or the equivalent, in high school courses that
8 are adopted by the Board of Regents and recommended by the
9 State Board of Community Colleges as college-preparatory
10 academic courses; and

11 4. Earns a score of 970 or above on the combined
12 verbal and quantitative parts of the recentered Scholastic
13 Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination, or an
14 equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program; or

15 (b) Has completed a college-preparatory curriculum in
16 1997 through an approved home school program and has attained
17 a score of 970 on the combined verbal and quantitative parts
18 of the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College
19 Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT
20 Assessment Program. Eligibility shall be determined in the
21 same manner as for public school students. For students whose
22 parents are unable to document a college-preparatory
23 curriculum, a score of 1070 on the SAT, or equivalent score on
24 the ACT, shall be required for award eligibility.

25 Section 427. Section 1009.538, Florida Statutes, is
26 created to read:

27 1009.538 Bright Futures Scholarship recipients
28 attending nonpublic institutions; calculation of
29 awards.--Notwithstanding ss. 1009.53, 1009.534, 1009.535, and
30 1009.536, a student who receives any award under the Florida
31 Bright Futures Scholarship Program, who is enrolled in a

1 nonpublic postsecondary education institution, and who is
2 assessed tuition and fees that are the same as those of a
3 full-time student at that institution, shall receive a fixed
4 award calculated by using the average tuition and fee
5 calculation as prescribed by the Department of Education for
6 full-time attendance at a public postsecondary education
7 institution at the comparable level. If the student is
8 enrolled part-time and is assessed tuition and fees at a
9 reduced level, the award shall be either one-half of the
10 maximum award or three-fourths of the maximum award, depending
11 on the level of fees assessed.

12 Section 1009.5385, Florida Statutes, is created to
13 read:

14 1009.5385 Use of certain scholarship funds by children
15 of deceased or disabled veterans.--The criteria for the use of
16 scholarship funds which apply to students under the Florida
17 Bright Futures Scholarship Program shall also apply to the
18 children of deceased or disabled veterans who receive
19 scholarships under chapter 295.

20 Section 428. Section 1009.539, Florida Statutes, is
21 created to read:

22 1009.539 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Testing
23 Program.--

24 (1) The State Board of Education shall identify the
25 minimum scores, maximum credit, and course or courses for
26 which credit is to be awarded for each College Level
27 Examination Program (CLEP) general examination, CLEP subject
28 examination, College Board Advanced Placement Program
29 examination, and International Baccalaureate examination. In
30 addition, the State Board of Education shall identify such
31

1 courses in the general education core curriculum of each state
2 university and community college.

3 (2) Each community college and state university must
4 award credit for specific courses for which competency has
5 been demonstrated by successful passage of one of these
6 examinations unless the award of credit duplicates credit
7 already awarded. Community colleges and universities may not
8 exempt students from courses without the award of credit if
9 competencies have been so demonstrated.

10 (3) Students eligible for a Florida Academic Scholars
11 award or a Florida Medallion Scholars award who are admitted
12 to and enroll in a community college or state university
13 shall, prior to registering for courses that may be earned
14 through a CLEP examination and no later than registration for
15 their second term, complete at least five examinations from
16 those specified in subsection (1) in the following areas:
17 English; humanities; mathematics; natural sciences; and social
18 sciences. Successful completion of dual enrollment courses,
19 Advanced Placement examinations, and International
20 Baccalaureate examinations taken prior to high school
21 graduation satisfy this requirement. The State Board of
22 Education shall identify the examinations that satisfy each
23 component of this requirement.

24 (4) Each community college and state university shall
25 pay for the CLEP examinations required pursuant to this
26 section from the funds appropriated from the Educational
27 Enhancement Trust Fund. Institutions shall pay no more than
28 \$46 per examination for the program, which shall include
29 access to a student guide to prepare for the test. The
30 Department of Education shall negotiate with the College Board
31 for a reduced rate for the examinations. The institution shall

1 not charge the student for preparation and administration of
2 the test, access to a student guide to prepare for the test,
3 or recordkeeping and reporting of each student's test results
4 to the department.

5 (5) The credit awarded pursuant to this section shall
6 apply toward the 120 hours of college credit required pursuant
7 to s. 1007.25(7).

8 (6) The Department of Education shall track and
9 annually report on the effectiveness of the program, and
10 include information on the number of students participating in
11 the program; the CLEP examinations taken and the passage rate
12 of Florida Academic Scholars and Florida Medallion Scholars
13 award recipients; the use of Advanced Placement and
14 International Baccalaureate examinations and dual enrollment
15 courses to satisfy the requirements of the program; and the
16 course credit provided.

17 Section 429. Section 1009.54, Florida Statutes, is
18 created to read:

19 1009.54 Critical Teacher Shortage Program.--There is
20 created the Critical Teacher Shortage Program. Funds
21 appropriated by the Legislature for the program shall be
22 deposited in the State Student Financial Assistance Trust
23 Fund. The Comptroller shall authorize expenditures from the
24 trust fund upon receipt of vouchers approved by the Department
25 of Education for the critical teacher shortage programs
26 established in s. 1009.57, s. 1009.58, or s. 1009.59. The
27 Comptroller shall also authorize expenditures from the trust
28 fund for the "Chappie" James Most Promising Teacher
29 Scholarship Loan Program and the Critical Teacher Shortage
30 Scholarship Loan Program recipients who participated in these
31 programs prior to July 1, 1993, provided that such students

1 continue to meet the renewal eligibility requirements that
2 were in effect at the time that their original awards were
3 made. Students who participated in the "Chappie" James Most
4 Promising Teacher Scholarship Loan Program prior to July 1,
5 1993, shall not have their awards reduced as a result of the
6 addition of new students to the program. All scholarship loan
7 repayments pursuant to s. 1009.57 shall be deposited into the
8 State Student Financial Assistance Trust Fund. Any remaining
9 balance at the end of any fiscal year that has been allocated
10 to the program shall remain in the trust fund and be available
11 for the individual programs in future years.

12 Section 430. Section 1009.55, Florida Statutes, is
13 created to read:

14 1009.55 Rosewood Family Scholarship Program.--

15 (1) There is created a Rosewood Family Scholarship
16 Program for minority persons with preference given to the
17 direct descendants of the Rosewood families, not to exceed 25
18 scholarships per year. Funds appropriated by the Legislature
19 for the program shall be deposited in the State Student
20 Financial Assistance Trust Fund.

21 (2) The Rosewood Family Scholarship Program shall be
22 administered by the Department of Education. The State Board
23 of Education shall adopt rules for administering this program
24 which shall at a minimum provide for the following:

25 (a) The annual award to a student shall be up to
26 \$4,000 but should not exceed an amount in excess of tuition
27 and registration fees.

28 (b) If funds are insufficient to provide a full
29 scholarship to each eligible applicant, the department may
30 prorate available funds and make a partial award to each
31 eligible applicant.

1 (c) The department shall rank eligible initial
2 applicants for the purposes of awarding scholarships with
3 preference being given to the direct descendants of the
4 Rosewood families. The remaining applicants shall be ranked
5 based on need as determined by the Department of Education.

6 (d) Payment of an award shall be transmitted in
7 advance of the registration period each semester on behalf of
8 the student to the president of the university or community
9 college, or his or her representative, or to the director of
10 the technical school which the recipient is attending.

11 (3) Beginning with the 1994-1995 academic year, the
12 department is authorized to make awards for undergraduate
13 study to students who:

14 (a) Meet the general requirements for student
15 eligibility as provided in s. 1009.40, except as otherwise
16 provided in this section.

17 (b) File an application for the scholarship within the
18 established time limits.

19 (c) Enroll as certificate-seeking or degree-seeking
20 students at a state university, community college, or
21 technical school authorized by law.

22 Section 431. Section 1009.56, Florida Statutes, is
23 created to read:

24 1009.56 Seminole and Miccosukee Indian Scholarships.--

25 (1) There is created a Seminole and Miccosukee Indian
26 Scholarship Program to be administered by the Department of
27 Education in accordance with rules established by the State
28 Board of Education. The Seminole Tribe of Florida and the
29 Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida shall act in an
30 advisory capacity in the development of the rules.

31

1 (2) The department shall award scholarships to
2 students who:

3 (a) Have graduated from high school, have earned an
4 equivalency diploma issued by the Department of Education
5 pursuant to s. 1003.435, have earned an equivalency diploma
6 issued by the United States Armed Forces Institute, or have
7 been accepted through an early admission program;

8 (b) Are enrolled at a state university or community
9 college authorized by Florida law; a nursing diploma school
10 approved by the Board of Nursing; any Florida college,
11 university, or community college which is accredited by an
12 accrediting association whose standards are comparable to the
13 minimum standards required to operate an institution at that
14 level in Florida, as determined by rules of the Commission for
15 Independent Education; or any Florida institution the credits
16 of which are acceptable for transfer to state universities;

17 (c) Are enrolled as either full-time or part-time
18 undergraduate or graduate students and make satisfactory
19 academic progress as defined by the college or university;

20 (d) Have been recommended by the Seminole Tribe of
21 Florida or the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida; and

22 (e) Meet the general requirements for student
23 eligibility as provided in s. 1009.40, except as otherwise
24 provided in this section.

25 (3) Recommendation by the Seminole Tribe of Florida or
26 the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida shall:

27 (a) Be based upon established standards of financial
28 need as determined by the respective tribe and the department;

29 (b) Be based upon such other eligibility requirements
30 for student financial assistance as are adopted by the
31 respective tribe; and

1 (c) Include certification of membership or eligibility
2 for membership in the Seminole Tribe of Florida or the
3 Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida.

4 (4) The amount of the scholarship shall be determined
5 by the Seminole Tribe of Florida or the Miccosukee Tribe of
6 Indians of Florida, for its respective applicants, within the
7 amount of funds appropriated for this purpose. The amount
8 shall be prorated accordingly for part-time students. At the
9 beginning of each semester or quarter, the department shall
10 certify the name of each scholarship holder eligible to
11 receive funds for that registration period to the Comptroller,
12 who shall draw a warrant in favor of each scholarship
13 recipient. Each recipient shall be eligible to have the
14 scholarship renewed from year to year, provided all academic
15 and other requirements of the college or university and rules
16 established by the State Board of Education are met.

17 (5) The Commissioner of Education shall include
18 amounts sufficient for continuation of this program in the
19 legislative budget requests of the department.

20 (6) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for the
21 program shall be deposited in the State Student Financial
22 Assistance Trust Fund.

23 Section 432. Section 1009.57, Florida Statutes, is
24 created to read:

25 1009.57 Florida Teacher Scholarship and Forgivable
26 Loan Program.--

27 (1) There is created the Florida Teacher Scholarship
28 and Forgivable Loan Program to be administered by the
29 Department of Education. The program shall provide scholarship
30 assistance to eligible students for lower-division
31 undergraduate study and loan assistance to eligible students

1 for upper-division undergraduate and graduate study. The
2 primary purpose of the program is to attract capable and
3 promising students to the teaching profession, attract
4 teachers to areas of projected or current critical teacher
5 shortage, attract liberal arts and science graduates to
6 teaching, and provide opportunity for persons making midcareer
7 decisions to enter the teaching profession. The State Board
8 of Education shall adopt rules necessary to administer the
9 program and shall annually identify critical teacher shortage
10 areas.

11 (2) Within the Florida Teacher Scholarship and
12 Forgivable Loan Program shall be established the "Chappie"
13 James Most Promising Teacher Scholarship which shall be
14 offered to a top graduating senior from each public secondary
15 school in the state. An additional number of "Chappie" James
16 Most Promising Teacher Scholarship awards shall be offered
17 annually to graduating seniors from private secondary schools
18 in the state which are listed with the Department of Education
19 and accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and
20 Schools or any other private statewide accrediting agency
21 which makes public its standards, procedures, and member
22 schools. The private secondary schools shall be in compliance
23 with regulations of the Office for Civil Rights. The number
24 of awards to private secondary school students shall be
25 proportional to the number of awards available to public
26 secondary school students and shall be calculated as the ratio
27 of the number of private to public secondary school seniors in
28 the state multiplied by the number of public secondary schools
29 in the state.

30
31

1 (a) The scholarship may be used for attendance at a
2 state university, a community college, or an independent
3 institution as defined in s. 1009.89.

4 (b) The amount of the scholarship is \$1,500 and may be
5 renewed for 1 year if the student earns a 2.5 cumulative grade
6 point average and 12 credit hours per term and meets the
7 eligibility requirements for renewal of the award.

8 (c) To be eligible for the scholarship, a student
9 shall: be ranked within the top quartile of the senior class;
10 have been an active member of a high school future teacher
11 organization, if such organization exists in the student's
12 school; have earned a minimum unweighted cumulative grade
13 point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale; file an application
14 within the application period; meet the general requirements
15 for student eligibility as provided in s. 1009.40, except as
16 otherwise provided in this section; and have the intent to
17 enter the public teaching profession in Florida.

18 (d) Three candidates from each public secondary school
19 and one candidate from each nonpublic secondary school in the
20 state shall be nominated by the principal and a committee of
21 teachers, based on criteria which shall include, but need not
22 be limited to, rank in class, standardized test scores,
23 cumulative grade point average, extracurricular activities,
24 letters of recommendation, an essay, and a declaration of
25 intention to teach in a public school in the state.

26 (e) From public secondary school nominees, the
27 Commissioner of Education shall select a graduating senior
28 from each public high school to receive a scholarship.
29 Selection of recipients from nonpublic secondary schools shall
30 be made by a committee appointed by the Commissioner of
31

1 Education comprised of representatives from nonpublic
2 secondary schools and the Department of Education.

3 (f) Fifteen percent of scholarships awarded shall be
4 to minority students. However, in the event that fewer than
5 15 percent of the total eligible nominees are minority
6 students, the commissioner may allocate all award funds as
7 long as a scholarship is reserved for each eligible minority
8 nominee.

9 (3)(a) Within the Florida Teacher Scholarship and
10 Forgivable Loan Program shall be established the Florida
11 Critical Teacher Shortage Forgivable Loan Program which shall
12 make undergraduate and graduate forgivable loans available to
13 eligible students entering programs of study that lead to a
14 degree in a teaching program in a critical teacher shortage
15 area. To be eligible for a program loan, a candidate shall:

16 1. Be a full-time student at the upper-division
17 undergraduate or graduate level in a teacher training program
18 approved by the department pursuant to s. 1004.04 leading to
19 certification in a critical teacher shortage subject area.

20 2. Have declared an intent to teach, for at least the
21 number of years for which a forgivable loan is received, in
22 publicly funded elementary or secondary schools of Florida in
23 a critical teacher shortage area identified by the State Board
24 of Education. For purposes of this subsection, a school is
25 publicly funded if it receives at least 75 percent of its
26 operating costs from governmental agencies and operates its
27 educational program under contract with a public school
28 district or the Department of Education.

29 3. Meet the general requirements for student
30 eligibility as provided in s. 1009.40, except as otherwise
31 provided in this section.

1 4. If applying for an undergraduate forgivable loan,
2 have maintained a minimum cumulative grade point average of
3 2.5 on a 4.0 scale for all undergraduate work. Renewal
4 applicants for undergraduate loans shall maintain a minimum
5 cumulative grade point average of at least a 2.5 on a 4.0
6 scale for all undergraduate work and have earned at least 12
7 semester credits per term, or the equivalent.

8 5. If applying for a graduate forgivable loan, have
9 maintained an undergraduate cumulative grade point average of
10 at least a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or have attained a Graduate
11 Record Examination score of at least 1,000. Renewal applicants
12 for graduate loans shall maintain a minimum cumulative grade
13 point average of at least a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for all
14 graduate work and have earned at least 9 semester credits per
15 term, or the equivalent.

16 (b) An undergraduate forgivable loan may be awarded
17 for 2 undergraduate years, not to exceed \$4,000 per year, or
18 for a maximum of 3 years for programs requiring a fifth year
19 of instruction to obtain initial teaching certification.

20 (c) A graduate forgivable loan may be awarded for 2
21 graduate years, not to exceed \$8,000 per year. In addition to
22 meeting criteria specified in paragraph (a), a loan recipient
23 at the graduate level shall:

24 1. Hold a bachelor's degree from any college or
25 university accredited by a regional accrediting association as
26 defined by State Board of Education rule.

27 2. Not already hold a teaching certificate resulting
28 from an undergraduate degree in education in an area of
29 critical teacher shortage as designated by the State Board of
30 Education.

31

1 3. Not have received an undergraduate forgivable loan
2 as provided for in paragraph (b).

3 (d) Recipients of the Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship
4 Loan Program as authorized under title IV, part D, subpart 1
5 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, shall not be
6 eligible to participate in the Florida Critical Teacher
7 Shortage Forgivable Loan Program.

8 (e) The State Board of Education shall adopt by rule
9 repayment schedules and applicable interest rates under ss.
10 1009.82 and 1009.95. A forgivable loan must be repaid within
11 10 years of completion of a program of studies.

12 1. Credit for repayment of an undergraduate or
13 graduate forgivable loan shall be in an amount not to exceed
14 \$4,000 in loan principal plus applicable accrued interest for
15 each full year of eligible teaching service. However, credit
16 in an amount not to exceed \$8,000 in loan principal plus
17 applicable accrued interest shall be given for each full year
18 of eligible teaching service completed at a high-density,
19 low-economic urban school or at a low-density, low-economic
20 rural school, as identified by the State Board of Education.

21 2. Any forgivable loan recipient who fails to teach in
22 a publicly funded elementary or secondary school in this state
23 as specified in this subsection is responsible for repaying
24 the loan plus accrued interest at 8 percent annually.

25 3. Forgivable loan recipients may receive loan
26 repayment credit for teaching service rendered at any time
27 during the scheduled repayment period. However, such repayment
28 credit shall be applicable only to the current principal and
29 accrued interest balance that remains at the time the
30 repayment credit is earned. No loan recipient shall be

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1 reimbursed for previous cash payments of principal and
2 interest.

3 (f) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for the
4 program shall be deposited in the State Student Financial
5 Assistance Trust Fund.

6 Section 433. Section 1009.58, Florida Statutes, is
7 created to read:

8 1009.58 Critical teacher shortage tuition
9 reimbursement program.--

10 (1) A critical teacher shortage tuition reimbursement
11 program shall be established for the purpose of improving the
12 skills and knowledge of current teachers or persons preparing
13 to teach in critical teacher shortage areas.

14 (2) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to
15 implement the critical teacher shortage tuition reimbursement
16 program. Any full-time public school employee or
17 developmental research school employee certified to teach in
18 this state is eligible for the program. For the purposes of
19 this program, tuition reimbursement shall be limited to
20 courses in critical teacher shortage areas as determined by
21 the State Board of Education. Such courses shall be:

22 (a) Graduate-level courses leading to a master's,
23 specialist, or doctoral degree;

24 (b) Graduate-level courses leading to a new
25 certification area; or

26 (c) State-approved undergraduate courses leading to an
27 advanced degree or new certification area.

28 (3) Participants may receive tuition reimbursement
29 payments for up to 9 semester hours, or the equivalent in
30 quarter hours, per year, at a rate not to exceed \$78 per
31 semester hour, up to a total of 36 semester hours. All tuition

1 reimbursements shall be contingent on passing an approved
2 course with a minimum grade of 3.0 or its equivalent.

3 (4) This section shall be implemented only to the
4 extent specifically funded and authorized by law.

5 Section 434. Section 1009.59, Florida Statutes, is
6 created to read:

7 1009.59 Critical Teacher Shortage Student Loan
8 Forgiveness Program.--

9 (1) The Critical Teacher Shortage Student Loan
10 Forgiveness Program is established to encourage qualified
11 personnel to seek employment in subject areas in which
12 critical teacher shortages exist, as identified annually by
13 the State Board of Education. The primary function of the
14 program is to make repayments towards loans received by
15 students from federal programs or commercial lending
16 institutions for the support of postsecondary education study.
17 Repayments are intended to be made to qualified applicants who
18 begin teaching for the first time in designated subject areas,
19 and who apply during their first year of teaching as certified
20 teachers in these subject areas.

21 (2) From the funds available, the Department of
22 Education may make loan principal repayments as follows:

23 (a) Up to \$2,500 a year for up to 4 years on behalf of
24 selected graduates of state-approved undergraduate
25 postsecondary teacher preparation programs, persons certified
26 to teach pursuant to any applicable teacher certification
27 requirements, or selected teacher preparation graduates from
28 any state participating in the Interstate Agreement on the
29 Qualification of Educational Personnel.

30 (b) Up to \$5,000 a year for up to 2 years on behalf of
31 selected graduates of state-approved graduate postsecondary

1 teacher preparation programs, persons with graduate degrees
2 certified to teach pursuant to any applicable teacher
3 certification requirements, or selected teacher preparation
4 graduates from any state participating in the Interstate
5 Agreement on the Qualification of Educational Personnel.

6 (c) All repayments shall be contingent on continued
7 proof of employment in the designated subject areas in this
8 state and shall be made directly to the holder of the loan.

9 The state shall not bear responsibility for the collection of
10 any interest charges or other remaining balance. In the event
11 that designated critical teacher shortage subject areas are
12 changed by the State Board of Education, a teacher shall
13 continue to be eligible for loan forgiveness as long as he or
14 she continues to teach in the subject area for which the
15 original loan repayment was made and otherwise meets all
16 conditions of eligibility.

17 (3) Students receiving a scholarship loan or a
18 fellowship loan are not eligible to participate in the
19 Critical Teacher Shortage Student Loan Forgiveness Program.

20 (4) The State Board of Education may adopt rules
21 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54, necessary for the
22 administration of this program.

23 (5) This section shall be implemented only to the
24 extent as specifically funded and authorized by law.

25 Section 435. Section 1009.60, Florida Statutes, is
26 created to read:

27 1009.60 Minority teacher education scholars
28 program.--There is created the minority teacher education
29 scholars program, which is a collaborative performance-based
30 scholarship program for African-American, Hispanic-American,
31 Asian-American, and Native American students. The participants

1 in the program include Florida's community colleges and its
2 public and private universities that have teacher education
3 programs.

4 (1) The minority teacher education scholars program
5 shall provide an annual scholarship of \$4,000 for each
6 approved minority teacher education scholar who is enrolled in
7 one of Florida's public or private universities in the junior
8 year and is admitted into a teacher education program.

9 (2) To assist each participating education institution
10 in the recruitment and retention of minority teacher scholars,
11 the administrators of the Florida Fund for Minority Teachers,
12 Inc., shall implement a systemwide training program. The
13 training program must include an annual conference or series
14 of conferences for students who are in the program or who are
15 identified by a high school or a community college as likely
16 candidates for the program. The training program must also
17 include research about and dissemination concerning successful
18 activities or programs that recruit minority students for
19 teacher education and retain them through graduation,
20 certification, and employment. Staff employed by the
21 corporation may work with each participating education
22 institution to assure that local faculty and administrators
23 receive the benefit of all available research and resources to
24 increase retention of their minority teacher education
25 scholars.

26 (3) The total amount appropriated annually for new
27 scholarships in the program must be divided by \$4,000 and by
28 the number of participating colleges and universities. Each
29 participating institution has access to the same number of
30 scholarships and may award all of them to eligible minority
31 students. If a college or university does not award all of its

1 scholarships by the date set by the program administration at
2 the Florida Fund for Minority Teachers, Inc., the remaining
3 scholarships must be transferred to another institution that
4 has eligible students.

5 (4) A student may receive a scholarship from the
6 program for 3 consecutive years if the student remains
7 enrolled full-time in the program and makes satisfactory
8 progress toward a baccalaureate degree with a major in
9 education.

10 (5) If a minority teacher education scholar graduates
11 and is employed as a teacher by a Florida district school
12 board, the scholar is not required to repay the scholarship
13 amount so long as the scholar teaches in a Florida public
14 school. A scholar may repay the entire scholarship amount by
15 remaining employed as a Florida public school teacher for 1
16 year for each year he or she received the scholarship.

17 (6) If a minority teacher education scholar does not
18 graduate within 3 years, or if the scholar graduates but does
19 not teach in a Florida public school, the scholar must repay
20 the total amount awarded, plus annual interest of 8 percent.

21 (a) Interest begins accruing the first day of the 13th
22 month after the month in which the recipient completes an
23 approved teacher education program or after the month in which
24 enrollment as a full-time student is terminated. Interest does
25 not accrue during any period of deferment or eligible teaching
26 service.

27 (b) The repayment period begins the first day of the
28 13th month after the month in which the recipient completes an
29 approved teacher education program or after the month in which
30 enrollment as a full-time student is terminated.

31

1 (c) The terms and conditions of the scholarship
2 repayment must be contained in a promissory note and a
3 repayment schedule. The loan must be paid within 10 years
4 after the date of graduation or termination of full-time
5 enrollment, including any periods of deferment. A shorter
6 repayment period may be granted. The minimum monthly repayment
7 is \$50 or the unpaid balance, unless otherwise approved,
8 except that the monthly payment may not be less than the
9 accruing interest. The recipient may prepay any part of the
10 scholarship without penalty.

11 (d) The holder of the promissory note may grant a
12 deferment of repayment for a recipient who is a full-time
13 student, who is unable to secure a teaching position that
14 would qualify as repayment, who becomes disabled, or who
15 experiences other hardships. Such a deferment may be granted
16 for a total of 24 months.

17 (e) If a student defaults on the scholarship, the
18 entire unpaid balance, including interest accrued, becomes due
19 and payable at the option of the holder of the promissory
20 note, or when the recipient is no longer able to pay or no
21 longer intends to pay. The recipient is responsible for paying
22 all reasonable attorney's fees and other costs and charges
23 necessary for administration of the collection process.

24 Section 436. Section 1009.605, Florida Statutes, is
25 created to read:

26 1009.605 Florida Fund for Minority Teachers, Inc.--

27 (1) There is created the Florida Fund for Minority
28 Teachers, Inc., which is a not-for-profit statutory
29 corporation housed in the College of Education at the
30 University of Florida. The corporation shall administer and
31 manage the minority teacher education scholars program.

1 (2) The corporation shall submit an annual budget
2 projection to the Department of Education to be included in
3 the annual legislative budget request. The projection must be
4 based on a 7-year plan that would be capable of awarding the
5 following schedule of scholarships:

6 (a) In the initial year, 700 scholarships of \$4,000
7 each to scholars in the junior year of college.

8 (b) In the second year, 350 scholarships to new
9 scholars in their junior year and 700 renewal scholarships to
10 the rising seniors.

11 (c) In each succeeding year, 350 scholarships to new
12 scholars in the junior year and renewal scholarships to the
13 350 rising seniors.

14 (3) A board of directors shall administer the
15 corporation. The Governor shall appoint to the board at least
16 15 but not more than 25 members, who shall serve terms of 3
17 years, except that 4 of the initial members shall serve 1-year
18 terms and 4 shall serve 2-year terms. At least 4 members must
19 be employed by public community colleges and at least 11
20 members must be employed by public or private postsecondary
21 institutions that operate colleges of education. At least one
22 member must be a financial aid officer employed by a
23 postsecondary education institution operating in Florida.
24 Administrative costs for support of the Board of Directors and
25 the Florida Fund for Minority Teachers may not exceed 5
26 percent of funds allocated for the program. The board shall:

27 (a) Hold meetings to implement this section.

28 (b) Select a chairperson annually.

29 (c) Make rules for its own government.

30
31

1 (d) Appoint an executive director to serve at its
2 pleasure. The executive director shall be the chief
3 administrative officer and agent of the board.

4 (e) Maintain a record of its proceedings.

5 (f) Delegate to the chairperson the responsibility for
6 signing final orders.

7 (g) Carry out the training program as required for the
8 minority teacher education scholars program. No more than 5
9 percent of the funds appropriated for the minority teacher
10 education scholars program may be expended for administration,
11 including administration of the required training program.

12 Section 437. Section 1009.61, Florida Statutes, is
13 created to read:

14 1009.61 Teacher/Quest Scholarship Program.--The
15 Teacher/Quest Scholarship Program is created for the purpose
16 of providing teachers with the opportunity to enhance their
17 knowledge of science, mathematics, and computer applications
18 in business, industry, and government. A school district or
19 developmental research school may propose that one or more
20 teachers be granted a Teacher/Quest Scholarship by submitting
21 to the Department of Education:

22 (1) A project proposal specifying activities a teacher
23 will carry out to improve his or her:

24 (a) Understanding of mathematical, scientific, or
25 computing concepts;

26 (b) Ability to apply and demonstrate such concepts
27 through instruction;

28 (c) Knowledge of career and technical requirements for
29 competency in mathematics, science, and computing; and

30 (d) Ability to integrate and apply technological
31 concepts from all three fields; and

1 (2) A contractual agreement with a private corporation
2 or governmental agency that implements the project proposal
3 and guarantees employment to the teacher during a summer or
4 other period when schools are out of session. The agreement
5 must stipulate a salary rate that does not exceed regular
6 rates of pay and a gross salary amount consistent with
7 applicable statutory and contractual provisions for the
8 teacher's employment. The teacher's compensation shall be
9 provided for on an equally matched basis by funds from the
10 employing corporation or agency.

11 Section 438. Section 1009.62, Florida Statutes, is
12 created to read:

13 1009.62 Grants for teachers for special training in
14 exceptional student education.--

15 (1) The Department of Education may make grants to
16 teachers for special training in exceptional student education
17 to meet professional requirements with respect thereto, and
18 the department is responsible for the administration of such
19 program.

20 (2) These grants are limited to teachers who:

21 (a) Hold a full-time contract to teach in a district
22 school system, a state-operated or state-supported program, or
23 an agency or organization under contract with the Department
24 of Education;

25 (b) Hold a valid Florida educator's certificate that
26 does not reflect an exceptional-student-education coverage or
27 endorsement that is appropriate for the teacher's assignment;
28 and

29 (c) Satisfactorily complete the eligible courses.

30 (3) Grant amounts are to be determined on the basis of
31 rates established by the Department of Education.

1 (4) The Department of Education shall administer this
2 program under rules established by the State Board of
3 Education.

4 Section 439. Section 1009.63, Florida Statutes, is
5 created to read:

6 1009.63 Occupational therapist or physical therapist
7 critical shortage program; definitions.--For the purposes of
8 ss. 1009.63-1009.634:

9 (1) "Critical shortage area" applies to licensed
10 occupational therapists and physical therapists and
11 occupational therapy assistants and physical therapist
12 assistants employed by the public schools of this state.

13 (2) "Therapist" means occupational therapist or
14 physical therapist.

15 Section 440. Section 1009.631, Florida Statutes, is
16 created to read:

17 1009.631 Occupational therapist or physical therapist
18 critical shortage program; establishment.--

19 (1) The occupational therapist or physical therapist
20 critical shortage program is established in the Department of
21 Education for the purpose of attracting capable and promising
22 applicants in the occupational therapy or physical therapy
23 profession to employment in the public schools of this state.
24 The program shall include the Critical Occupational Therapist
25 or Physical Therapist Shortage Student Loan Forgiveness
26 Program, the Critical Occupational Therapist or Physical
27 Therapist Shortage Scholarship Loan Program, and the Critical
28 Occupational Therapist or Physical Therapist Shortage Tuition
29 Reimbursement Program.

30 (2) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for the
31 program shall be deposited in the State Student Financial

1 Assistance Trust Fund. Any balance in the trust fund at the
2 end of any fiscal year that has been allocated to the program
3 shall remain therein and shall be available for carrying out
4 the purposes of this section. Funds contained in the trust
5 fund for the program shall be used for the programs specified
6 in subsection (1) for those licensed therapists and therapy
7 assistants employed by the public schools of this state.

8 (3) The State Board of Education shall annually review
9 the designation of critical shortage areas and shall adopt
10 rules necessary for the implementation of the program.

11 Section 441. Section 1009.632, Florida Statutes, is
12 created to read:

13 1009.632 Critical Occupational Therapist or Physical
14 Therapist Shortage Student Loan Forgiveness Program.--

15 (1) There is established the Critical Occupational
16 Therapist or Physical Therapist Shortage Student Loan
17 Forgiveness Program. The primary function of the program is
18 to make repayments toward loans received by students from
19 institutions for the support of postsecondary study of
20 occupational therapy or physical therapy. Repayments shall be
21 made to qualified applicants who initiate employment in the
22 public schools of this state and who apply during their first
23 year of employment in a public school setting.

24 (2) From the funds available, the Department of
25 Education is authorized to make loan principal repayments as
26 follows:

27 (a) Up to \$2,500 a year for up to 4 years on behalf of
28 selected graduates of accredited undergraduate postsecondary
29 occupational therapist or physical therapist preparation
30 programs.

31

1 (b) Up to \$2,500 a year for up to 2 years on behalf of
2 selected graduates of accredited undergraduate postsecondary
3 occupational therapy or physical therapist assistant
4 preparation programs.

5 (c) Up to \$5,000 a year for up to 2 years on behalf of
6 selected graduates of accredited postbaccalaureate entry level
7 occupational therapist or physical therapist preparation
8 programs.

9 (d) All repayments shall be contingent on continued
10 proof of employment for 3 years as a therapist or therapy
11 assistant by the public schools in this state and shall be
12 made directly to the holder of the loan. The state shall not
13 bear the responsibility for the collection of any interest
14 charges or other remaining balance. In the event that a
15 critical shortage is no longer verified, a therapist or
16 therapy assistant shall continue to be eligible for loan
17 forgiveness as long as the therapist or therapy assistant
18 continues to be employed by the public schools of this state
19 and otherwise meets all conditions of eligibility.

20 (3) Recipients under this program shall not be
21 eligible to participate in the Critical Occupational Therapist
22 or Physical Therapist Shortage Scholarship Loan Program or the
23 Critical Occupational Therapist or Physical Therapist Shortage
24 Tuition Reimbursement Program.

25 (4) This section shall be implemented only to the
26 extent as specifically funded by law.

27 Section 442. Section 1009.633, Florida Statutes, is
28 created to read:

29 1009.633 Critical Occupational Therapist or Physical
30 Therapist Shortage Scholarship Loan Program.--

31

1 (1) There is established the Critical Occupational
2 Therapist or Physical Therapist Shortage Scholarship Loan
3 Program.

4 (2) To be eligible, a candidate shall:

5 (a) Be a full-time student in a therapy assistant
6 program or in the upper division or higher level in an
7 occupational therapist or physical therapist educational
8 program. Occupational therapist and occupational therapy
9 assistant programs must be accredited by the American Medical
10 Association in collaboration with the American Occupational
11 Therapy Association. Physical therapist and physical therapist
12 assistant programs must be accredited by the American Physical
13 Therapy Association.

14 (b) Have declared an intention to be employed by the
15 public schools of this state for 3 years following completion
16 of the requirements. In the event critical shortage areas are
17 changed by the State Board of Education, a student shall
18 continue to be eligible for an award as long as the student
19 continues in the therapist educational program for which the
20 initial award was made and the student otherwise meets all
21 other conditions of eligibility.

22 (c) Meet the general requirements for student
23 eligibility as provided in s. 1009.40, except as otherwise
24 provided in this section.

25 (d) Maintain a grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0
26 scale for undergraduate college work or a grade point average
27 of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for graduate college work.

28 (3) A scholarship loan may be awarded for no more than
29 2 years and may not exceed \$4,000 a year.

30 (4) The State Board of Education shall adopt by rule
31 repayment schedules and applicable interest rates under ss.

1 1009.82 and 1009.95. A scholarship loan must be paid back
2 within 10 years of completion of a program of studies.

3 (a) Credit for repayment of a scholarship loan shall
4 be in an amount not to exceed \$2,000 plus applicable accrued
5 interest for each full year of employment by the public
6 schools of this state.

7 (b) Any therapist or therapy assistant who fails to be
8 employed by a public school in this state as specified in this
9 subsection is responsible for repaying the loan plus interest.
10 Repayment schedules and applicable interest rates shall be
11 determined by the rules of the State Board of Education under
12 ss. 1009.82 and 1009.95.

13 (5) Recipients under this program shall not be
14 eligible to participate in the Critical Occupational Therapist
15 or Physical Therapist Shortage Student Loan Forgiveness
16 Program or the Critical Occupational Therapist or Physical
17 Therapist Shortage Tuition Reimbursement Program.

18 (6) This section shall be implemented only to the
19 extent specifically funded and authorized by law.

20 Section 443. Section 1009.634, Florida Statutes, is
21 created to read:

22 1009.634 Critical Occupational Therapist or Physical
23 Therapist Shortage Tuition Reimbursement Program.--

24 (1) There is established the Critical Occupational
25 Therapist or Physical Therapist Shortage Tuition Reimbursement
26 Program to improve the skills and knowledge of current
27 therapists and therapy assistants who are employed by the
28 public school system.

29 (2) Any full-time public school employee licensed to
30 practice occupational therapy or physical therapy in this
31 state is eligible for the program.

1 (3) Participants may receive tuition reimbursement
2 payments for up to 9 semester hours, or the equivalent in
3 quarter hours, per year, at a rate not to exceed \$78 per
4 semester hour, up to a total of 36 semester hours. All tuition
5 reimbursements shall be contingent on the participant passing
6 an approved course with a minimum grade of 3.0 or its
7 equivalent.

8 (4) The participant shall be employed by the public
9 schools of this state for 3 years following completion of the
10 requirements.

11 (5) Recipients under this program shall not be
12 eligible to participate in the Critical Occupational Therapist
13 or Physical Therapist Shortage Student Loan Forgiveness
14 Program or the Critical Occupational Therapist or Physical
15 Therapist Shortage Scholarship Loan Program.

16 (6) This section shall be implemented only to the
17 extent specifically funded and authorized by the law.

18 Section 444. Section 1009.64, Florida Statutes, is
19 created to read:

20 1009.64 Certified Education Paraprofessional Welfare
21 Transition Program.--

22 (1) There is created the Certified Education
23 Paraprofessional Welfare Transition Program to provide
24 education and employment for recipients of public assistance
25 who are certified to work in schools that, because of the high
26 proportion of economically disadvantaged children enrolled,
27 are at risk of poor performance on traditional measures of
28 achievement. The program is designed to enable such schools
29 to increase the number of adults working with the school
30 children. However, the increase in personnel working at
31 certain schools is intended to supplement and not to supplant

1 the school staff and should not affect current school board
2 employment and staffing policies, including those contained in
3 collective bargaining agreements. The program is intended to
4 be supported by local, state, and federal program funds for
5 which the participants may be eligible. Further, the program
6 is designed to provide its participants not only with
7 entry-level employment but also with a marketable credential,
8 a career option, and encouragement to advance.

9 (2) The Commissioner of Education, the secretary of
10 the Department of Children and Family Services, and the
11 director of the Agency for Workforce Innovation have joint
12 responsibility for planning and conducting the program.

13 (3) The agencies responsible may make recommendations
14 to the State Board of Education and the Legislature if they
15 find that implementation or operation of the program would
16 benefit from the adoption or waiver of state or federal
17 policy, rule, or law, including recommendations regarding
18 program budgeting.

19 (4) The agencies shall complete an implementation plan
20 that addresses at least the following recommended components
21 of the program:

22 (a) A method of selecting participants. The method
23 must not duplicate services provided by those assigned to
24 screen participants of the welfare transition program, but
25 must assure that screening personnel are trained to identify
26 recipients of public assistance whose personal aptitudes and
27 motivation make them most likely to succeed in the program and
28 advance in a career related to the school community.

29 (b) A budget for use of incentive funding to provide
30 motivation to participants to succeed and excel. The budget
31 for incentive funding includes:

- 1 1. Funds allocated by the Legislature directly for the
2 program.
- 3 2. Funds that may be made available from the federal
4 Workforce Investment Act based on client eligibility or
5 requested waivers to make the clients eligible.
- 6 3. Funds made available by implementation strategies
7 that would make maximum use of work supplementation funds
8 authorized by federal law.
- 9 4. Funds authorized by strategies to lengthen
10 participants' eligibility for federal programs such as
11 Medicaid, subsidized child care, and transportation.
- 12
- 13 Incentives may include a stipend during periods of college
14 classroom training, a bonus and recognition for a high
15 grade-point average, child care and prekindergarten services
16 for children of participants, and services to increase a
17 participant's ability to advance to higher levels of
18 employment. Nonfinancial incentives should include providing a
19 mentor or tutor, and service incentives should continue and
20 increase for any participant who plans to complete the
21 baccalaureate degree and become a certified teacher. Services
22 may be provided in accordance with family choice by community
23 colleges and school district technical centers, through family
24 service centers and full-service schools, or under contract
25 with providers through central agencies.
- 26 (5) The agencies shall select Department of Children
27 and Family Services districts to participate in the program. A
28 district that wishes to participate must demonstrate that a
29 district school board, a community college board of trustees,
30 an economic services program administrator, and a regional
31 workforce board are willing to coordinate to provide the

1 educational program, support services, employment
2 opportunities, and incentives required to fulfill the intent
3 of this section.

4 (6)(a) A community college or school district
5 technical center is eligible to participate if it provides a
6 technical certificate program in Child Development Early
7 Intervention as approved by Workforce Florida, Inc. Priority
8 programs provide an option and incentives to articulate with
9 an associate in science degree program or a baccalaureate
10 degree program.

11 (b) A participating educational agency may earn funds
12 appropriated for performance-based incentive funding for
13 successful outcomes of enrollment and placement of recipients
14 of public assistance who are in the program. In addition, an
15 educational agency is eligible for an incentive award
16 determined by Workforce Florida, Inc., for each recipient of
17 public assistance who successfully completes a program leading
18 to the award of a General Education Development credential.

19 (c) Historically black colleges or universities that
20 have established programs that serve participants in the
21 welfare transition program are eligible to participate in the
22 Performance Based Incentive Funding Program and may earn an
23 incentive award determined by Workforce Florida, Inc., for
24 successful placement of program completers in jobs as
25 education paraprofessionals in at-risk schools.

26 (7)(a) A participating school district shall identify
27 at-risk schools in which the program participants will work
28 during the practicum part of their education. For purposes of
29 this act, an at-risk school is a school with grades K-3 in
30 which 50 percent or more of the students enrolled at the
31 school are eligible for free lunches or reduced-price lunches.

1 Priority schools are schools whose service zones include the
2 participants' own communities.

3 (b) A participating school district may use funds
4 appropriated by the Legislature from Agency for Workforce
5 Innovation regional workforce board allotments to provide at
6 least 6 months of on-the-job training to participants in the
7 Certified Education Paraprofessional Welfare Transition
8 Program. Participating school districts may also use funds
9 provided by grant diversion of funds from the welfare
10 transition program for the participants during the practicum
11 portion of their training to earn the certificate required for
12 their employment.

13 (8) The agencies shall give priority for funding to
14 those programs that provide maximum security for the
15 long-range employment and career opportunities of the program
16 participants. Security is enhanced if employment is provided
17 through a governmental or nongovernmental agency other than
18 the school board, or if the plans assure in another way that
19 the participants will supplement, rather than supplant, the
20 workforce available to the school board. It is the intent of
21 the Legislature that, when a program participant succeeds in
22 becoming a certified education paraprofessional after working
23 successfully in a school during the practicum or on-the-job
24 training supported by the program, the participant shall have
25 the opportunity to continue in full-time employment at the
26 school that provided the training or at another school in the
27 district.

28 Section 445. Section 1009.65, Florida Statutes, is
29 created to read:

30 1009.65 Medical Education Reimbursement and Loan
31 Repayment Program.--

1 (1) To encourage qualified medical professionals to
2 practice in underserved locations where there are shortages of
3 such personnel, there is established the Medical Education
4 Reimbursement and Loan Repayment Program. The function of the
5 program is to make payments that offset loans and educational
6 expenses incurred by students for studies leading to a medical
7 or nursing degree, medical or nursing licensure, or advanced
8 registered nurse practitioner certification or physician
9 assistant licensure. The following licensed or certified
10 health care professionals are eligible to participate in this
11 program: medical doctors with primary care specialties,
12 doctors of osteopathic medicine with primary care specialties,
13 physician's assistants, licensed practical nurses and
14 registered nurses, and advanced registered nurse practitioners
15 with primary care specialties such as certified nurse
16 midwives. Primary care medical specialties for physicians
17 include obstetrics, gynecology, general and family practice,
18 internal medicine, pediatrics, and other specialties which may
19 be identified by the Department of Health.

20 (2) From the funds available, the Department of Health
21 shall make payments to selected medical professionals as
22 follows:

23 (a) Up to \$4,000 per year for licensed practical
24 nurses and registered nurses, up to \$10,000 per year for
25 advanced registered nurse practitioners and physician's
26 assistants, and up to \$20,000 per year for physicians.
27 Penalties for noncompliance shall be the same as those in the
28 National Health Services Corps Loan Repayment Program.
29 Educational expenses include costs for tuition, matriculation,
30 registration, books, laboratory and other fees, other
31

1 educational costs, and reasonable living expenses as
2 determined by the Department of Health.

3 (b) All payments shall be contingent on continued
4 proof of primary care practice in an area defined in s.
5 395.602(2)(e), or an underserved area designated by the
6 Department of Health, provided the practitioner accepts
7 Medicaid reimbursement if eligible for such reimbursement.
8 Correctional facilities, state hospitals, and other state
9 institutions that employ medical personnel shall be designated
10 by the Department of Health as underserved locations.
11 Locations with high incidences of infant mortality, high
12 morbidity, or low Medicaid participation by health care
13 professionals may be designated as underserved.

14 (c) The Department of Health may use funds
15 appropriated for the Medical Education Reimbursement and Loan
16 Repayment Program as matching funds for federal loan repayment
17 programs such as the National Health Service Corps State Loan
18 Repayment Program.

19 (3) The Department of Health may adopt any rules
20 necessary for the administration of the Medical Education
21 Reimbursement and Loan Repayment Program. The department may
22 also solicit technical advice regarding conduct of the program
23 from the Department of Education and Florida universities and
24 community colleges. The Department of Health shall submit a
25 budget request for an amount sufficient to fund medical
26 education reimbursement, loan repayments, and program
27 administration.

28 Section 446. Section 1009.66, Florida Statutes, is
29 created to read:

30 1009.66 Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness Program.--
31

1 (1) To encourage qualified personnel to seek
2 employment in areas of this state in which critical nursing
3 shortages exist, there is established the Nursing Student Loan
4 Forgiveness Program. The primary function of the program is
5 to increase employment and retention of registered nurses and
6 licensed practical nurses in nursing homes and hospitals in
7 the state and in state-operated medical and health care
8 facilities, public schools, birth centers, federally sponsored
9 community health centers, family practice teaching hospitals,
10 and specialty children's hospitals by making repayments toward
11 loans received by students from federal or state programs or
12 commercial lending institutions for the support of
13 postsecondary study in accredited or approved nursing
14 programs.

15 (2) To be eligible, a candidate must have graduated
16 from an accredited or approved nursing program and have
17 received a Florida license as a licensed practical nurse or a
18 registered nurse or a Florida certificate as an advanced
19 registered nurse practitioner.

20 (3) Only loans to pay the costs of tuition, books, and
21 living expenses shall be covered, at an amount not to exceed
22 \$4,000 for each year of education towards the degree obtained.

23 (4) Receipt of funds pursuant to this program shall be
24 contingent upon continued proof of employment in the
25 designated facilities in this state. Loan principal payments
26 shall be made by the Department of Health directly to the
27 federal or state programs or commercial lending institutions
28 holding the loan as follows:

29 (a) Twenty-five percent of the loan principal and
30 accrued interest shall be retired after the first year of
31 nursing;

1 (b) Fifty percent of the loan principal and accrued
2 interest shall be retired after the second year of nursing;

3 (c) Seventy-five percent of the loan principal and
4 accrued interest shall be retired after the third year of
5 nursing; and

6 (d) The remaining loan principal and accrued interest
7 shall be retired after the fourth year of nursing.

8
9 In no case may payment for any nurse exceed \$4,000 in any
10 12-month period.

11 (5) There is created the Nursing Student Loan
12 Forgiveness Trust Fund to be administered by the Department of
13 Health pursuant to this section and s. 1009.67 and department
14 rules. The Comptroller shall authorize expenditures from the
15 trust fund upon receipt of vouchers approved by the Department
16 of Health. All moneys collected from the private health care
17 industry and other private sources for the purposes of this
18 section shall be deposited into the Nursing Student Loan
19 Forgiveness Trust Fund. Any balance in the trust fund at the
20 end of any fiscal year shall remain therein and shall be
21 available for carrying out the purposes of this section and s.
22 1009.67.

23 (6) In addition to licensing fees imposed under part I
24 of chapter 464, there is hereby levied and imposed an
25 additional fee of \$5, which fee shall be paid upon licensure
26 or renewal of nursing licensure. Revenues collected from the
27 fee imposed in this subsection shall be deposited in the
28 Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness Trust Fund of the Department
29 of Health and will be used solely for the purpose of carrying
30 out the provisions of this section and s. 1009.67. Up to 50
31 percent of the revenues appropriated to implement this

1 subsection may be used for the nursing scholarship program
2 established pursuant to s. 1009.67.
3 (7)(a) Funds contained in the Nursing Student Loan
4 Forgiveness Trust Fund which are to be used for loan
5 forgiveness for those nurses employed by hospitals, birth
6 centers, and nursing homes must be matched on a
7 dollar-for-dollar basis by contributions from the employing
8 institutions, except that this provision shall not apply to
9 state-operated medical and health care facilities, public
10 schools, county health departments, federally sponsored
11 community health centers, teaching hospitals as defined in s.
12 408.07, family practice teaching hospitals as defined in s.
13 395.805, or specialty hospitals for children as used in s.
14 409.9119. If in any given fiscal quarter there are
15 insufficient funds in the trust fund to grant all eligible
16 applicant requests, awards shall be based on the following
17 priority of employer: county health departments; federally
18 sponsored community health centers; state-operated medical and
19 health care facilities; public schools; teaching hospitals as
20 defined in s. 408.07; family practice teaching hospitals as
21 defined in s. 395.805; specialty hospitals for children as
22 used in s. 409.9119; and other hospitals, birth centers, and
23 nursing homes.
24 (b) All Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness Trust Fund
25 moneys shall be invested pursuant to s. 18.125. Interest
26 income accruing to that portion of the trust fund not matched
27 shall increase the total funds available for loan forgiveness
28 and scholarships. Pledged contributions shall not be eligible
29 for matching prior to the actual collection of the total
30 private contribution for the year.
31

1 (8) The Department of Health may solicit technical
2 assistance relating to the conduct of this program from the
3 Department of Education.

4 (9) The Department of Health is authorized to recover
5 from the Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness Trust Fund its costs
6 for administering the Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness
7 Program.

8 (10) The Department of Health may adopt rules
9 necessary to administer this program.

10 (11) This section shall be implemented only as
11 specifically funded.

12 Section 447. Section 1009.67, Florida Statutes, is
13 created to read:

14 1009.67 Nursing scholarship program.--

15 (1) There is established within the Department of
16 Health a scholarship program for the purpose of attracting
17 capable and promising students to the nursing profession.

18 (2) A scholarship applicant shall be enrolled as a
19 full-time or part-time student in the upper division of an
20 approved nursing program leading to the award of a
21 baccalaureate degree or graduate degree to qualify for a
22 nursing faculty position or as an advanced registered nurse
23 practitioner or be enrolled as a full-time or part-time
24 student in an approved program leading to the award of an
25 associate degree in nursing.

26 (3) A scholarship may be awarded for no more than 2
27 years, in an amount not to exceed \$8,000 per year. However,
28 registered nurses pursuing a graduate degree for a faculty
29 position or to practice as an advanced registered nurse
30 practitioner may receive up to \$12,000 per year. Beginning
31 July 1, 1998, these amounts shall be adjusted by the amount of

1 increase or decrease in the consumer price index for urban
2 consumers published by the United States Department of
3 Commerce.

4 (4) Credit for repayment of a scholarship shall be as
5 follows:

6 (a) For each full year of scholarship assistance, the
7 recipient agrees to work for 12 months in a faculty position
8 in a college of nursing or community college nursing program
9 in this state or at a health care facility in a medically
10 underserved area as approved by the Department of Health.
11 Scholarship recipients who attend school on a part-time basis
12 shall have their employment service obligation prorated in
13 proportion to the amount of scholarship payments received.

14 (b) Eligible health care facilities include nursing
15 homes and hospitals in this state, state-operated medical or
16 health care facilities, public schools, county health
17 departments, federally sponsored community health centers,
18 colleges of nursing in universities in this state, and
19 community college nursing programs in this state, family
20 practice teaching hospitals as defined in s. 395.805, or
21 specialty children's hospitals as described in s. 409.9119.
22 The recipient shall be encouraged to complete the service
23 obligation at a single employment site. If continuous
24 employment at the same site is not feasible, the recipient may
25 apply to the department for a transfer to another approved
26 health care facility.

27 (c) Any recipient who does not complete an appropriate
28 program of studies or who does not become licensed shall repay
29 to the Department of Health, on a schedule to be determined by
30 the department, the entire amount of the scholarship plus 18
31 percent interest accruing from the date of the scholarship

1 payment. Moneys repaid shall be deposited into the Nursing
2 Student Loan Forgiveness Trust Fund established in s. 1009.66.
3 However, the department may provide additional time for
4 repayment if the department finds that circumstances beyond
5 the control of the recipient caused or contributed to the
6 default.

7 (d) Any recipient who does not accept employment as a
8 nurse at an approved health care facility or who does not
9 complete 12 months of approved employment for each year of
10 scholarship assistance received shall repay to the Department
11 of Health an amount equal to two times the entire amount of
12 the scholarship plus interest accruing from the date of the
13 scholarship payment at the maximum allowable interest rate
14 permitted by law. Repayment shall be made within 1 year of
15 notice that the recipient is considered to be in default.
16 However, the department may provide additional time for
17 repayment if the department finds that circumstances beyond
18 the control of the recipient caused or contributed to the
19 default.

20 (5) Scholarship payments shall be transmitted to the
21 recipient upon receipt of documentation that the recipient is
22 enrolled in an approved nursing program. The Department of
23 Health shall develop a formula to prorate payments to
24 scholarship recipients so as not to exceed the maximum amount
25 per academic year.

26 (6) The Department of Health shall adopt rules,
27 including rules to address extraordinary circumstances that
28 may cause a recipient to default on either the school
29 enrollment or employment contractual agreement, to implement
30 this section and may solicit technical assistance relating to
31 the conduct of this program from the Department of Health.

1 (7) The Department of Health may recover from the
2 Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness Trust Fund its costs for
3 administering the nursing scholarship program.

4 Section 448. Section 1009.68, Florida Statutes, is
5 created to read:

6 1009.68 Florida Minority Medical Education Program.--

7 (1) There is created a Florida Minority Medical
8 Education Program to be administered by the Department of
9 Education in accordance with rules established by the State
10 Board of Education. The program shall provide scholarships to
11 enable minority students to pursue a medical education at the
12 University of Florida, the University of South Florida,
13 Florida State University, the University of Miami, or
14 Southeastern University of the Health Sciences, for the
15 purpose of addressing the primary health care needs of
16 underserved groups.

17 (2) In order to be eligible to receive a scholarship
18 pursuant to this section, an applicant shall:

19 (a) Be a racial or ethnic minority student.

20 (b) Be a citizen of the United States and meet the
21 general eligibility requirements as provided in s. 1009.40,
22 except as otherwise provided in this section.

23 (c) Have maintained residency in this state for no
24 less than 1 year preceding the award.

25 (d) Be accepted by, and enroll as a full-time student
26 in, a Florida medical school.

27 (e) Have an undergraduate grade point average
28 established by rule.

29 (f) Have received scores on selected examinations
30 established by rule.

31

1 (g) Meet financial need requirements established by
2 rule.

3 (h) Agree to serve in a medical corps for a period of
4 not less than 2 years for the purpose of providing health care
5 to underserved individuals in the State of Florida.

6 (3) In order to renew a scholarship awarded pursuant
7 to this section, a student shall maintain full-time student
8 status and a cumulative grade point average established by
9 rule.

10 (4) The number of scholarships annually awarded shall
11 be three per school. Priority in the distribution of
12 scholarships shall be given to students with the lowest total
13 family resources.

14 (5) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for the
15 program shall be deposited in the State Student Financial
16 Assistance Trust Fund. Interest income accruing to the program
17 from funds of the program in the trust fund not allocated
18 shall increase the funds available for scholarships. Any
19 balance in the trust fund at the end of any fiscal year that
20 has been allocated to the program shall remain in the trust
21 fund and shall be available for carrying out the purposes of
22 this section.

23 (6) A scholarship recipient who, upon graduation,
24 defaults on the commitment to serve in the medical corps for
25 the full 2 years shall be required to repay all scholarship
26 money plus interest.

27 (7) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
28 necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

29 Section 449. Section 1009.69, Florida Statutes, is
30 created to read:

31 1009.69 Virgil Hawkins Fellows Assistance Program.--

1 (1) The Virgil Hawkins Fellows Assistance Program
2 shall provide financial assistance for study in law to
3 minority students in the colleges of law at the Florida State
4 University, the University of Florida, the Florida
5 Agricultural and Mechanical University, and the Florida
6 International University. For the purposes of this section, a
7 minority student qualified to receive assistance from the
8 Virgil Hawkins Fellows Assistance Program shall be identified
9 pursuant to policies adopted by the State Board of Education.

10 (2) Each student who is awarded a fellowship shall be
11 entitled to receive an award under this act for each academic
12 term that the student is in good standing as approved by the
13 law school pursuant to guidelines of the State Board of
14 Education.

15 (3) If a fellowship vacancy occurs, that slot shall be
16 reassigned and funded as a continuing fellowship for the
17 remainder of the period for which the award was originally
18 designated.

19 (4) The State Board of Education shall adopt policies,
20 and the Department of Education shall administer the Virgil
21 Hawkins Fellows Assistance Program.

22 Section 450. Section 1009.70, Florida Statutes, is
23 created to read:

24 1009.70 Florida Education Fund.--

25 (1) This section shall be known and may be cited as
26 the "Florida Education Fund Act."

27 (2)(a) The Florida Education Fund, a not-for-profit
28 statutory corporation, is created from a challenge endowment
29 grant from the McKnight Foundation and operates on income
30 derived from the investment of endowment gifts and other gifts
31

1 as provided by state statute and appropriate matching funds as
2 provided by the state.

3 (b) The amount appropriated to the fund shall be on
4 the basis of \$1 for each \$2 contributed by private sources.
5 The Florida Education Fund shall certify to the Legislature
6 the amount of donations contributed between July 1, 1990, and
7 June 30, 1991. Only the new donations above the certified base
8 shall be calculated for state matching funds during the first
9 year of the program. In subsequent years, only the new
10 donations above the certified prior year base shall be
11 calculated for state matching funds.

12 (3) The Florida Education Fund shall use the income of
13 the fund to provide for programs which seek to:

14 (a) Enhance the quality of higher educational
15 opportunity in this state;

16 (b) Enhance equality by providing access to effective
17 higher education programs by minority and economically
18 deprived individuals in this state, with particular
19 consideration to be given to the needs of both blacks and
20 women; and

21 (c) Increase the representation of minorities in
22 faculty and administrative positions in higher education in
23 this state and to provide more highly educated minority
24 leadership in business and professional enterprises in this
25 state.

26 (4) The Florida Education Fund shall be administered
27 by a board of directors, which is hereby established.

28 (a) The board of directors shall consist of 12
29 members, to be appointed as follows:

30 1. Two laypersons appointed by the Governor;
31

1 2. Two laypersons appointed by the President of the
2 Senate;

3 3. Two laypersons appointed by the Speaker of the
4 House of Representatives; and

5 4. Two representatives of state universities, two
6 representatives of public community colleges, and two
7 representatives of independent colleges or universities
8 appointed by the State Board of Education.

9
10 The board of directors may appoint to the board an additional
11 five members from the private sector for the purpose of
12 assisting in the procurement of private contributions. Such
13 members shall serve as voting members of the board.

14 (b) Each of the educational sectors in paragraph (a)
15 shall be represented by a president and a faculty member of
16 the corresponding institutions.

17 (c) Each director shall hold office for a term of 3
18 years or until resignation or removal for cause. A director
19 may resign at any time by filing his or her written
20 resignation with the executive secretary for the board. The
21 terms of the directors shall be staggered so that the terms of
22 one-third of the directors will expire annually.

23 (d) In the event of a vacancy on the board caused by
24 other than the expiration of a term, a new member shall be
25 appointed by the appointing entity in the sector of which the
26 vacancy occurs.

27 (e) Each member is accountable to the Governor for the
28 proper performance of the duties of his or her office. The
29 Governor shall cause any complaint or unfavorable report
30 received concerning an action of the board or any of its
31 members to be investigated and shall take appropriate action

1 thereon. The Governor may remove any member from office for
2 malfeasance, misfeasance, neglect of duty, incompetence, or
3 permanent inability to perform his or her official duties or
4 for pleading nolo contendere to, or being found guilty of, a
5 crime.

6 (5) The Board of Directors of the Florida Education
7 Fund shall review and evaluate initial programs created by the
8 McKnight Foundation and continue funding the Black Doctorate
9 Fellowship Program and the Junior Fellowship Program if the
10 evaluation is positive, and the board shall identify,
11 initiate, and fund new and creative programs and monitor,
12 review, and evaluate those programs. The purpose of this
13 commitment is to broaden the participation and funding
14 potential for further significant support of higher education
15 in this state. In addition, the board shall:

16 (a) Hold such meetings as are necessary to implement
17 the provisions of this section.

18 (b) Select a chairperson annually.

19 (c) Adopt and use an official seal in the
20 authentication of its acts.

21 (d) Make rules for its own government.

22 (e) Administer this section.

23 (f) Appoint an executive director to serve at its
24 pleasure and perform all duties assigned by the board. The
25 executive director shall be the chief administrative officer
26 and agent of the board.

27 (g) Maintain a record of its proceedings.

28 (h) Delegate to the chairperson of the board the
29 responsibility for signing final orders.

30
31

1 (i) Utilize existing higher education organizations,
2 associations, and agencies to carry out its educational
3 programs and purposes with minimal staff employment.

4 (j) Be empowered to enter into contracts with the
5 Federal Government, state agencies, or individuals.

6 (k) Receive bequests, gifts, grants, donations, and
7 other valued goods and services. Such bequests and gifts
8 shall be used only for the purpose or purposes stated by the
9 donor.

10 (6) The board of directors is authorized to establish
11 a trust fund from the proceeds of the Florida Education Fund.
12 All funds deposited into the trust fund shall be invested
13 pursuant to the provisions of s. 215.47. Interest income
14 accruing to the unused portion of the trust fund shall
15 increase the total funds available for endowments. The
16 Department of Education may, at the request of the board of
17 directors, administer the fund for investment purposes.

18 (7) It is the intent of the Legislature that the Board
19 of Directors of the Florida Education Fund recruit eligible
20 residents of the state before it extends its search to
21 eligible nonresidents. However, for the purposes of subsection
22 (8), the board of directors shall recruit eligible residents
23 only. It is further the intent of the Legislature that the
24 board of directors establish service terms, if any, that
25 accompany the award of moneys from the fund.

26 (8) There is created a legal education component of
27 the Florida Education Fund to provide the opportunity for
28 minorities to attain representation within the legal
29 profession proportionate to their representation within the
30 general population. The legal education component of the
31

1 Florida Education Fund includes a law school program and a
2 pre-law program.

3 (a) The law school scholarship program of the Florida
4 Education Fund is to be administered by the Board of Directors
5 of the Florida Education Fund for the purpose of increasing by
6 200 the number of minority students enrolled in law schools in
7 this state. Implementation of this program is to be phased in
8 over a 3-year period.

9 1. The board of directors shall provide financial,
10 academic, and other support to students selected for
11 participation in this program from funds appropriated by the
12 Legislature.

13 2. Student selection must be made in accordance with
14 rules adopted by the board of directors for that purpose and
15 must be based, at least in part, on an assessment of potential
16 for success, merit, and financial need.

17 3. Support must be made available to students who
18 enroll in private, as well as public, law schools in this
19 state which are accredited by the American Bar Association.

20 4. Scholarships must be paid directly to the
21 participating students.

22 5. Students who participate in this program must agree
23 in writing to sit for The Florida Bar examination and, upon
24 successful admission to The Florida Bar, to either practice
25 law in the state for a period of time equal to the amount of
26 time for which the student received aid, up to 3 years, or
27 repay the amount of aid received.

28 6. Annually the board of directors shall compile a
29 report that includes a description of the selection process,
30 an analysis of the academic progress of all scholarship
31 recipients, and an analysis of expenditures. This report must

1 be submitted to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of
2 the House of Representatives, and the Governor.

3 (b) The minority pre-law scholarship loan program of
4 the Florida Education Fund is to be administered by the Board
5 of Directors of the Florida Education Fund for the purpose of
6 increasing the opportunity of minority students to prepare for
7 law school.

8 1. From funds appropriated by the Legislature, the
9 board of directors shall provide for student fees, room,
10 board, books, supplies, and academic and other support to
11 selected minority undergraduate students matriculating at
12 eligible public and independent colleges and universities in
13 Florida.

14 2. Student selection must be made in accordance with
15 rules adopted by the board of directors for that purpose and
16 must be based, at least in part, on an assessment of potential
17 for success, merit, and financial need.

18 3. To be eligible, a student must make a written
19 agreement to enter or be accepted to enter a law school in
20 this state within 2 years after graduation or repay the
21 scholarship loan amount plus interest at the prevailing rate.

22 4. Recipients who fail to gain admission to a law
23 school within the specified period of time, may, upon
24 admission to law school, be eligible to have their loans
25 canceled.

26 5. Minority pre-law scholarship loans shall be
27 provided to 34 minority students per year for up to 4 years
28 each, for a total of 136 scholarship loans. To continue
29 receipt of scholarship loans, recipients must maintain a 2.75
30 grade point average for the freshman year and a 3.25 grade
31 point average thereafter. Participants must also take

1 specialized courses to enhance competencies in English and
2 logic.

3 6. The board of directors shall maintain records on
4 all scholarship loan recipients. Participating institutions
5 shall submit academic progress reports to the board of
6 directors following each academic term. Annually, the board
7 of directors shall compile a report that includes a
8 description of the selection process, an analysis of the
9 academic progress of all scholarship loan recipients, and an
10 analysis of expenditures. This report must be submitted to
11 the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
12 Representatives, and the Governor.

13 Section 451. Section 1009.72, Florida Statutes, is
14 created to read:

15 1009.72 Jose Marti Scholarship Challenge Grant
16 Program.--

17 (1) There is hereby established a Jose Marti
18 Scholarship Challenge Grant Program to be administered by the
19 Department of Education pursuant to this section and rules of
20 the State Board of Education. The program shall provide
21 matching grants for private sources that raise money for
22 scholarships to be awarded to Hispanic-American students.

23 (2) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for the
24 program shall be deposited in the State Student Financial
25 Assistance Trust Fund. The Comptroller shall authorize
26 expenditures from the trust fund upon receipt of vouchers
27 approved by the Department of Education. All moneys collected
28 from private sources for the purposes of this section shall be
29 deposited into the trust fund. Any balance in the trust fund
30 at the end of any fiscal year that has been allocated to the
31

1 program shall remain therein and shall be available for
2 carrying out the purposes of the program.

3 (3) The Legislature shall designate funds to be
4 transferred to the trust fund for the program from the General
5 Revenue Fund. Such funds shall be divided into challenge
6 grants to be administered by the Department of Education. All
7 appropriated funds deposited into the trust fund for the
8 program shall be invested pursuant to the provisions of s.
9 18.125. Interest income accruing to that portion of the funds
10 that are allocated to the program in the trust fund and not
11 matched shall increase the total funds available for the
12 program.

13 (4) The amount appropriated to the trust fund for the
14 program shall be allocated by the department on the basis of
15 one \$5,000 challenge grant for each \$2,500 raised from private
16 sources. Matching funds shall be generated through
17 contributions made after July 1, 1986, and pledged for the
18 purposes of this section. Pledged contributions shall not be
19 eligible for matching prior to the actual collection of the
20 total funds.

21 (5)(a) In order to be eligible to receive a
22 scholarship pursuant to this section, an applicant shall:

23 1. Be a Hispanic-American, or a person of Spanish
24 culture with origins in Mexico, South America, Central
25 America, or the Caribbean, regardless of race.

26 2. Be a citizen of the United States and meet the
27 general requirements for student eligibility as provided in s.
28 1009.40, except as otherwise provided in this section.

29 3. Be accepted at a state university or community
30 college or any Florida college or university that is
31 accredited by an association whose standards are comparable to

1 the minimum standards required to operate a postsecondary
2 education institution at that level in Florida.

3 4. Enroll as a full-time undergraduate or graduate
4 student.

5 5. Earn a 3.0 unweighted grade point average on a 4.0
6 scale, or the equivalent for high school subjects creditable
7 toward a diploma. If an applicant applies as a graduate
8 student, he or she shall have earned a 3.0 cumulative grade
9 point average for undergraduate college-level courses.

10 (b) In order to renew a scholarship awarded pursuant
11 to this section, a student must:

12 1. Earn a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0
13 scale for the previous term, maintain at least a 3.0 average
14 for college work, or have an average below 3.0 only for the
15 previous term and be eligible for continued enrollment at the
16 institution.

17 2. Maintain full-time enrollment.

18 (6) The annual scholarship to each recipient shall be
19 \$2,000. Priority in the distribution of scholarships shall be
20 given to students with the lowest total family resources.
21 Renewal scholarships shall take precedence over new awards in
22 any year in which funds are not sufficient to meet the total
23 need. No undergraduate student shall receive an award for
24 more than the equivalent of 8 semesters or 12 quarters over a
25 period of no more than 6 consecutive years, except as
26 otherwise provided in s. 1009.40(3). No graduate student
27 shall receive an award for more than the equivalent of 4
28 semesters or 6 quarters.

29 (7) The criteria and procedure for establishing
30 standards of eligibility shall be determined by the
31 department. The department is directed to establish a rating

1 system upon which to base the approval of grants. Such system
2 shall include a certification of acceptability by the
3 postsecondary institution of the applicant's choice.

4 (8) Payment of scholarships shall be transmitted to
5 the president of the postsecondary institution that the
6 recipient is attending or to the president's designee. Should
7 a recipient terminate his or her enrollment during the
8 academic year, the president or his or her designee shall
9 refund the unused portion of the scholarship to the department
10 within 60 days. In the event that a recipient transfers from
11 one eligible institution to another, his or her scholarship
12 shall be transferable upon approval of the department.

13 (9) This section shall be implemented to the extent
14 funded and authorized by law.

15 Section 452. Section 1009.73, Florida Statutes, is
16 created to read:

17 1009.73 Mary McLeod Bethune Scholarship Program.--

18 (1) There is established the Mary McLeod Bethune
19 Scholarship Program to be administered by the Department of
20 Education pursuant to this section and rules of the State
21 Board of Education. The program shall provide matching grants
22 for private sources that raise money for scholarships to be
23 awarded to students who attend Florida Agricultural and
24 Mechanical University, Bethune-Cookman College, Edward Waters
25 College, or Florida Memorial College.

26 (2) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for the
27 program shall be deposited in the State Student Financial
28 Assistance Trust Fund. The Comptroller shall authorize
29 expenditures from the trust fund upon receipt of vouchers
30 approved by the Department of Education. The Department of
31 Education shall receive all moneys collected from private

1 sources for the purposes of this section and shall deposit
2 such moneys into the trust fund. Notwithstanding the
3 provisions of s. 216.301 and pursuant to s. 216.351, any
4 balance in the trust fund at the end of any fiscal year that
5 has been allocated to the program shall remain in the trust
6 fund and shall be available for carrying out the purposes of
7 the program.

8 (3) The Legislature shall appropriate moneys to the
9 trust fund for the program from the General Revenue Fund. Such
10 moneys shall be applied to scholarships to be administered by
11 the Department of Education. All moneys deposited into the
12 trust fund for the program shall be invested pursuant to the
13 provisions of s. 18.125. Interest income accruing to the
14 program shall be expended to increase the total moneys
15 available for scholarships.

16 (4) The moneys in the trust fund for the program shall
17 be allocated by the department among the institutions of
18 higher education listed in subsection (1) on the basis of one
19 \$2,000 challenge grant for each \$1,000 raised from private
20 sources. Matching funds shall be generated through
21 contributions made after July 1, 1990, and pledged for the
22 purposes of this section. Pledged contributions shall not be
23 eligible for matching prior to the actual collection of the
24 total funds. The department shall allocate to each of those
25 institutions a proportionate share of the contributions
26 received on behalf of those institutions and a share of the
27 appropriations and matching funds generated by such
28 institution.

29 (5)(a) In order to be eligible to receive a
30 scholarship pursuant to this section, an applicant must:
31

1 1. Meet the general eligibility requirements set forth
2 in s. 1009.40.

3 2. Be accepted at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical
4 University, Bethune-Cookman College, Edward Waters College, or
5 Florida Memorial College.

6 3. Enroll as a full-time undergraduate student.

7 4. Earn a 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale, or
8 the equivalent, for high school subjects creditable toward a
9 diploma.

10 (b) In order to renew a scholarship awarded pursuant
11 to this section, a student must earn a minimum cumulative
12 grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale and complete 12
13 credits each term for which the student received the
14 scholarship.

15 (6) The amount of the scholarship to be granted to
16 each recipient is \$3,000 annually. Priority in the awarding
17 of scholarships shall be given to students having financial
18 need as determined by the institution. If funds are
19 insufficient to provide the full amount of the scholarship
20 authorized in this section to each eligible applicant, the
21 institution may prorate available funds and make a partial
22 award to each eligible applicant. A student may not receive an
23 award for more than the equivalent of 8 semesters or 12
24 quarters over a period of 6 consecutive years, except that a
25 student who is participating in college-preparatory
26 instruction or who requires additional time to complete the
27 college-level communication and computation skills testing
28 program may continue to receive a scholarship while enrolled
29 for the purpose of receiving college-preparatory instruction
30 or while completing the testing program.

31

1 (7) The criteria and procedure for establishing
2 standards of eligibility shall be determined by the
3 department. The department shall establish a rating system
4 upon which the institutions shall award the scholarships. The
5 system must require a certification of eligibility issued by
6 the postsecondary institution selected by the applicant.

7 (8) Scholarship moneys shall be transmitted to the
8 president or the president's designee of the postsecondary
9 institution that the recipient is attending. The president or
10 his or her designee shall submit a report annually to the
11 Department of Education on the scholarships. If a recipient
12 terminates his or her enrollment during the academic year, the
13 president or his or her designee shall refund the unused
14 portion of the scholarship to the department within 60 days.
15 If a recipient transfers from one of the institutions listed
16 in subsection (1) to another of those institutions, the
17 recipient's scholarship is transferable upon approval of the
18 department.

19 (9) This section shall be implemented in any academic
20 year to the extent funded and authorized by law.

21 (10) The State Board of Education may adopt any rules
22 necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

23 Section 453. Section 1009.74, Florida Statutes, is
24 created to read:

25 1009.74 The Theodore R. and Vivian M. Johnson
26 Scholarship Program.--

27 (1) There is established the Theodore R. and Vivian M.
28 Johnson Scholarship Program to be administered by the
29 Department of Education. The program shall provide
30 scholarships to students attending a state university. The
31 program shall be funded by contributions from the Theodore R.

1 and Vivian M. Johnson Scholarship Foundation and from state
2 matching funds to be allocated from the Trust Fund for Major
3 Gifts.

4 (2) The amount to be allocated to the program shall be
5 on the basis of a 50-percent match of funds from the Trust
6 Fund for Major Gifts for each contribution received from the
7 Theodore R. and Vivian M. Johnson Scholarship Foundation. The
8 funds allocated to the program, including the corpus and
9 interest income, shall be expended for scholarships to benefit
10 disabled students attending a state university.

11 (3) Students eligible for receipt of scholarship funds
12 shall provide documentation of a disability and shall have a
13 demonstrated financial need for the funds.

14 Section 454. Section 1009.76, Florida Statutes, is
15 created to read:

16 1009.76 Ethics in Business Scholarship Program for
17 state universities.--The Ethics in Business Scholarship
18 Program for state universities is hereby created, to be
19 administered by the Department of Education. Moneys
20 appropriated and allocated to university foundations for
21 purposes of the program shall be used to create endowments for
22 the purpose of providing scholarships to undergraduate college
23 students enrolled in state institutions of higher learning who
24 register for one or more credit hours in courses in business
25 ethics and who have demonstrated a commitment to serving the
26 interests of their community. First priority for awarding such
27 scholarships shall be given to students who demonstrate
28 financial need.

29 Section 455. Section 1009.765, Florida Statutes, is
30 created to read:

31

1 1009.765 Ethics in Business scholarships for community
2 colleges and independent postsecondary educational
3 institutions.--When the Department of Insurance receives a \$6
4 million settlement as specified in the Consent Order of the
5 Treasurer and Insurance Commissioner, case number 18900-96-c,
6 that portion of the \$6 million not used to satisfy the
7 requirements of section 18 of the Consent Order must be
8 transferred from the Insurance Commissioner's Regulatory Trust
9 Fund to the State Student Financial Assistance Trust Fund is
10 appropriated from the State Student Financial Assistance Trust
11 Fund to provide Ethics in Business scholarships to students
12 enrolled in public community colleges and independent
13 postsecondary educational institutions eligible to participate
14 in the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant
15 Program under s. 1009.89. The funds shall be allocated to
16 institutions for scholarships in the following ratio:
17 Two-thirds for community colleges and one-third for eligible
18 independent institutions. The Department of Education shall
19 administer the scholarship program for students attending
20 community colleges and independent institutions. These funds
21 must be allocated to institutions that provide an equal amount
22 of matching funds generated by private donors for the purpose
23 of providing Ethics in Business scholarships. Public funds may
24 not be used to provide the match, nor may funds collected for
25 other purposes. Notwithstanding any other provision of law,
26 the State Board of Administration shall have the authority to
27 invest the funds appropriated under this section. The
28 Department of Education may adopt rules for administration of
29 the program.

30 Section 456. Section 1009.77, Florida Statutes, is
31 created to read:

1 1009.77 Florida Work Experience Program.--
2 (1) There is established the Florida Work Experience
3 Program to be administered by the Department of Education. The
4 purpose of the program is to introduce eligible students to
5 work experience that will complement and reinforce their
6 educational program and career goals and provide a self-help
7 student aid program. Such program shall be available to:
8 (a) Any student attending a state university or
9 community college authorized by Florida law; or
10 (b) Any student attending a nonprofit Florida
11 postsecondary education institution that is eligible to
12 participate in either of the student assistance grant programs
13 established in ss. 1009.51 and 1009.52.
14 (2)(a) A participating institution may use up to 25
15 percent of its program allocation for student employment
16 within the institution.
17 (b) A participating institution may use up to 10
18 percent of its program allocation for program administration.
19 (3) Each participating institution is authorized to
20 enter into contractual agreements with private or public
21 employers for the purpose of establishing a Florida work
22 experience program.
23 (4) The participating postsecondary educational
24 institution shall be responsible for reimbursing employers for
25 student wages from moneys it receives from the trust fund
26 pursuant to subsection (8). Public elementary or secondary
27 school employers shall be reimbursed for 100 percent of the
28 student's wages by the participating institution. All other
29 employers shall be reimbursed for 70 percent of the student's
30 wages. When a college or university employs a student on
31 campus through this program, other student financial aid funds

1 may not be used to fund the institution's 30-percent portion
2 of the student's wages.

3 (5) The employer is responsible for furnishing the
4 full cost of any mandatory benefits. Such benefits may not be
5 considered part of the 30-percent wage requirement total for
6 matching purposes.

7 (6) A student is eligible to participate in the
8 Florida Work Experience Program if the student:

9 (a) Is enrolled at an eligible college or university
10 as no less than a half-time undergraduate student in good
11 standing. However, a student may be employed during the break
12 between two consecutive terms or employed, although not
13 enrolled, during a term if the student was enrolled at least
14 half time during the preceding term and preregisters as no
15 less than a half-time student for the subsequent academic
16 term. A student who attends an institution that does not
17 provide preregistration shall provide documentation of intent
18 to enroll as no less than a half-time student for the
19 subsequent academic term.

20 (b) Meets the general requirements for student
21 eligibility as provided in s. 1009.40, except as otherwise
22 provided in this section.

23 (c) Demonstrates financial need.

24 (d) Maintains a 2.0 cumulative grade point average on
25 a 4.0 scale for all college work.

26 (7) The Department of Education shall prescribe such
27 rules for the program as are necessary for its administration,
28 for the determination of eligibility and selection of
29 institutions to receive funds for students, to ensure the
30 proper expenditure of funds, and to provide an equitable
31

1 distribution of funds between students at public and
2 independent colleges and universities.

3 (8) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for the
4 Florida Work Experience Program shall be deposited in the
5 State Student Financial Assistance Trust Fund. The Comptroller
6 shall authorize expenditures from the trust fund upon receipt
7 of vouchers approved by the Department of Education. Any
8 balance therein at the end of any fiscal year that has been
9 allocated to the program shall remain therein and shall be
10 available for carrying out the purposes of the program.

11 Section 457. Section 1009.78, Florida Statutes, is
12 created to read:

13 1009.78 Student Loan Program.--There is hereby created
14 a Student Loan Program, referred to in ss. 1009.78-1009.88 as
15 the program.

16 Section 458. Section 1009.79, Florida Statutes, is
17 created to read:

18 1009.79 Issuance of revenue bonds pursuant to s. 15,
19 Art. VII, State Constitution.--

20 (1) The issuance of revenue bonds to finance the
21 establishment of the program, to be payable primarily from
22 payments of interest, principal, and handling charges to the
23 program from the recipients of the loans, and with the other
24 revenues authorized hereby being pledged as additional
25 security, is hereby authorized, subject and pursuant to the
26 provisions of s. 15, Art. VII, State Constitution; the State
27 Bond Act, ss. 215.57-215.83; and ss. 1009.78-1009.88.

28 (2) The amount of such revenue bonds to be issued
29 shall be determined by the Division of Bond Finance of the
30 State Board of Administration. However, the total principal
31

1 amount outstanding shall not exceed \$80 million, other than
2 refunding bonds issued pursuant to s. 215.79.

3 Section 459. Section 1009.80, Florida Statutes, is
4 created to read:

5 1009.80 Approval of loans; administration of
6 program.--

7 (1) The loans to be made with the proceeds of the
8 program shall be determined and approved by the Department of
9 Education, pursuant to rules promulgated by the State Board of
10 Education. The program shall be administered by the
11 Department of Education as provided by law and the proceeds
12 thereof shall be maintained and secured in the same manner as
13 other public trust funds.

14 (2) The Department of Education may contract for the
15 purchase of federally insured student loans to be made by
16 other eligible lenders under the guaranteed student loan
17 program; however, any such loans must comply with all
18 applicable requirements of s. 15, Art. VII of the State
19 Constitution, ss. 1009.78-1009.88, the rules of the State
20 Board of Education relating to the guaranteed student loan
21 program, and the proceedings authorizing the student loan
22 revenue bonds, and the loans so purchased shall have been made
23 during the period specified in the contract.

24 (3) The Department of Education may sell loan notes
25 acquired pursuant to ss. 1009.78-1009.88 to the federally
26 created Student Loan Marketing Association or another
27 federally authorized holder of such notes. The department may
28 also repurchase loan notes from authorized holders of such
29 notes. The department shall comply with applicable federal
30 law and regulations and the provisions of any agreement with
31

1 the Student Loan Marketing Association or the other authorized
2 holders.

3 Section 460. Section 1009.81, Florida Statutes, is
4 created to read:

5 1009.81 Loan agreements.--The Department of Education
6 may enter into loan agreements between the department and the
7 recipients of loans from the program for such periods and
8 under such other terms and conditions as may be prescribed by
9 the applicable rules and regulations and mutually agreed upon
10 by the parties thereto in order to carry out the purposes of
11 s. 15, Art. VII, State Constitution and ss. 1009.78-1009.88.

12 Section 461. Section 1009.82, Florida Statutes, is
13 created to read:

14 1009.82 Terms of loans.--The term of all authorized
15 loans shall be fixed by rules adopted by the state board and
16 the loan agreements to be entered into with the student
17 borrowers.

18 Section 462. Section 1009.83, Florida Statutes, is
19 created to read:

20 1009.83 Rate of interest and other charges.--The
21 Department of Education shall from time to time fix the
22 interest and other charges to be paid for any student loan, at
23 rates sufficient to pay the interest on revenue bonds issued
24 pursuant to ss. 1009.78-1009.88, plus any costs incident to
25 issuance, sale, security, and retirement thereof, including
26 administrative expenses.

27 Section 463. Section 1009.84, Florida Statutes, is
28 created to read:

29 1009.84 Procurement of insurance as security for
30 loans.--The Department of Education may contract with any
31 insurance company or companies licensed to do business in the

1 state for insurance payable in the event of the death or total
2 disability of any student borrower in an amount sufficient to
3 retire the principal and interest owed under a loan made as
4 provided in ss. 1009.78-1009.88. The cost of any insurance
5 purchased under this section shall be paid by the student
6 borrower as a part of the handling charges for the loan or as
7 a separate item to be paid in connection with the loan.

8 Section 464. Section 1009.85, Florida Statutes, is
9 created to read:

10 1009.85 Participation in guaranteed student loan
11 program.--The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
12 necessary for participation in the guaranteed student loan
13 program, as provided by the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
14 U.S.C. ss. 1071 et seq.), as amended or as may be amended. The
15 intent of this act is to authorize student loans when this
16 state, through the Department of Education, has become an
17 eligible lender under the provisions of the applicable federal
18 laws providing for the guarantee of loans to students and the
19 partial payment of interest on such loans by the United States
20 Government.

21 Section 465. Section 1009.86, Florida Statutes, is
22 created to read:

23 1009.86 Student Loan Operating Trust Fund.--

24 (1) The Student Loan Operating Trust Fund is hereby
25 created, to be administered by the Department of Education.
26 Funds shall be credited to the trust fund pursuant to the
27 Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, from loan processing
28 and issuance fees, administrative cost allowances, account
29 maintenance fees, default aversion fees, amounts remaining
30 from collection of defaulted loans, amounts borrowed from the
31 Student Loan Guaranty Reserve Fund, and other amounts

1 specified in federal regulation. The purpose of the trust fund
2 is to segregate funds used for administration of the
3 guaranteed student loan program from the reserve funds used to
4 guarantee student loans contained in the Student Loan Guaranty
5 Reserve Fund. The fund is exempt from the service charges
6 imposed by s. 215.20.

7 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 216.301 and
8 pursuant to s. 216.351, any balance in the trust fund at the
9 end of any fiscal year shall remain in the trust fund at the
10 end of the year and shall be available for carrying out the
11 purposes of the trust fund.

12 (3) Pursuant to the provisions of s. 19(f)(2), Art.
13 III of the State Constitution, the trust fund shall, unless
14 terminated sooner, be terminated on July 1, 2003. However,
15 prior to its scheduled termination, the trust fund shall be
16 reviewed as provided in s. 215.3206(1) and (2).

17 Section 466. Section 1009.87, Florida Statutes, is
18 created to read:

19 1009.87 Provisions of ss. 1009.78-1009.88
20 cumulative.--The provisions of ss. 1009.78-1009.88 shall be in
21 addition to the other provisions of this chapter and shall not
22 be construed to be in derogation thereof, except as otherwise
23 expressly provided hereby.

24 Section 467. Section 1009.88, Florida Statutes, is
25 created to read:

26 1009.88 Validation of bonds.--Revenue bonds issued
27 pursuant to ss. 1009.78-1009.88 shall be validated in the
28 manner provided by chapter 75. In actions to validate such
29 revenue bonds, the complaint shall be filed in the circuit
30 court of the county where the seat of state government is
31 situated, the notice required by s. 75.06 to be published

1 shall be published only in the county where the complaint is
2 filed, and the complaint and order of the circuit court shall
3 be served only on the attorney of the circuit in which the
4 action is pending.

5 Section 468. Section 1009.89, Florida Statutes, is
6 created to read:

7 1009.89 The William L. Boyd, IV, Florida resident
8 access grants.--

9 (1) The Legislature finds and declares that
10 independent colleges and universities eligible to participate
11 in the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant
12 Program are an integral part of the higher education system in
13 this state and that a significant number of state residents
14 choose this form of higher education. The Legislature further
15 finds that a strong and viable system of independent colleges
16 and universities reduces the tax burden on the citizens of the
17 state. Because the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident
18 Access Grant Program is not related to a student's financial
19 need or other criteria upon which financial aid programs are
20 based, it is the intent of the Legislature that the William L.
21 Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant Program not be
22 considered a financial aid program but rather a tuition
23 assistance program for its citizens.

24 (2) The William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access
25 Grant Program shall be administered by the Department of
26 Education. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules for
27 the administration of the program.

28 (3) The department shall issue through the program a
29 William L. Boyd, IV, Florida resident access grant to any
30 full-time degree-seeking undergraduate student registered at
31 an independent college or university which is located in and

1 chartered by the state; which is accredited by the Commission
2 on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and
3 Schools; which grants baccalaureate degrees; which is not a
4 state university or state community college; and which has a
5 secular purpose, so long as the receipt of state aid by
6 students at the institution would not have the primary effect
7 of advancing or impeding religion or result in an excessive
8 entanglement between the state and any religious sect. Any
9 independent college or university that was eligible to receive
10 tuition vouchers on January 1, 1989, and which continues to
11 meet the criteria under which its eligibility was established,
12 shall remain eligible to receive William L. Boyd, IV, Florida
13 resident access grant payments.

14 (4) A person is eligible to receive such William L.
15 Boyd, IV, Florida resident access grant if:

16 (a) He or she meets the general requirements,
17 including residency, for student eligibility as provided in s.
18 1009.40, except as otherwise provided in this section; and

19 (b)1. He or she is enrolled as a full-time
20 undergraduate student at an eligible college or university;

21 2. He or she is not enrolled in a program of study
22 leading to a degree in theology or divinity; and

23 3. He or she is making satisfactory academic progress
24 as defined by the college or university in which he or she is
25 enrolled.

26 (5)(a) Funding for the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida
27 Resident Access Grant Program shall be based on a formula
28 composed of planned enrollment and the state cost of funding
29 undergraduate enrollment at public institutions pursuant to s.
30 1011.90. The amount of the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida
31 resident access grant issued to a full-time student shall be

1 an amount as specified in the General Appropriations Act. The
2 William L. Boyd, IV, Florida resident access grant may be paid
3 on a prorated basis in advance of the registration period. The
4 department shall make such payments to the college or
5 university in which the student is enrolled for credit to the
6 student's account for payment of tuition and fees.
7 Institutions shall certify to the department the amount of
8 funds disbursed to each student and shall remit to the
9 department any undisbursed advances or refunds within 60 days
10 of the end of regular registration. Students shall not be
11 eligible to receive the award for more than 9 semesters or 14
12 quarters, except as otherwise provided in s. 1009.40(3).

13 (b) If the combined amount of the William L. Boyd, IV,
14 Florida resident access grant issued pursuant to this act and
15 all other scholarships and grants for tuition or fees exceeds
16 the amount charged to the student for tuition and fees, the
17 department shall reduce the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida
18 resident access grant issued pursuant to this act by an amount
19 equal to such excess.

20 (6) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for the
21 William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant Program
22 shall be deposited in the State Student Financial Assistance
23 Trust Fund. Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 216.301 and
24 pursuant to s. 216.351, any balance in the trust fund at the
25 end of any fiscal year which has been allocated to the William
26 L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant Program shall
27 remain therein and shall be available for carrying out the
28 purposes of this section. If the number of eligible students
29 exceeds the total authorized in the General Appropriations
30 Act, an institution may use its own resources to assure that
31

1 each eligible student receives the full benefit of the grant
2 amount authorized.

3 Section 469. Part III.c. of chapter 1009, Florida
4 Statutes, shall be entitled "Role of the Department of
5 Education" and shall consist of ss. 1009.90-1009.96.

6 Section 470. Section 1009.90, Florida Statutes, is
7 created to read:

8 1009.90 Duties of the Department of Education.--The
9 duties of the department shall include:

10 (1) Administration of this part and rules adopted by
11 the State Board of Education.

12 (2) Administration of federal funding, insurance, or
13 reinsurance in full compliance with applicable federal laws
14 and regulations.

15 (3) Development of written administrative procedures
16 and controls for the administration of each financial aid
17 program conducted by the office, maintenance of program
18 records and documents, timely collection and remittance of
19 insurance premiums, and timely assignment of defaulted loans
20 to collection agencies.

21 (4) Annual compilation of sources of financial aid
22 available to students in this state.

23 (5) Biennial analysis of the amount of available
24 financial aid moneys and the effect of such moneys on student
25 access to postsecondary institutions.

26 (6) Biennial internal evaluation of the administrative
27 efficiency and effectiveness of the office.

28 (7) Annual assessment of the accuracy of eligibility
29 information from a random sample of award recipients.

30 (8) Annual review of procedures for the distribution
31 of state financial aid funds.

1 (9) Development and submission of a report, annually,
2 to the State Board of Education, the President of the Senate,
3 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, which shall
4 include, but not be limited to, recommendations for the
5 distribution of state financial aid funds.

6 (10) Development and evaluation of a comprehensive,
7 long-range program of all sources of student financial aid.

8 (11) Dissemination of information on available
9 financial aid programs to district school superintendents and
10 other persons who request such information.

11 (12) Calculation of the amount of need-based student
12 financial aid required to offset fee increases recommended by
13 the State Board of Education and inclusion of such amount
14 within the legislative budget request for student assistance
15 grant programs.

16 Section 471. Section 1009.91, Florida Statutes, is
17 created to read:

18 1009.91 Assistance programs and activities of the
19 department.--

20 (1) The department may contract for the administration
21 of the student financial assistance programs as specifically
22 provided in ss. 295.01, 1009.29, 1009.56, and 1009.78.

23 (2) The department may contract to provide the
24 planning and development activities required pursuant to the
25 provisions of this part.

26 (3) The department shall administer the guarantee of
27 student loans made by participating commercial financial
28 institutions in such a manner as to fully comply with
29 applicable provisions of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as
30 amended, relating to loan reinsurance.

31

1 (4) The department shall maintain records on the
2 student loan default rate of each Florida postsecondary
3 institution and report that information annually to both the
4 institution and the State Board of Education.

5 Section 472. Section 1009.92, Florida Statutes, is
6 created to read:

7 1009.92 Funding for programs administered by the
8 department.--

9 (1) In the preparation of its annual budget, the
10 department shall request that the Legislature continue to
11 provide funding for applicable programs from the General
12 Revenue Fund.

13 (2) The department is authorized to expend moneys from
14 available trust funds in applicable student financial
15 assistance programs.

16 (3) There is created a Student Loan Guaranty Reserve
17 Fund, which shall be administered by the department in
18 carrying out the provisions of this act.

19 (4) The principal sources of operating funds shall be
20 from the earnings from the temporary investment of the Student
21 Loan Guaranty Reserve Fund and from compensation for services
22 performed under contract for the administration of student
23 financial assistance programs pursuant to s. 1009.91.

24 (5) The department is authorized to accept grant funds
25 under the Leveraging Educational Assistance Program and
26 Supplemental Leveraging Educational Assistance Program of the
27 Federal Government, as provided by the Higher Education Act of
28 1965, as amended.

29 (6) The department is authorized to accept federal
30 advances for the establishment of the Student Loan Guaranty
31 Reserve Fund pursuant to the Higher Education Act of 1965, as

1 amended, under agreement with the United States Commissioner
2 of Education and to maintain such advances until recalled by
3 the United States Commissioner of Education.

4 (7) The department is authorized to assess a student
5 loan insurance premium on each loan guaranteed by the
6 department. The amount of insurance premium will be determined
7 by the department in the amount sufficient to maintain the
8 pledged level of reserve funds but in no event may the amount
9 of the insurance premium exceed the maximum provided by
10 federal law.

11 (8) The department shall invest, or contract for the
12 temporary investment of, any unencumbered cash, and the
13 interest earned therefrom, except as otherwise provided for by
14 law or covenant, shall accrue to the Student Loan Guaranty
15 Reserve Fund or for the administration of financial aid
16 programs.

17 Section 473. Section 1009.93, Florida Statutes, is
18 created to read:

19 1009.93 Student financial aid planning and
20 development.--

21 (1) The department shall administer a student
22 financial aid planning and development program. It is the
23 intent of the Legislature that a specific sum of funds be
24 allocated each year for the purpose of sponsoring the design,
25 development, and implementation of a comprehensive program of
26 student financial aid and of initiating activities of
27 inservice training for student financial aid administrators
28 and activities to encourage maximum lender participation in
29 guaranteed loans.

30 (2) The objective of a state program is the
31 maintenance of a state student financial aid program to

1 supplement a basic national program which will provide equal
2 access to postsecondary education to citizens of this state
3 who have the ability and motivation to benefit from a
4 postsecondary education. In the development of a state program
5 to achieve this objective, it shall be the policy that:
6 (a) State student financial aid be provided primarily
7 on the basis of financial need;
8 (b) Students receiving need-based financial aid be
9 expected to contribute toward their cost of education through
10 self-help resources such as savings, work, and loans;
11 (c) Student financial aid be available to state
12 residents for attendance at accredited public or private
13 institutions of higher education in this state;
14 (d) Student financial aid be provided for all levels
15 of postsecondary education; and
16 (e) State student financial aid be administered by a
17 central state agency.
18
19 Planning and development must be in accordance with the
20 foregoing objective and policies.
21 (3) The planning and development procedures shall
22 provide for:
23 (a) The review of public policy;
24 (b) The development of performance objectives;
25 (c) The development of alternate approaches;
26 (d) The evaluation of performance; and
27 (e) The participation and involvement in the planning
28 process of representatives of the groups affected by a state
29 program of student financial aid.
30
31

1 (4) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
2 providing for the verification of the independent status of
3 state financial aid recipients.

4 (5) The department shall encourage industry and
5 education linkages through the development of temporary
6 employment opportunities for students attending postsecondary
7 institutions in this state.

8 Section 474. Section 1009.94, Florida Statutes, is
9 created to read:

10 1009.94 Student financial assistance database.--

11 (1) The Department of Education shall design and
12 maintain a student financial assistance database that can be
13 used to support all aspects of the administration and delivery
14 of state-funded student financial aid. In addition, the
15 database must have the capability of providing policymakers
16 with comprehensive information regarding the various financial
17 assistance programs available to students attending Florida
18 postsecondary education institutions.

19 (2) For purposes of this section, financial assistance
20 includes:

21 (a) For all students, any scholarship, grant, loan,
22 fee waiver, tuition assistance payment, or other form of
23 compensation provided from state or federal funds.

24 (b) For students attending public institutions, any
25 scholarship, grant, loan, fee waiver, tuition assistance
26 payment, or other form of compensation supported by
27 institutional funds.

28 (3) The database must include records on any student
29 receiving any form of financial assistance as described in
30 subsection (2). Institutions participating in any state
31 financial assistance program shall annually submit such

1 information to the Department of Education in a format
2 prescribed by the department and consistent with the
3 provisions of s. 1002.22.

4 Section 475. Section 1009.95, Florida Statutes, is
5 created to read:

6 1009.95 Delinquent accounts.--

7 (1) The Department of Education is directed to exert
8 every lawful and reasonable effort to collect all delinquent
9 unpaid and uncanceled scholarship loan notes, student loan
10 notes, and defaulted guaranteed loan notes.

11 (2) The department may establish a recovery account
12 into which unpaid and uncanceled scholarship loan note,
13 student loan note, and defaulted guaranteed loan note accounts
14 may be transferred.

15 (3) The department may settle any delinquent unpaid
16 and uncanceled scholarship loan notes, student loan notes, and
17 defaulted guaranteed loan notes and employ the service of a
18 collection agent when deemed advisable in collecting
19 delinquent or defaulted accounts. However, no collection agent
20 may be paid a commission in excess of 35 percent of the amount
21 collected. Any expense incurred by the department in enforcing
22 the collection of a loan note may be borne by the signer of
23 the note and may be added to the amount of the principal of
24 such note.

25 (4) The department may charge off unpaid and
26 uncanceled scholarship loan notes and student loan notes which
27 are at least 3 years delinquent and which prove uncollectible
28 after good faith collection efforts. However, a delinquent
29 account with a past due balance of \$25 or less may be charged
30 off as uncollectible when it becomes 6 months past due and the
31

1 cost of further collection effort or assignment to a
2 collection agent would not be warranted.

3 (5) No individual borrower who has been determined to
4 be in default in making legally required scholarship loan,
5 student loan, or guaranteed loan repayments shall be furnished
6 with his or her academic transcripts or other student records
7 until such time as the loan is paid in full or the default
8 status has been removed.

9 (6) The department may charge an individual borrower
10 who has been determined to be in default in making legally
11 required loan repayments the maximum interest rate authorized
12 by law.

13 (7) The State Board of Education shall adopt such
14 rules as are necessary to regulate the collection, settlement,
15 and charging off of delinquent unpaid and uncanceled
16 scholarship loan notes, student loan notes, and defaulted
17 guaranteed loan notes.

18 Section 476. Section 1009.96, Florida Statutes, is
19 created to read:

20 1009.96 Annual review of financial assistance
21 programs.--All new and existing financial assistance programs
22 authorized under this chapter which are not funded for 3
23 consecutive years after enactment shall stand repealed.
24 Financial assistance programs provided under this part on July
25 1, 1992, which lose funding for 3 consecutive years shall
26 stand repealed. The Department of Education shall annually
27 review the legislative appropriation for financial assistance
28 programs to identify such programs.

29 Section 477. Part IV of chapter 1009, Florida
30 Statutes, shall be entitled "Prepaid College Board Programs"
31 and shall consist of ss. 1009.97-1009.984.

1 Section 478. Section 1009.97, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1009.97 General provisions.--

4 (1) LEGISLATIVE FINDING; EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY.--The
5 Legislature recognizes that educational opportunity at the
6 postsecondary level is a critical state interest and is best
7 ensured through the provision of postsecondary institutions
8 that are geographically and financially accessible, that
9 affordability and accessibility of higher education are
10 essential to the welfare and well-being of the residents of
11 the state and are a critical state interest, and that
12 promoting and enhancing financial access to postsecondary
13 institutions serve a legitimate public purpose.

14 (2) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.--It is the intent of the
15 Legislature that a prepaid program be established through
16 which many of the costs associated with postsecondary
17 attendance may be paid in advance and fixed at a guaranteed
18 level for the duration of undergraduate enrollment and that
19 this program fosters timely financial planning for
20 postsecondary attendance and to encourage employer
21 participation in such planning through program contributions
22 on behalf of employees and the dependents of employees. It is
23 further the intent of the Legislature that a savings program
24 be established as a supplement and alternative to the prepaid
25 program to allow persons to make contributions to a trust
26 account to meet some or all of the qualified higher education
27 expenses of a designated beneficiary, consistent with federal
28 law authorizing such programs, but without a guarantee by the
29 state that such contributions, together with the investment
30 return on such contributions, if any, will be adequate to pay
31 for qualified higher education expenses, to enable

1 participants to save for qualified higher education expenses,
2 and to provide a choice to persons who determine that the
3 overall educational needs of their families are best suited to
4 a savings program or who wish to save to meet postsecondary
5 educational needs beyond the traditional 4-year curriculum.
6 Finally, the Legislature intends that the prepaid program and
7 the savings program be conducted in a manner to maximize
8 program efficiency and effectiveness.

9 (3) DEFINITIONS.--As used in ss. 1009.97-1009.984, the
10 term:

11 (a) "Advance payment contract" means a contract
12 entered into by the board and a purchaser pursuant to s.
13 1009.98.

14 (b) "Board" means the Florida Prepaid College Board.

15 (c) "Trust fund" means the Florida Prepaid College
16 Trust Fund.

17 (d) "Prepaid program" means the Florida Prepaid
18 College Program established pursuant to s. 1009.98.

19 (e) "Purchaser" means a person who makes or is
20 obligated to make advance registration or dormitory residence
21 payments in accordance with an advance payment contract.

22 (f) "Qualified beneficiary" means:

23 1. A resident of this state at the time a purchaser
24 enters into an advance payment contract on behalf of the
25 resident;

26 2. A nonresident who is the child of a noncustodial
27 parent who is a resident of this state at the time that such
28 parent enters into an advance payment contract on behalf of
29 the child; or

30 3. For purposes of advance payment contracts entered
31 into pursuant to s. 1009.983, a graduate of an accredited high

1 school in this state who is a resident of this state at the
2 time he or she is designated to receive the benefits of the
3 advance payment contract.

4 (g) "Registration fee" means tuition fee, financial
5 aid fee, building fee, and Capital Improvement Trust Fund fee.

6 (h) "State postsecondary institution" means any public
7 community college or state university.

8 (i) "Benefactor" means any person making a deposit,
9 payment, contribution, gift, or other expenditure into the
10 savings program.

11 (j) "Designated beneficiary" means:

12 1. Any individual designated in the participation
13 agreement;

14 2. Any individual defined in s. 152(a)(1)-(8) of the
15 Internal Revenue Code; or

16 3. Any individual receiving a scholarship from
17 interests in the program purchased by a state or local
18 government or an organization described in s. 501(c)(3) of the
19 Internal Revenue Code.

20 (k) "Eligible educational institution" means an
21 institution of higher education that qualifies under s. 529 of
22 the Internal Revenue Code as an eligible educational
23 institution.

24 (l) "Internal Revenue Code" means the Internal Revenue
25 Code of 1986, as defined in s. 220.03(1), and regulations
26 adopted pursuant thereto.

27 (m) "Participation agreement" means an agreement
28 between the board and a benefactor for participation in the
29 savings program for a designated beneficiary.

30 (n) "Savings program" means the Florida College
31 Savings Program established pursuant to s. 1009.981.

1 (o) "Qualified higher education expenses" means higher
2 education expenses permitted under s. 529 of the Internal
3 Revenue Code and required for the enrollment or attendance of
4 a designated beneficiary at an eligible educational
5 institution, including undergraduate and graduate schools, and
6 any other higher education expenses that are permitted under
7 s. 529 of the Internal Revenue Code.

8 (p) "Prepaid fund" means the fund within the trust
9 fund into which moneys belonging to the prepaid program are
10 deposited and held.

11 (q) "Savings fund" means the fund within the trust
12 fund into which moneys belonging to the savings program are
13 deposited and held.

14 Section 479. Section 1009.971, Florida Statutes, is
15 created to read:

16 1009.971 Florida Prepaid College Board.--

17 (1) FLORIDA PREPAID COLLEGE BOARD; CREATION.--The
18 Florida Prepaid College Board is hereby created as a body
19 corporate with all the powers of a body corporate for the
20 purposes delineated in this section. The board shall
21 administer the prepaid program and the savings program, and
22 shall perform essential governmental functions as provided in
23 ss. 1009.97-1009.984. For the purposes of s. 6, Art. IV of the
24 State Constitution, the board shall be assigned to and
25 administratively housed within the State Board of
26 Administration, but it shall independently exercise the powers
27 and duties specified in ss. 1009.97-1009.984.

28 (2) FLORIDA PREPAID COLLEGE BOARD; MEMBERSHIP.--The
29 board shall consist of seven members to be composed of the
30 Attorney General, the Chief Financial Officer, the Deputy
31 Commissioner of Colleges and Universities, the Deputy

1 Commissioner of Community Colleges, and three members
2 appointed by the Governor and subject to confirmation by the
3 Senate. Each member appointed by the Governor shall possess
4 knowledge, skill, and experience in the areas of accounting,
5 actuary, risk management, or investment management. Each
6 member of the board not appointed by the Governor may name a
7 designee to serve on the board on behalf of the member;
8 however, any designee so named shall meet the qualifications
9 required of gubernatorial appointees to the board. Members
10 appointed by the Governor shall serve terms of 3 years. Any
11 person appointed to fill a vacancy on the board shall be
12 appointed in a like manner and shall serve for only the
13 unexpired term. Any member shall be eligible for reappointment
14 and shall serve until a successor qualifies. Members of the
15 board shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed
16 for per diem and travel in accordance with s. 112.061. Each
17 member of the board shall file a full and public disclosure of
18 his or her financial interests pursuant to s. 8, Art. II of
19 the State Constitution and corresponding statute.

20 (3) FLORIDA PREPAID COLLEGE BOARD; ELECTIONS;
21 MEETINGS.--The board shall annually elect a board member to
22 serve as chair and a board member to serve as vice chair and
23 shall designate a secretary-treasurer who need not be a member
24 of the board. The secretary-treasurer shall keep a record of
25 the proceedings of the board and shall be the custodian of all
26 printed material filed with or by the board and of its
27 official seal. Notwithstanding the existence of vacancies on
28 the board, a majority of the members shall constitute a
29 quorum. The board shall take no official action in the absence
30 of a quorum. The board shall meet, at a minimum, on a
31 quarterly basis at the call of the chair.

- 1 (4) FLORIDA PREPAID COLLEGE BOARD; POWERS AND
2 DUTIES.--The board shall have the powers and duties necessary
3 or proper to carry out the provisions of ss. 1009.97-1009.984,
4 including, but not limited to, the power and duty to:
5 (a) Appoint an executive director to serve as the
6 chief administrative and operational officer of the board and
7 to perform other duties assigned to him or her by the board.
8 (b) Adopt an official seal and rules.
9 (c) Sue and be sued.
10 (d) Make and execute contracts and other necessary
11 instruments.
12 (e) Establish agreements or other transactions with
13 federal, state, and local agencies, including state
14 universities and community colleges.
15 (f) Administer the trust fund in a manner that is
16 sufficiently actuarially sound to defray the obligations of
17 the prepaid program and the savings program, considering the
18 separate purposes and objectives of each program. The board
19 shall annually evaluate or cause to be evaluated the actuarial
20 soundness of the prepaid fund. If the board perceives a need
21 for additional assets in order to preserve actuarial soundness
22 of the prepaid program, the board may adjust the terms of
23 subsequent advance payment contracts to ensure such soundness.
24 (g) Invest funds not required for immediate
25 disbursement.
26 (h) Appear in its own behalf before boards,
27 commissions, or other governmental agencies.
28 (i) Hold, buy, and sell any instruments, obligations,
29 securities, and property determined appropriate by the board.
30 (j) Require a reasonable length of state residence for
31 qualified beneficiaries.

- 1 (k) Segregate contributions and payments to the trust
2 fund into the appropriate fund.
- 3 (l) Procure and contract for goods and services,
4 employ personnel, and engage the services of private
5 consultants, actuaries, managers, legal counsel, and auditors
6 in a manner determined to be necessary and appropriate by the
7 board.
- 8 (m) Solicit and accept gifts, grants, loans, and other
9 aids from any source or participate in any other way in any
10 government program to carry out the purposes of ss.
11 1009.97-1009.984.
- 12 (n) Require and collect administrative fees and
13 charges in connection with any transaction and impose
14 reasonable penalties, including default, for delinquent
15 payments or for entering into an advance payment contract or a
16 participation agreement on a fraudulent basis.
- 17 (o) Procure insurance against any loss in connection
18 with the property, assets, and activities of the trust fund or
19 the board.
- 20 (p) Impose reasonable time limits on use of the
21 benefits provided by the prepaid program or savings program.
22 However, any such limitations shall be specified within the
23 advance payment contract or the participation agreement,
24 respectively.
- 25 (q) Delineate the terms and conditions under which
26 payments may be withdrawn from the trust fund and impose
27 reasonable fees and charges for such withdrawal. Such terms
28 and conditions shall be specified within the advance payment
29 contract or the participation agreement.
- 30 (r) Provide for the receipt of contributions in lump
31 sums or installment payments.

- 1 (s) Require that purchasers of advance payment
2 contracts or benefactors of participation agreements verify,
3 under oath, any requests for contract conversions,
4 substitutions, transfers, cancellations, refund requests, or
5 contract changes of any nature. Verification shall be
6 accomplished as authorized and provided for in s.
7 92.525(1)(a).
- 8 (t) Delegate responsibility for administration of one
9 or both of the comprehensive investment plans required in s.
10 1009.973 to persons the board determines to be qualified. Such
11 persons shall be compensated by the board.
- 12 (u) Endorse insurance coverage written exclusively for
13 the purpose of protecting advance payment contracts, and
14 participation agreements, and the purchasers, benefactors, and
15 beneficiaries thereof, including group life policies and group
16 disability policies, which are exempt from the provisions of
17 part V of chapter 627.
- 18 (v) Form strategic alliances with public and private
19 entities to provide benefits to the prepaid program, savings
20 program, and participants of either or both programs.
- 21 (w) Solicit proposals and contract, pursuant to s.
22 287.057, for the marketing of the prepaid program or the
23 savings program, or both together. Any materials produced for
24 the purpose of marketing the prepaid program or the savings
25 program shall be submitted to the board for review. No such
26 materials shall be made available to the public before the
27 materials are approved by the board. Any educational
28 institution may distribute marketing materials produced for
29 the prepaid program or the savings program; however, all such
30 materials shall be approved by the board prior to
31 distribution. Neither the state nor the board shall be liable

1 for misrepresentation of the prepaid program or the savings
2 program by a marketing agent.
3 (x) Establish other policies, procedures, and criteria
4 to implement and administer the provisions of ss.
5 1009.97-1009.984.
6 (y) Adopt procedures to govern contract dispute
7 proceedings between the board and its vendors.
8 (5) FLORIDA PREPAID COLLEGE BOARD; CONTRACTUAL
9 SERVICES.--The board shall solicit proposals and contract,
10 pursuant to s. 287.057, for:
11 (a) The services of records administrators.
12 (b) Investment consultants to review the performance
13 of the board's investment managers and advise the board on
14 investment management and performance and investment policy,
15 including the contents of the comprehensive investment plans.
16 (c) Trustee services firms to provide trustee and
17 related services to the board. The trustee services firm shall
18 agree to meet the obligations of the board to qualified
19 beneficiaries if moneys in the fund fail to offset the
20 obligations of the board as a result of imprudent selection or
21 supervision of investment programs by such firm.
22 (d) Investment managers to provide investment
23 portfolios for the prepaid program or the savings program.
24 Investment managers shall be limited to authorized insurers as
25 defined in s. 624.09, banks as defined in s. 658.12,
26 associations as defined in s. 665.012, authorized Securities
27 and Exchange Commission investment advisers, and investment
28 companies as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940.
29 All investment managers shall have their principal place of
30 business and corporate charter located and registered in the
31 United States. In addition, each investment manager shall

1 agree to meet the obligations of the board to qualified
2 beneficiaries if moneys in the fund fail to offset the
3 obligations of the board as a result of imprudent investing by
4 such provider. Each authorized insurer shall evidence superior
5 performance overall on an acceptable level of surety in
6 meeting its obligations to its policyholders and other
7 contractual obligations. Only qualified public depositories
8 approved by the Insurance Commissioner and Treasurer shall be
9 eligible for board consideration. Each investment company
10 shall provide investment plans as specified within the request
11 for proposals.

12
13 The goals of the board in procuring such services shall be to
14 provide all purchasers and benefactors with the most secure,
15 well-diversified, and beneficially administered prepaid
16 program or savings program possible, to allow all qualified
17 firms interested in providing such services equal
18 consideration, and to provide such services to the state at no
19 cost and to the purchasers and benefactors at the lowest cost
20 possible. Evaluations of proposals submitted pursuant to this
21 subsection shall include, but not be limited to, fees and
22 other costs that are charged to purchasers or benefactors that
23 affect account values, or that impact the operational costs of
24 the prepaid program or the savings program; past experience
25 and past performance in providing the required services;
26 financial history and current financial strength and capital
27 adequacy to provide the required services; and capabilities
28 and experience of the proposed personnel that will provide the
29 required services.

30 (6) QUALIFIED TUITION PROGRAM STATUS.--Notwithstanding
31 any other provision of ss. 1009.97-1009.984, the board may

1 adopt rules necessary for the prepaid program and the savings
2 program each to retain its status as a "qualified tuition
3 program" in order to maintain its tax exempt status or other
4 similar status of the program, purchasers, and qualified
5 beneficiaries under the Internal Revenue Code. The board shall
6 inform participants in the prepaid program and the savings
7 program of changes to the tax or securities status of advance
8 purchase contracts and participation agreements.

9 Section 480. Section 1009.972, Florida Statutes, is
10 created to read:

11 1009.972 Florida Prepaid College Trust Fund.--

12 (1) There is created within the State Board of
13 Administration the Florida Prepaid College Trust Fund. The
14 trust fund shall be segregated into two separate funds, the
15 prepaid fund and the savings fund.

16 (2) The prepaid fund shall consist of state
17 appropriations, moneys acquired from other governmental or
18 private sources for the prepaid program, and moneys remitted
19 in accordance with advance payment contracts. Dividends,
20 interest, and gains accruing to the prepaid fund shall
21 increase the total funds available for the prepaid program. If
22 dividends, interest, and gains for the prepaid fund exceed the
23 amount necessary for program administration and disbursements,
24 the board may designate an additional percentage of the
25 prepaid fund to serve as a contingency fund.

26 (3) The savings fund shall consist of appropriations,
27 moneys acquired from other governmental or private sources for
28 the savings program, and moneys remitted in accordance with
29 participation agreements. The amounts on deposit in the
30 savings fund shall remain therein and shall be available
31 solely for carrying out the purposes of the savings program.

1 (4) Any balance contained within the trust fund, and
2 within each fund in the trust fund, at the end of a fiscal
3 year shall remain therein and shall be available for carrying
4 out the purposes of each respective program and the
5 direct-support organization established pursuant to s.
6 1009.983. Moneys contained within the trust fund shall be
7 exempt from the investment requirements of s. 18.10. All funds
8 deposited in the prepaid fund may be invested pursuant to s.
9 215.47. Any funds of a direct-support organization created
10 pursuant to s. 1009.983 shall be exempt from the provisions of
11 this section.

12 (5) Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 717,
13 funds associated with terminated advance payment contracts
14 pursuant to s. 1009.98(4)(k) and canceled contracts for which
15 no refunds have been claimed shall be retained by the board.
16 The board shall establish procedures for notifying purchasers
17 who subsequently cancel their advance payment contracts of any
18 unclaimed refund and shall establish a time period after which
19 no refund may be claimed by a purchaser who canceled a
20 contract. The board may transfer funds retained from such
21 terminated advance payment contracts and cancelled contracts
22 to the Florida Prepaid Tuition Scholarship Program to provide
23 matching funds for prepaid tuition scholarships for
24 economically disadvantaged youth that remain drug free and
25 crime free.

26 (6) The assets of the prepaid fund and the savings
27 fund shall be maintained, invested, and expended solely for
28 the purposes of the prepaid program and the savings program,
29 respectively, and shall not be loaned, transferred, or
30 otherwise used by the state for any purpose other than the
31 purposes of ss. 1009.97-1009.984. This subsection shall not be

1 construed to prohibit the board from investing in, by purchase
2 or otherwise, bonds, notes, or other obligations of the state
3 or an agency or instrumentality of the state. Unless otherwise
4 specified by the board, assets of the prepaid fund and the
5 savings fund shall be expended in the following order of
6 priority:

7 (a) To make payments to state postsecondary
8 institutions on behalf of qualified beneficiaries or
9 designated beneficiaries.

10 (b) To make refunds upon termination of advance
11 payment contracts or participation agreements.

12 (c) To pay the costs of administration and operations
13 for the prepaid program and the savings program.

14 Section 481. Section 1009.973, Florida Statutes, is
15 created to read:

16 1009.973 Comprehensive investment plans.--The Florida
17 Prepaid College Board shall establish separate comprehensive
18 investment plans for the prepaid program and for the savings
19 program, each subject to the approval of the State Board of
20 Administration. Each comprehensive investment plan shall
21 specify the investment policies to be utilized by the board in
22 its administration of each respective program. The board may
23 place assets of each program in investment products pursuant
24 to the comprehensive investment plan for each respective
25 program and in such proportions as may be designated or
26 approved under the plan for each respective program. Such
27 products shall be underwritten and offered in compliance with
28 the applicable federal and state laws, regulations, and rules
29 by persons authorized by applicable federal and state
30 authorities. A purchaser may not direct the investment of his
31 or her contribution to the prepaid program. A benefactor or

1 designated beneficiary may not direct the investment of any
2 contributions to the savings program other than the specific
3 fund options provided by the board, if any. Board members and
4 employees of the board are not prohibited from purchasing
5 advance payment contracts or entering into participation
6 agreements by virtue of their fiduciary responsibilities as
7 members of the board or official duties as employees of the
8 board.

9 Section 482. Section 1009.974, Florida Statutes, is
10 created to read:

11 1009.974 Exemption from claims of creditors.--Moneys
12 paid into or out of the trust fund by or on behalf of a
13 purchaser or qualified beneficiary of an advance payment
14 contract or benefactor or designated beneficiary of a
15 participation agreement are exempt, as provided by s. 222.22,
16 from all claims of creditors of the purchaser or the qualified
17 beneficiary of an advance payment contract or the benefactor
18 or designated beneficiary of a participation agreement,
19 respectively, provided that the advance payment contract or
20 participation agreement has not been terminated. Neither
21 moneys paid into the prepaid program or savings program nor
22 benefits accrued through the prepaid program or savings
23 program may be pledged for the purpose of securing a loan.

24 Section 483. Section 1009.975, Florida Statutes, is
25 created to read:

26 1009.975 Payroll deduction authority.--The state or
27 any state agency, county, municipality, or other political
28 subdivision may, by contract or collective bargaining
29 agreement, agree with any employee to remit payments toward
30 advance payment contracts or participation agreements through
31 payroll deductions made by the appropriate officer or officers

1 of the state, state agency, county, municipality, or political
2 subdivision. Such payments shall be held and administered in
3 accordance with ss. 1009.97-1009.984.

4 Section 484. Section 1009.976, Florida Statutes, is
5 created to read:

6 1009.976 Annual report.--On or before March 31 of each
7 year, the Florida Prepaid College Board shall prepare or cause
8 to be prepared separate reports setting forth in appropriate
9 detail an accounting of the prepaid program and the savings
10 program which include a description of the financial condition
11 of each respective program at the close of the fiscal year.
12 The board shall submit copies of the reports to the Governor,
13 the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
14 Representatives, and the minority leaders of the House and
15 Senate and shall make the report for the prepaid program
16 available to each purchaser and the report for the savings
17 program available to each benefactor and designated
18 beneficiary. The accounts of the fund for the prepaid program
19 and the savings program shall be subject to annual audits by
20 the Auditor General or his or her designee.

21 Section 485. Section 1009.98, Florida Statutes, is
22 created to read:

23 1009.98 Florida Prepaid College Program.--
24 (1) FLORIDA PREPAID COLLEGE PROGRAM; CREATION.--There
25 is created a Florida Prepaid College Program to provide a
26 medium through which the cost of registration and dormitory
27 residence may be paid in advance of enrollment in a state
28 postsecondary institution at a rate lower than the projected
29 corresponding cost at the time of actual enrollment. Such
30 payments shall be combined and invested in a manner that
31 yields, at a minimum, sufficient interest to generate the

1 difference between the prepaid amount and the cost of
2 registration and dormitory residence at the time of actual
3 enrollment. Students who enroll in a state postsecondary
4 institution pursuant to this section shall be charged no fees
5 in excess of the terms delineated in the advance payment
6 contract.

7 (2) PREPAID COLLEGE PLANS.--At a minimum, the board
8 shall make advance payment contracts available for two
9 independent plans to be known as the community college plan
10 and the university plan. The board may also make advance
11 payment contracts available for a dormitory residence plan.
12 The board may restrict the number of participants in the
13 community college plan, university plan, and dormitory
14 residence plan, respectively. However, any person denied
15 participation solely on the basis of such restriction shall be
16 granted priority for participation during the succeeding year.

17 (a)1. Through the community college plan, the advance
18 payment contract shall provide prepaid registration fees for a
19 specified number of undergraduate semester credit hours not to
20 exceed the average number of hours required for the conference
21 of an associate degree. Qualified beneficiaries shall bear the
22 cost of any laboratory fees associated with enrollment in
23 specific courses. Each qualified beneficiary shall be
24 classified as a resident for tuition purposes, pursuant to s.
25 1009.21, regardless of his or her actual legal residence.

26 2. Effective July 1, 1998, the board may provide
27 advance payment contracts for additional fees delineated in s.
28 1009.23, not to exceed the average number of hours required
29 for the conference of an associate degree, in conjunction with
30 advance payment contracts for registration fees. Community
31 college plan contracts purchased prior to July 1, 1998, shall

1 be limited to the payment of registration fees as defined in
2 s. 1009.97.

3 (b)1. Through the university plan, the advance payment
4 contract shall provide prepaid registration fees for a
5 specified number of undergraduate semester credit hours not to
6 exceed the average number of hours required for the conference
7 of a baccalaureate degree. Qualified beneficiaries shall bear
8 the cost of any laboratory fees associated with enrollment in
9 specific courses. Each qualified beneficiary shall be
10 classified as a resident for tuition purposes pursuant to s.
11 1009.21, regardless of his or her actual legal residence.

12 2. Effective July 1, 1998, the board may provide
13 advance payment contracts for additional fees delineated in s.
14 1009.24(8)-(11), for a specified number of undergraduate
15 semester credit hours not to exceed the average number of
16 hours required for the conference of a baccalaureate degree,
17 in conjunction with advance payment contracts for registration
18 fees. Such contracts shall provide prepaid coverage for the
19 sum of such fees, to a maximum of 45 percent of the cost of
20 registration fees. University plan contracts purchased prior
21 to July 1, 1998, shall be limited to the payment of
22 registration fees as defined in s. 1009.97.

23 (c) The cost of participation in contracts authorized
24 under paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) shall be based primarily
25 on the current and projected registration fees within the
26 Florida Community College System or the State University
27 System, respectively, and the number of years expected to
28 elapse between the purchase of the plan on behalf of a
29 qualified beneficiary and the exercise of the benefits
30 provided in the plan by such beneficiary.

31

1 (d) Through the dormitory residence plan, the advance
2 payment contract may provide prepaid housing fees for a
3 maximum of 10 semesters of full-time undergraduate enrollment
4 in a state university. Dormitory residence plans shall be
5 purchased in increments of 2 semesters. The cost of
6 participation in the dormitory residence plan shall be based
7 primarily on the average current and projected housing fees
8 within the State University System and the number of years
9 expected to elapse between the purchase of the plan on behalf
10 of a qualified beneficiary and the exercise of the benefits
11 provided in the plan by such beneficiary. Qualified
12 beneficiaries shall have the highest priority in the
13 assignment of housing within university residence halls.
14 Qualified beneficiaries shall bear the cost of any additional
15 elective charges such as laundry service or long-distance
16 telephone service. Each state university may specify the
17 residence halls or other university-held residences eligible
18 for inclusion in the plan. In addition, any state university
19 may request immediate termination of a dormitory residence
20 contract based on a violation or multiple violations of rules
21 of the residence hall or other university-held residences. In
22 the event that sufficient housing is not available for all
23 qualified beneficiaries, the board shall refund the purchaser
24 or qualified beneficiary an amount equal to the fees charged
25 for dormitory residence during that semester. If a qualified
26 beneficiary fails to be admitted to a state university or
27 chooses to attend a community college that operates one or
28 more dormitories or residency opportunities, or has one or
29 more dormitories or residency opportunities operated by the
30 community college direct-support organization, the qualified
31 beneficiary may transfer or cause to have transferred to the

1 community college, or community college direct-support
2 organization, the fees associated with dormitory residence.
3 Dormitory fees transferred to the community college or
4 community college direct-support organization may not exceed
5 the maximum fees charged for state university dormitory
6 residence for the purposes of this section, or the fees
7 charged for community college or community college
8 direct-support organization dormitories or residency
9 opportunities, whichever is less.

10 (3) TRANSFER OF BENEFITS TO PRIVATE AND OUT-OF-STATE
11 COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AND TO AREA TECHNICAL CENTERS.--A
12 qualified beneficiary may apply the benefits of an advance
13 payment contract toward:

14 (a) An independent college or university that is
15 located and chartered in Florida, that is not for profit, that
16 is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern
17 Association of Colleges and Schools or the Accrediting Council
18 for Independent Colleges and Schools, and that confers degrees
19 as defined in s. 1005.02.

20 (b) An out-of-state college or university that is not
21 for profit and is accredited by a regional accrediting
22 association, and that confers degrees.

23 (c) An applied technology diploma program or technical
24 certificate program conducted by a community college listed in
25 s. 1004.02(2) or technical center operated by a district
26 school board.

27
28 The board shall transfer or cause to be transferred to the
29 institution designated by the qualified beneficiary an amount
30 not to exceed the redemption value of the advance payment
31 contract at a state postsecondary institution. If the cost of

1 registration or housing fees at such institution is less than
2 the corresponding fees at a state postsecondary institution,
3 the amount transferred may not exceed the actual cost of
4 registration and housing fees. A transfer authorized under
5 this subsection may not exceed the number of semester credit
6 hours or semesters of dormitory residence contracted on behalf
7 of a qualified beneficiary. Notwithstanding any other
8 provision in this section, an institution must be an "eligible
9 educational institution" under s. 529 of the Internal Revenue
10 Code to be eligible for the transfer of advance payment
11 contract benefits.

12 (4) ADVANCE PAYMENT CONTRACTS.--The board shall
13 develop advance payment contracts for registration and may
14 develop advance payment contracts for dormitory residence as
15 provided in this section. Advance payment contracts shall be
16 exempt from chapter 517 and the Florida Insurance Code. Such
17 contracts shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

18 (a) The amount of the payment or payments and the
19 number of payments required from a purchaser on behalf of a
20 qualified beneficiary.

21 (b) The terms and conditions under which purchasers
22 shall remit payments, including, but not limited to, the date
23 or dates upon which each payment shall be due.

24 (c) Provisions for late payment charges and for
25 default.

26 (d) Provisions for penalty fees for withdrawals from
27 the fund.

28 (e) Except for an advance payment contract entered
29 into pursuant to subsection (9) or s. 1009.983, the name and
30 date of birth of the qualified beneficiary on whose behalf the
31 contract is drawn and the terms and conditions under which

1 another person may be substituted as the qualified
2 beneficiary.

3 (f) The name of any person who may terminate the
4 contract. The terms of the contract shall specify whether the
5 contract may be terminated by the purchaser, the qualified
6 beneficiary, a specific designated person, or any combination
7 of these persons.

8 (g) The terms and conditions under which a contract
9 may be terminated, modified, or converted, the name of the
10 person entitled to any refund due as a result of termination
11 of the contract pursuant to such terms and conditions, and the
12 amount of refund, if any, due to the person so named.

13 (h) The number of semester credit hours or semesters
14 of dormitory residence contracted by the purchaser.

15 (i) The state postsecondary system toward which the
16 contracted credit hours or semesters of dormitory residence
17 will be applied.

18 (j) The assumption of a contractual obligation by the
19 board to the qualified beneficiary to provide for a specified
20 number of semester credit hours of undergraduate instruction
21 at a state postsecondary institution, not to exceed the
22 average number of credit hours required for the conference of
23 the degree that corresponds to the plan purchased on behalf of
24 the qualified beneficiary or to provide for a specified number
25 of semesters of dormitory residence, not to exceed the number
26 of semesters of full-time enrollment required for the
27 conference of a baccalaureate degree.

28 (k) The period of time after which advance payment
29 contracts that have not been terminated or the benefits used
30 shall be considered terminated. Time expended by a qualified
31 beneficiary as an active duty member of any of the armed

1 services of the United States shall be added to the period of
2 time specified by the board. No purchaser or qualified
3 beneficiary whose advance payment contract is terminated
4 pursuant to this paragraph shall be entitled to a refund.
5 Notwithstanding chapter 717, the board shall retain any moneys
6 paid by the purchaser for an advance payment contract that has
7 been terminated in accordance with this paragraph. Such moneys
8 may be transferred to the Florida Prepaid Tuition Scholarship
9 Program to provide matching funds for prepaid tuition
10 scholarships for economically disadvantaged youths that remain
11 drug free and crime free.

12 (1) Other terms and conditions deemed by the board to
13 be necessary or proper.

14 (5) REFUNDS.--

15 (a) No refund shall exceed the amount paid into the
16 fund by the purchaser except as provided in paragraphs (b) and
17 (c).

18 (b) If the beneficiary is awarded a scholarship, the
19 terms of which cover the benefits included in the advance
20 payment contracts, moneys paid for the purchase of the advance
21 payment contracts shall be refunded to the purchaser in
22 semester installments coinciding with the tuition by the
23 beneficiary in an amount which, in total, does not exceed the
24 redemption value of the advance payment contract at a state
25 postsecondary institution.

26 (c) In the event of the death or total disability of
27 the beneficiary, moneys paid for the purchase of advance
28 payment contracts shall be refunded to the purchaser in an
29 amount not to exceed the redemption value of the advance
30 payment contract at a state postsecondary institution.

31

1 (d) If an advance payment contract is converted from
2 one registration plan to a plan of lesser value, the amount
3 refunded shall not exceed the difference between the amount
4 paid for the original contract and the amount that would have
5 been paid for the contract to which the plan is converted had
6 the converted plan been purchased under the same payment plan
7 at the time the original advance payment contract was
8 executed.

9 (e) No refund shall be authorized through an advance
10 payment contract for any school year partially attended but
11 not completed. For purposes of this section, a school year
12 partially attended but not completed shall mean any one
13 semester whereby the student is still enrolled at the
14 conclusion of the official drop-add period, but withdraws
15 before the end of such semester. If a beneficiary does not
16 complete a community college plan or university plan for
17 reasons other than specified in paragraph (c), the purchaser
18 shall receive a refund of the amount paid into the fund for
19 the remaining unattended years of the advance payment contract
20 pursuant to rules promulgated by the board.

21 (6) CONFIDENTIALITY OF ACCOUNT
22 INFORMATION.--Information that identifies the purchasers or
23 beneficiaries of any plan promulgated under this section and
24 their advance payment account activities is exempt from the
25 provisions of s. 119.07(1). However, the board may authorize
26 the program's records administrator to release such
27 information to a community college, college, or university in
28 which a beneficiary may enroll or is enrolled. Community
29 colleges, colleges, and universities shall maintain such
30 information as exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1).

31

1 (7) OBLIGATIONS OF BOARD.--The state shall agree to
2 meet the obligations of the board to qualified beneficiaries
3 if moneys in the fund fail to offset the obligations of the
4 board. The Legislature shall appropriate to the Florida
5 Prepaid College Trust Fund the amount necessary to meet the
6 obligations of the board to qualified beneficiaries.

7 (8) PROGRAM TERMINATION.--In the event that the state
8 determines the prepaid program to be financially infeasible,
9 the state may discontinue the provision of the program. Any
10 qualified beneficiary who has been accepted by and is enrolled
11 or is within 5 years of enrollment in an eligible independent
12 college or university or state postsecondary institution shall
13 be entitled to exercise the complete benefits for which he or
14 she has contracted. All other contract holders shall receive a
15 refund of the amount paid in and an additional amount in the
16 nature of interest at a rate that corresponds, at a minimum,
17 to the prevailing interest rates for savings accounts provided
18 by banks and savings and loan associations.

19 (9) SCHOLARSHIPS.--A nonprofit organization described
20 in s. 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code and
21 exempt from taxation under s. 501(a) of the United States
22 Internal Revenue Code may purchase advance payment contracts
23 for a scholarship program that has been approved by the board
24 and is operated by the purchasing organization.

25 Section 486. Section 1009.981, Florida Statutes, is
26 created to read:

27 1009.981 Florida College Savings Program.--

28 (1)(a) The Florida Prepaid College Board is authorized
29 to create, establish, and administer the Florida College
30 Savings Program to promote and enhance the affordability of
31 higher education in the state and to enable persons to

1 contribute funds that are combined and invested to pay the
2 subsequent higher education expenses of a designated
3 beneficiary. The board may not implement the savings program
4 until it has obtained:

5 1. A written opinion from counsel specializing in
6 federal tax matters indicating that the savings program
7 constitutes a qualified tuition program under s. 529 of the
8 Internal Revenue Code;

9 2. A written opinion from a qualified member of the
10 United States Patent Bar indicating that the implementation of
11 the savings program or the operation of the savings program
12 will not knowingly infringe upon any patent or copyright
13 specifically related to the financing of higher education
14 expenses;

15 3. A written opinion of qualified counsel specializing
16 in federal securities law that the savings program and the
17 offering of participation in the savings program does not
18 violate federal securities law; and

19 4. A written opinion from the board's litigation
20 counsel indicating that the implementation or operation of the
21 savings program will not adversely impact any pending
22 litigation against the board.

23 (b) The benefactor retains ownership of all amounts on
24 deposit in his or her account with the savings program up to
25 the date of distribution on behalf of a designated
26 beneficiary. Earnings derived from investment of the
27 contributions shall be considered to be held in trust in the
28 same manner as contributions, except as applied for purposes
29 of the designated beneficiary and for purposes of maintaining
30 and administering the program as provided in this section.
31

1 (c) All amounts attributable to penalties shall be
2 used for purposes of the savings program or as required by the
3 Internal Revenue Code, and other amounts received other than
4 contributions shall be properties of the savings program.
5 Proceeds from penalties shall remain with the program and may
6 be used for any costs or purposes of the savings program or
7 used as required by the Internal Revenue Code.

8 (d) Deposits and contributions to the program, the
9 property of the board, and the earnings on the college savings
10 accounts are exempt from taxation.

11 (e) The assets of the savings program shall be
12 continuously invested and reinvested in a manner consistent
13 with the purposes of the program, expended on expenses
14 incurred by the operation and management of the savings
15 program, or refunded to the benefactor or designated
16 beneficiary under the conditions provided in the participation
17 agreement. The board is not required to invest directly in
18 obligations of the state or any political subdivision of the
19 state or in any investment or other fund administered by the
20 state.

21 (2) PARTICIPATION AGREEMENTS.--

22 (a) The board may establish plans to permit
23 benefactors to prepay the qualified higher education expenses
24 associated with enrollment in an eligible educational
25 institution and may permit benefactors to select from among
26 alternative investment plans designed to provide funds to pay
27 qualified education expenses of a designated beneficiary. The
28 board shall not accept contributions in excess of the amount
29 allowed pursuant to s. 529 of the Internal Revenue Code and
30 shall prescribe by rule the methodology and information
31 sources that shall be used to determine the projected costs of

1 qualified higher education expenses for designated
2 beneficiaries of prescribed ages.

3 (b) The board shall develop a participation agreement
4 which shall be the agreement between the board and each
5 benefactor, which may include, but is not limited to:

6 1. The name, date of birth, and social security number
7 of the designated beneficiary.

8 2. The amount of the contribution or contributions and
9 number of contributions required from a benefactor on behalf
10 of a designated beneficiary.

11 3. The terms and conditions under which benefactors
12 shall remit contributions, including, but not limited to, the
13 date or dates upon which each contribution is due. Deposits to
14 the savings program by benefactors may only be in cash.
15 Benefactors may contribute in a lump sum, periodically, in
16 installments, or through electronic funds transfer or employer
17 payroll deductions.

18 4. Provisions for late contribution charges and for
19 default.

20 5. Provisions for penalty fees for withdrawals from
21 the program.

22 6. The name of the person who may terminate
23 participation in the program. The participation agreement must
24 specify whether the account may be terminated by the
25 benefactor, the designated beneficiary, a specific designated
26 person, or any combination of these persons.

27 7. The terms and conditions under which an account may
28 be terminated, modified, or converted, the name of the person
29 entitled to any refund due as a result of termination of the
30 account pursuant to such terms and conditions, and the amount
31 of refund, if any, due to the person so named.

1 8. Penalties for distributions not used or made in
2 accordance with s. 529 of the Internal Revenue Code.

3 9. Any charges or fees in connection with the
4 administration of the savings fund.

5 10. The period of time after which each participation
6 agreement shall be considered to be terminated. Time expended
7 by a designated beneficiary as an active duty member of any of
8 the armed services of the United States shall be added to the
9 period specified pursuant to this subparagraph. Should a
10 participation agreement be terminated, the balance of the
11 account, after notice to the benefactor, shall be declared
12 unclaimed and abandoned property. The board shall retain any
13 monies paid by the benefactor for a participation agreement
14 that has been terminated in accordance with this subparagraph.
15 Such moneys may be transferred to the Florida Prepaid Tuition
16 Scholarship Program to provide matching funds for prepaid
17 tuition scholarships for economically disadvantaged youths
18 that remain drug free and crime free.

19 11. Other terms and conditions deemed by the board to
20 be necessary or proper.

21 (c) The participation agreement shall clearly state
22 that:

23 1. The contract is only a debt or obligation of the
24 savings program and the savings fund, and is not otherwise a
25 debt or obligation of the state.

26 2. Participation in the program does not guarantee
27 that sufficient funds will be available to cover all qualified
28 higher education expenses for any designated beneficiary and
29 does not guarantee admission to or continued enrollment at an
30 eligible educational institution of any designated
31 beneficiary.

1 (d) The participation agreement may be freely amended
2 throughout its term for purposes including, but not limited
3 to, allowing to enable the benefactor to increase or decrease
4 the level of participation, change designated beneficiaries,
5 and carry out similar matters permitted by this section and
6 the Internal Revenue Code.

7 (3) DISTRIBUTIONS FOR QUALIFIED HIGHER EDUCATION
8 EXPENSES.--The board shall establish requirements and
9 procedures for beneficiaries to realize the benefits of
10 participation agreements. In establishing such requirements
11 and procedures, the board shall make distributions in as
12 efficient and expeditious manner as is prudent and possible,
13 consistent with the Internal Revenue Code.

14 (4) REFUNDS.--

15 (a) A benefactor may request a refund of the principal
16 amount of his or her contributions, plus actual investment
17 earnings or minus actual investment losses on the
18 contributions, less any applicable penalty, and less any
19 amounts used to provide benefits to the designated
20 beneficiary.

21 (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), a penalty may not
22 be levied if a benefactor requests a refund from the program
23 due to:

24 1. Death of the beneficiary.
25 2. Total disability of the beneficiary.
26 3. Scholarship, allowance, or payment received by the
27 beneficiary to the extent that the amount of the refund does
28 not exceed the amount of the scholarship, allowance, or
29 payment in accordance with federal law.

30 (c) If a benefactor requests a refund of funds
31 contributed to the program for any cause other than those

1 listed in paragraph (b), there shall be imposed a penalty of
2 10 percent of the earnings of the account and any applicable
3 taxes, or the amount required by the Internal Revenue Code.
4 Earnings shall be calculated as the total value of the
5 participation agreement, less the aggregate contributions, or
6 in the manner prescribed in the Internal Revenue Code.
7 (5) MATERIAL MISREPRESENTATION; PENALTY.--If the
8 benefactor or the designated beneficiary makes any material
9 misrepresentation in the application for a participation
10 agreement or in any communication with the board regarding the
11 program, especially regarding the withdrawal or distribution
12 of funds therefrom, the account may be involuntarily
13 liquidated by the board. If the account is so liquidated, the
14 benefactor is entitled to a refund, subject to a 10-percent
15 penalty or the amount required by the Internal Revenue Code.
16 (6) CONFIDENTIALITY OF ACCOUNT
17 INFORMATION.--Information that identifies the benefactors or
18 the designated beneficiary of any account initiated under this
19 section and information regarding individual account
20 activities conducted through the savings program established
21 in this section are confidential and exempt from the
22 provisions of s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State
23 Constitution. However, the board may authorize the release of
24 such information to a community college, college, or
25 university in which a designated beneficiary may enroll or is
26 enrolled. Community colleges, colleges, and universities shall
27 maintain the confidentiality of such information. This
28 subsection is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act
29 of 1995 in accordance with s. 119.15, and shall stand repealed
30 on October 2, 2005, unless reviewed and saved from repeal
31 through reenactment by the Legislature.

1 (7) OBLIGATIONS OF BOARD.--Any contract or
2 participation agreement entered into by or any obligation of
3 the board on behalf of and for the benefit of the savings
4 program does not constitute a debt or obligation of the state
5 but is an obligation of the savings program. The state has no
6 obligation to any designated beneficiary or any other person
7 as a result of the savings program. The obligation of the
8 savings program is limited solely to those amounts deposited
9 in the savings fund. All amounts obligated to be paid from the
10 savings fund are limited to amounts available for such
11 obligation. The amounts on deposit in the savings program may
12 only be disbursed in accordance with the provisions of this
13 section.

14 (8) PROGRAM TERMINATION.--The savings program shall
15 continue in existence until its existence is terminated by
16 law. If the state determines that the savings program is
17 financially infeasible, the state may discontinue the savings
18 program. Upon termination of the savings program, all deposits
19 shall be returned to benefactors, to the extent possible, and
20 any unclaimed assets in the savings program may be transferred
21 to the Florida Prepaid Tuition Scholarship Program to provide
22 matching funds for prepaid tuition scholarships for
23 economically disadvantaged youths that remain drug free and
24 crime free.

25 (9) STATE PLEDGE.--The state pledges to benefactors
26 and designated beneficiaries of the savings program that the
27 state will not limit or alter the rights under this section
28 which are vested in the program until such obligations are met
29 and discharged. However, this subsection does not preclude
30 such limitation if adequate provision is made by law for the
31 protection of the benefactors and designated beneficiaries

1 pursuant to the obligations of the board, and, if the state or
2 the board determines that the savings program is not
3 financially feasible, the state or the board may discontinue
4 the program. If the program is discontinued, the board shall
5 refund to benefactors their contributions to the program, plus
6 any investment earnings or minus any investment losses. The
7 board, on behalf of the state, may include this pledge and
8 undertaking by the state in participation agreements.

9 Section 487. Section 1009.982, Florida Statutes, is
10 created to read:

11 1009.982 Disclaimer.--Nothing in ss. 1009.97-1009.984
12 shall be construed as a promise or guarantee that a qualified
13 beneficiary or a designated beneficiary will be admitted to a
14 state postsecondary institution or to a particular state
15 postsecondary institution, will be allowed to continue
16 enrollment at a state postsecondary institution after
17 admission, or will be graduated from a state postsecondary
18 institution.

19 Section 488. Section 1009.983, Florida Statutes, is
20 created to read:

21 1009.983 Direct-support organization; authority.--

22 (1) The Florida Prepaid College Board may establish a
23 direct-support organization which is:

24 (a) A Florida corporation, not for profit,
25 incorporated under the provisions of chapter 617 and approved
26 by the Secretary of State.

27 (b) Organized and operated exclusively to receive,
28 hold, invest, and administer property and to make expenditures
29 to or for the benefit of the board.

30 (c) An organization which the board, after review, has
31 certified to be operating in a manner consistent with the

1 goals of the board and in the best interests of the state.
2 Unless so certified, the organization may not use the name of
3 the prepaid program or savings program.
4 (2) The direct-support organization shall operate
5 under written contract with the board. The contract must
6 provide for:
7 (a) Approval of the articles of incorporation and
8 bylaws of the direct-support organization by the board.
9 (b) Submission of an annual budget for the approval of
10 the board. The budget must comply with rules adopted by the
11 board.
12 (c) An annual financial and compliance audit of its
13 financial accounts and records by an independent certified
14 public accountant in accordance with s. 215.981.
15 (d) Certification by the board that the direct-support
16 organization is complying with the terms of the contract and
17 in a manner consistent with the goals and purposes of the
18 board and in the best interest of the state. Such
19 certification must be made annually and reported in the
20 official minutes of a meeting of the board.
21 (e) The reversion to the board, or to the state if the
22 board ceases to exist, of moneys and property held in trust by
23 the direct-support organization for the benefit of the board
24 or prepaid program if the direct-support organization is no
25 longer approved to operate for the board or if the board
26 ceases to exist.
27 (f) The fiscal year of the direct-support
28 organization, which must begin July 1 of each year and end
29 June 30 of the following year.
30 (g) The disclosure of material provisions of the
31 contract and of the distinction between the board and the

1 direct-support organization to donors of gifts, contributions,
2 or bequests, and such disclosure on all promotional and
3 fundraising publications.

4 (3) An annual financial and compliance audit of the
5 financial accounts and records of the direct-support
6 organization must be performed by an independent certified
7 public accountant. The audit must be submitted to the board
8 for review and approval. Upon approval, the board shall
9 certify the audit report to the Auditor General for review.
10 The board and Auditor General shall have the authority to
11 require and receive from the organization or its independent
12 auditor any detail or supplemental data relative to the
13 operation of the organization.

14 (4) The identity of donors who desire to remain
15 anonymous shall be confidential and exempt from the provisions
16 of s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State
17 Constitution, and such anonymity shall be maintained in the
18 auditor's report. Information received by the organization
19 that is otherwise confidential or exempt by law shall retain
20 such status. Any sensitive, personal information regarding
21 contract beneficiaries, including their identities, is exempt
22 from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of
23 the State Constitution.

24 (5) The chair and the executive director of the board
25 shall be directors of the direct-support organization and
26 shall jointly name, at a minimum, three other individuals to
27 serve as directors of the organization.

28 (6) The board may authorize the direct-support
29 organization established in this section to use board
30 property, except money, and use facilities and personal
31 services subject to the provisions of this section. If the

1 direct-support organization does not provide equal employment
2 opportunities to all persons regardless of race, color,
3 religion, sex, age, or national origin, it may not use the
4 property, facilities, or personal services of the board. For
5 the purposes of this section, the term "personal services"
6 includes full-time personnel and part-time personnel as well
7 as payroll processing as prescribed by rule of the board. The
8 board shall adopt rules prescribing the procedures by which
9 the direct-support organization is governed and any conditions
10 with which such a direct-support organization must comply to
11 use property, facilities, or personal services of the board.

12 (7) The board may invest funds of the direct-support
13 organization which have been allocated for the purchase of
14 advance payment contracts for scholarships with receipts for
15 advance payment contracts.

16 Section 489. Section 1009.984, Florida Statutes, is
17 created to read:

18 1009.984 Florida Prepaid Tuition Scholarship
19 Program.--The Florida Prepaid Tuition Scholarship Program is
20 established to provide economically disadvantaged youth with
21 prepaid postsecondary tuition scholarships. The direct-support
22 organization established pursuant to s. 1009.983 shall
23 administer the program with the assistance and cooperation of
24 the Department of Education to:

25 (1) Provide an incentive for economically
26 disadvantaged youth to improve school attendance and academic
27 performance in order to graduate and pursue a postsecondary
28 education.

29 (2) Obtain the commitment and involvement of private
30 sector entities by virtue of funding matches with a ratio of
31

1 50 percent provided by the private sector and 50 percent
2 provided by the state.

3 (3) Purchase prepaid tuition scholarships for students
4 certified by the Department of Education to the direct-support
5 organization who meet minimum economic and school requirements
6 and remain drug free and crime free.

7 (a) For the purpose of this subsection, "drug free"
8 means not being convicted of, or adjudicated delinquent for,
9 any violation of chapter 893 after being designated a
10 recipient of a Florida prepaid tuition scholarship.

11 (b) For the purpose of this subsection, "crime free"
12 means not being convicted of, or adjudicated delinquent for,
13 any felony or first degree misdemeanor as defined in ss.
14 775.08 and 775.081 after being designated a recipient of a
15 Florida prepaid tuition scholarship.

16 Section 490. Part V of chapter 1009, Florida Statutes,
17 shall be entitled "Florida Higher Education Loan Authority"
18 and shall consist of ss. 1009.99-1009.9994.

19 Section 491. Section 1009.99, Florida Statutes, is
20 created to read:

21 1009.99 Short title.--Sections 1009.99-1009.9994 may
22 be cited as the "Florida Higher Education Loan Authority Act."

23 Section 492. Section 1009.991, Florida Statutes, is
24 created to read:

25 1009.991 Purpose.--It is the purpose of this act to
26 provide assistance and an additional method of financing the
27 cost of higher education to students and the families of
28 students attending institutions of higher education in this
29 state and to encourage investment of private capital to
30 provide funds for financing student loans.

31

1 Section 493. Section 1009.992, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1009.992 Definitions.--As used in this act:

4 (1) "Authority" means any public corporation created
5 by s. 1009.993 or any board, body, commission, department, or
6 officer of the county succeeding to the principal functions
7 thereof or to whom the powers conferred upon an authority by
8 this act are given by this act.

9 (2) "Authority loan" means any loan by an authority to
10 an institution of higher education for the purpose of funding
11 education loans.

12 (3) "Bond" or "revenue bond" means any revenue bond of
13 an authority issued under the provisions of this act,
14 including any revenue-refunding bond, notwithstanding that the
15 bond may be secured by mortgage or the full faith and credit
16 of a participating institution of higher education or any
17 other lawfully pledged security of a participating institution
18 of higher education.

19 (4) "Bond resolution" means the resolution of an
20 authority and the trust agreement, if any, and any supplement
21 or amendment to the foregoing, authorizing the issuance of,
22 and providing for the terms and conditions applicable to,
23 obligations.

24 (5) "Bond service charge" means the principal
25 (including mandatory sinking fund requirements for retirement
26 of obligations) and interest, and redemption premium, if any,
27 required to be paid by an authority on obligations.

28 (6) "Borrower" means any student who has received an
29 education loan or any parent who has received or agreed to pay
30 an education loan.

31

- 1 (7) "Clerk" means the clerk of a commission or the
2 county officer charged with the duties customarily imposed
3 upon the clerk.
- 4 (8) "Commission" means a board of county commissioners
5 or other body charged with governing the county.
- 6 (9) "Default insurance" means insurance insuring
7 education loans, authority loans, or obligations against
8 default.
- 9 (10) "Default reserve fund" means a fund established
10 pursuant to a bond resolution for the purpose of securing
11 education loans, authority loans, or obligations.
- 12 (11) "Education loan" means a loan which is made by an
13 institution to a student or the parents of a student, or both,
14 in an amount not in excess of the maximum amount specified in
15 regulations to be formulated by the authority, in order to
16 finance all or any part of the cost of the student's
17 attendance at such institution.
- 18 (12) "Education loan series portfolio" means all
19 educational loans made by a specific institution which are
20 funded from the proceeds of an authority loan to such
21 institution out of the proceeds of a related specific issue of
22 obligations through the authority.
- 23 (13) "Institution" means any college or university
24 which, by virtue of law or charter, is accredited by and holds
25 membership in the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary
26 Accreditation; which grants baccalaureate or associate
27 degrees; which is not a pervasively sectarian institution; and
28 which does not discriminate in the admission of students on
29 the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or creed.
- 30
31

1 (14) "Loan funding deposit" means moneys or other
2 property which is deposited by an institution with the
3 authority or a trustee for the purpose of:

4 (a) Providing security for obligations;

5 (b) Funding a default reserve fund;

6 (c) Acquiring default insurance; or

7 (d) Defraying costs of the authority, and
8

9 which shall be in such amounts as are deemed necessary by the
10 authority as a condition for participation by such institution
11 in the program of the authority.

12 (15) "Obligation" means any revenue bond, note, or
13 other evidence of indebtedness of an authority, including any
14 interest coupon pertaining thereto, issued under this act,
15 including any refunding bond.

16 (16) "Parent" means any parent or guardian of a
17 student at an institution.

18 (17) "Participating institution" means an institution
19 of higher education which, pursuant to the provisions of this
20 act, undertakes the financing of an educational student loan
21 program or undertakes the refunding or refinancing of
22 obligations, a mortgage, or advances as provided in and
23 permitted by this act.

24 (18) "Person" means any person, firm, partnership,
25 association, corporation, or other body, public or private.

26 Section 494. Section 1009.993, Florida Statutes, is
27 created to read:

28 1009.993 Authority; creation, membership, terms of
29 members, expenses.--

30 (1) In each county there is created a public body
31 corporate and politic to be known as the "... County

1 Education Loan Authority." Each such authority is constituted
2 as a public instrumentality, and its exercise of the powers
3 conferred by this act shall be deemed the performance of an
4 essential public function. No authority shall transact any
5 business or exercise any power pursuant to this act until the
6 commission by ordinance or resolution declares that there is a
7 need for an authority to function in such county.

8 (2) The commission may adopt such an ordinance or
9 resolution of need if it finds that the youth of the county
10 and state do not have the opportunity to attend institutions
11 of higher learning located within the county because of their
12 inability to obtain financing for the cost of such education
13 and the inability of such institutions to provide adequate
14 financial aid to their students.

15 (3) In any suit, action, or proceeding involving the
16 validity or enforcement of or relating to any contract of the
17 authority, the authority shall be conclusively deemed to have
18 been established and authorized to transact business and
19 exercise its powers hereunder upon proof of the adoption of an
20 ordinance or resolution by the commission declaring the need
21 for the authority. Such ordinance or resolution shall be
22 sufficient if it declares that there is such a need for an
23 authority in the county. A copy of such ordinance or
24 resolution certified by the clerk shall be admissible in
25 evidence in any suit, action, or proceeding.

26 (4) The ordinance or resolution shall designate five
27 persons as members of the authority. The membership of the
28 authority shall include:

29 (a) A trustee, director, officer, or employee of an
30 institution located in such county.

31

1 (b) One lay citizen who does not derive a majority of
2 his or her income from education or an education-related
3 field.

4 (c) Two persons from the commercial financial
5 community in the county, each of whom has a favorable
6 reputation for skill, knowledge, and experience in the field
7 of state and municipal finance.

8 (d) One person from the commercial financial community
9 or educational community in the state who has a favorable
10 reputation for skill, knowledge, and experience in the field
11 of higher education loan finance.

12 (5) Of the members first appointed, one shall serve
13 for 1 year, one for 2 years, one for 3 years, one for 4 years,
14 and one for 5 years, in each case until his or her successor
15 is appointed and has qualified. Thereafter, the commission
16 shall appoint for terms of 5 years each members to succeed
17 those whose terms will expire. The commission shall fill any
18 vacancy for the unexpired portion of the term. Any member of
19 the authority may be reappointed. Any member of the authority
20 may be removed by the commission for misfeasance, malfeasance,
21 or willful neglect of duty. Before entering upon his or her
22 duties, each member of the authority shall take and subscribe
23 to the oath or affirmation required by the State Constitution.
24 A record of each such oath shall be filed with the Department
25 of State and with the clerk.

26 (6) The authority shall annually elect one of its
27 members as chair and one as vice chair and shall also appoint
28 an executive director who shall not be a member of the
29 authority and who shall serve at the pleasure of the authority
30 and receive such compensation as fixed by the authority.

31

1 (7) The executive director shall keep a record of the
2 proceedings of the authority and shall be custodian of all
3 books, documents, and papers filed with the authority; the
4 minute book or journal of the authority; and its official
5 seal. The director may have copies made of all minutes and
6 other records and documents of the authority and may give
7 certificates under the official seal of the authority to the
8 effect that such copies are true copies, and any person
9 dealing with the authority may rely upon any such certificate.

10 (8) Three members of the authority shall constitute a
11 quorum, and the affirmative vote of a majority of the members
12 present at a meeting shall be necessary for any action to be
13 taken; however, any action may be taken by an authority with
14 the unanimous consent of all of the members. A vacancy in the
15 membership of the authority shall not impair the right of a
16 quorum to exercise the rights or perform the duties of the
17 authority. The majority shall not include any member who has a
18 conflict of interest, and a statement by a member of a
19 conflict of interest is conclusive for this purpose. Any
20 action taken by the authority under the provisions of this act
21 may be authorized by resolution at any regular or special
22 meeting. Each such resolution shall take effect immediately
23 and need not be published or posted.

24 (9) The members of the authority shall receive no
25 compensation for the performance of their duties, but each
26 member, when engaged in the performance of such duties, shall
27 be entitled to per diem and travel expenses as provided in s.
28 112.061.

29 (10) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, it
30 shall not be, nor shall it constitute, a conflict of interest
31

1 for a trustee, director, officer, or employee of an
2 institution to serve as a member of the authority.

3 Section 495. Section 1009.994, Florida Statutes, is
4 created to read:

5 1009.994 Functions and powers of authority.--Each
6 authority shall have the following functions and powers:

7 (1) To adopt rules for the regulation of its affairs
8 and the conduct of its business.

9 (2) To adopt an official seal.

10 (3) To maintain an office at a place it designates.

11 (4) To sue and be sued in its own name and to plead
12 and be impleaded.

13 (5) To establish rules for the use of education loan
14 financing programs and to designate a participating
15 institution as its agent to establish rules for the use of a
16 program undertaken by such participating institution.

17 (6) To issue obligations for the purpose of making
18 authority loans to participating institutions for the purpose
19 of providing education loans utilizing such eligibility
20 standards for borrowers as the authority determines to be
21 necessary, but such standards shall include the following:

22 (a) Each student shall have a certificate of admission
23 or enrollment at a participating institution;

24 (b) Each student or his or her parents shall satisfy
25 such financial qualifications as the authority shall
26 establish; and

27 (c) Each student and his or her parents shall submit
28 such information to the applicable institution as may be
29 required by the authority.

30 (7) To contract with financial institutions and other
31 qualified loan origination and servicing organizations, which

1 shall assist in prequalifying borrowers for education loans
2 and which shall service and administer each education loan and
3 the respective loan series portfolio of each institution, and
4 to establish sufficient fees for each educational loan to
5 cover the applicable pro rata cost of such servicing and
6 originating organizations.

7 (8) To establish criteria governing the eligibility of
8 institutions to participate in its programs, the making and
9 allocation of authority loans and education loans, provisions
10 for default, the establishment of default reserve funds, the
11 purchase of default insurance, the provision of prudent debt
12 service reserves, and the furnishing by participating
13 institutions of such additional guarantees of the education
14 loans, authority loans, or obligations as the authority shall
15 determine necessary to assure the marketability of the
16 obligations and the adequacy of the security therefor;
17 however, the provisions applicable to participation by Florida
18 public participating institutions in the financing programs of
19 the authority shall be subject to approval and authorization
20 by the budgetary and other state agencies having jurisdiction
21 over those institutions.

22 (9) To fix, revise, charge, and collect rates, fees,
23 and charges for services furnished by the authority and to
24 contract with any person in respect thereto, including any
25 financial institution, loan originator, servicer,
26 administrator, issuer of letters of credit, or insurer.

27 (10) To employ consultants, attorneys, accountants,
28 financial experts, loan processors, bankers, managers, and
29 such other employees and agents as may be necessary and to fix
30 their compensation.

31

1 (11) To receive and accept, from any source, loans,
2 contributions, or grants for or in aid of an authority
3 education loan financing program or any portion thereof and,
4 when required, to use such funds, property, or labor only for
5 the purposes for which it was loaned, contributed, or granted.

6 (12) To make authority loans to institutions and
7 require that the proceeds thereof be used solely for making
8 education loans or for costs and fees in connection therewith
9 and to require institutions to obtain certification from each
10 borrower that proceeds from any education loan are used solely
11 for the purpose intended by this act.

12 (13) To charge to and apportion among participating
13 institutions administrative and operating costs and expenses
14 incurred in the exercise of the powers and duties conferred by
15 this act.

16 (14) To borrow working capital funds and other funds
17 as may be necessary for startup and continuing operations,
18 provided that such funds are borrowed solely in the name of
19 the authority. Such borrowings shall be limited obligations of
20 the character described in s. 1009.9975 and shall be payable
21 solely from revenues of the authority or proceeds of
22 obligations pledged for that purpose.

23 (15) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this act,
24 to commingle and pledge as security for a series or issue of
25 obligations, with the consent of all of the institutions which
26 are participating in such series or issue:

27 (a) The education loan series portfolios and some or
28 all future education loan series portfolios of such
29 institutions; and

30 (b) The loan funding deposits of such institutions,
31 except that education loan series portfolios and other

1 security and moneys set aside in any fund pledged for any
2 series or issue of obligations shall be held for the sole
3 benefit of such series or issue separate and apart from
4 education loan series portfolios and other security and moneys
5 pledged for any other series of issue of obligations of the
6 authority. Obligations may be issued in series under one or
7 more resolutions or trust agreements in the discretion of the
8 authority.

9 (16) To examine records and financial reports of
10 participating institutions and to examine records and
11 financial reports of any contractor organization or
12 institution retained by the authority under the provisions of
13 this act.

14 (17) To make loans to a participating institution to
15 refund outstanding obligations, mortgages, or advances issued,
16 made, or given by such institution for authority loans; and
17 whenever such refunding obligations are issued to refund
18 obligations, the proceeds of which were used to make authority
19 loans, the authority may reduce the amount of interest owed to
20 it by the institution which had received authority loans from
21 the proceeds of the refunded obligations. Such institution
22 may use this reduced amount to reduce the amount of interest
23 being paid on education loans which the institution had made
24 pursuant to the authority loans from the proceeds of the
25 refunded obligations.

26 (18) To authorize its officers, agents, and employees
27 to take any other action which is necessary in order to carry
28 out the purposes of this act.

29 Section 496. Section 1009.995, Florida Statutes, is
30 created to read:

31

1 1009.995 Expenses of authority.--All expenses incurred
2 in carrying out the provisions of this act shall be payable
3 solely from funds provided under the provisions of this act;
4 and, except as specifically authorized under this act, no
5 liability shall be incurred by an authority beyond the extent
6 to which moneys have been provided under this act.

7 Section 497. Section 1009.996, Florida Statutes, is
8 created to read:

9 1009.996 Higher education facilities authority as
10 higher education loan authority.--As an alternative to the
11 creation of an authority, a commission may confer all rights,
12 powers, privileges, duties, and immunities of an authority
13 upon any entity in existence on July 1, 1982, which has been
14 authorized by law to function as a higher education facilities
15 authority pursuant to the provisions of chapter 243. Any such
16 entity which has been vested with the rights, powers,
17 privileges, duties, and immunities of a higher education loan
18 authority shall be subject to all provisions and
19 responsibilities imposed by this act, notwithstanding any
20 provisions to the contrary in any law which established the
21 entity. Nothing in this act shall be construed to impair or
22 diminish any powers of any other entity in existence on July
23 1, 1982, or to repeal, modify, or amend any law establishing
24 such entity, except as specifically set forth herein.

25 Section 498. Section 1009.9965, Florida Statutes, is
26 created to read:

27 1009.9965 Moneys, endowments, properties; acquisition,
28 deposit, and guarantees.--Each authority is authorized to
29 establish specific guidelines relating to the deposits of
30 moneys, endowments, or properties by institutions which
31 moneys, endowments, or properties would provide prudent

1 security for education loan funding programs, authority loans,
2 education loans, or obligations; and it may establish
3 guidelines relating to guarantees of, or contracts to
4 purchase, education loans or obligations by such institutions,
5 financial institutions, or others. A default reserve fund may
6 be established for each series or issue of obligations. In
7 this regard, the authority is empowered to receive such
8 moneys, endowments, properties, and guarantees as it deems
9 appropriate and, if necessary, to take title in the name of
10 the authority or in the name of a participating institution or
11 a trustee, subject, however, to the limitations applicable to
12 public participating institutions set forth in s. 1009.994(8).

13 Section 499. Section 1009.997, Florida Statutes, is
14 created to read:

15 1009.997 Conveyance of loan funding deposit to
16 participating institutions.--When the principal of and
17 interest on obligations of an authority issued to finance the
18 cost of an education loan financing program, including any
19 refunding obligations issued to refund and refinance such
20 obligations, have been fully paid and retired or when adequate
21 provision has been made to fully pay and retire the
22 obligations and all other conditions of the bond resolution
23 have been satisfied and the lien created by such bond
24 resolution has been released in accordance with the provisions
25 thereof, the authority shall promptly do such things and
26 execute such deeds and conveyances as are necessary to convey
27 any remaining moneys, properties, and other assets comprising
28 loan funding deposits to the institutions in proportion to the
29 amounts furnished by the respective institutions.

30 Section 500. Section 1009.9975, Florida Statutes, is
31 created to read:

1 1009.9975 Notes of authority.--An authority may issue
2 its negotiable notes for any corporate purpose and renew any
3 notes by the issuance of new notes, whether or not the notes
4 to be renewed have matured. The authority may issue notes
5 partly to renew notes or to discharge other obligations then
6 outstanding and partly for any other purpose. The notes may be
7 authorized, sold, executed, and delivered in the same manner
8 as bonds. Any resolution authorizing notes of the authority
9 or any issue thereof may contain any provisions which the
10 authority is authorized to include in any resolution
11 authorizing revenue bonds or any issue thereof, and the
12 authority may include in any notes any terms, covenants, or
13 conditions which it is authorized to include in any bonds.
14 All such notes shall be payable solely from the revenues of
15 the authority, subject only to any contractual rights of the
16 holders of any of its notes or other obligations then
17 outstanding.

18 Section 501. Section 1009.9976, Florida Statutes, is
19 created to read:

20 1009.9976 Issuance of obligations.--

21 (1) An authority may issue its negotiable revenue
22 obligations for any corporate purpose. In anticipation of the
23 sale of such obligations, the authority may issue negotiable
24 bond anticipation notes and may renew them, but the maximum
25 maturity of any such note, including renewals thereof, shall
26 not exceed 5 years from the date of issue of the original
27 note. Such notes shall be paid from revenues of the authority
28 available therefor and not otherwise pledged or from the
29 proceeds of sale of the revenue bonds of the authority in
30 anticipation of which they were issued. The notes shall be
31 issued in the same manner as the revenue bonds. Such notes and

1 the resolution authorizing them may contain any provisions,
2 conditions, or limitations which a bond resolution of the
3 authority may contain.

4 (2) Each issue of obligations shall be payable solely
5 out of those revenues of the authority that pertain to the
6 program relating to such issue, including principal and
7 interest on authority loans and education loans; payments by
8 institutions of higher education, banks, insurance companies,
9 or others pursuant to letters of credit or purchase
10 agreements; investment earnings from funds or accounts
11 maintained pursuant to the bond resolution; insurance
12 proceeds; loan funding deposits; proceeds of sales of
13 education loans; proceeds of refunding obligations; and fees,
14 charges, and other revenues of the authority from such
15 program, subject only to any agreements with the holders of
16 particular revenue bonds or notes pledging any particular
17 reserves.

18 (3) The obligations may be issued as serial
19 obligations or as term obligations, or in both forms. The
20 obligations shall be authorized by a bond resolution of the
21 authority and shall bear such dates; mature at such times, not
22 to exceed the year following the last year in which the final
23 payments in an education loan series portfolio are due or 30
24 years, whichever is sooner, from their respective dates of
25 issue; bear interest at such rates; be payable at such times;
26 be in such denominations; be in such form, either coupon or
27 fully registered; carry such registration and conversion
28 privileges; be payable in lawful money of the United States of
29 America at such places; and be subject to such terms of
30 redemption as such bond resolution may provide. Obligations
31 shall be executed by the manual or facsimile signatures of

1 such officers of the authority as shall be designated by the
2 authority. Obligations may be sold at public or private sale
3 in such manner and for such price as the authority shall
4 determine. Pending preparation of the definitive bonds, the
5 authority may issue interim receipts or certificates which
6 shall be exchanged for such definitive bonds.

7 (4) Any bond resolution may contain provisions, which
8 shall be a part of the contract with the holders of the
9 obligations to be authorized, as to:

10 (a) The pledging or assigning of all or part of the
11 revenues derived from the authority loans and education loans
12 to secure the payment of the obligations to be issued.

13 (b) The fees and other amounts to be charged; the sums
14 to be raised in each year thereby; and the use, investment,
15 and disposition of such sums.

16 (c) The setting aside of loan funding deposits, debt
17 service reserves, capitalized interest accounts, cost of
18 insurance accounts, and sinking funds and the regulation,
19 investment, and disposition thereof.

20 (d) Limitations on the right of the authority or its
21 agent to restrict and regulate the use of education loans.

22 (e) Limitations on the purpose to which the proceeds
23 of sale of any issue of obligations then or thereafter to be
24 issued may be invested or applied.

25 (f) Limitations on the issuance of additional
26 obligations; the terms upon which additional obligations may
27 be issued and secured; the terms upon which additional
28 obligations may rank on a parity with, or be subordinate or
29 superior to, other obligations; and the refunding of
30 outstanding obligations.

31

1 (g) The procedure, if any, by which the terms of any
2 contract with bondholders may be amended or abrogated, the
3 amount of obligations the holders of which must consent
4 thereto, and the manner in which such consent may be given.

5 (h) Limitations on the amount of moneys derived from
6 the loan program to be expended for operating, administrative,
7 or other expenses of the authority.

8 (i) Defining the acts or omissions to act which
9 constitute a default in the duties of the authority to holders
10 of obligations and providing the rights or remedies of such
11 holders in the event of a default.

12 (j) Providing for guarantees, pledges or endowments,
13 letters of credit, property, or other security for the benefit
14 of the holders of such obligations.

15 (k) Any other matters relating to the obligations
16 which the authority deems desirable to include in the bond
17 resolution.

18 (5) Neither the members of the authority nor any
19 person executing the obligations shall be liable personally on
20 the obligations or be subject to any personal liability or
21 accountability by reason of the issuance thereof.

22 (6) The authority shall have power to purchase its
23 obligations out of any funds available therefor. The
24 authority may hold, pledge, cancel, or resell such obligations
25 subject to and in accordance with agreements with bondholders.

26 (7) The authority shall have the power to refund any
27 of its obligations. Such refunding obligations shall be
28 issued in the same manner as other obligations of the
29 authority.

30 Section 502. Section 1009.9977, Florida Statutes, is
31 created to read:

1 1009.9977 Trust agreement to secure obligations.--In
2 the discretion of the authority, any obligations issued under
3 the provisions of this act may be secured by a trust agreement
4 by and between the authority and a corporate trustee, which
5 may be any trust company or bank having the powers of a trust
6 company within or without the state. The trust agreement may
7 pledge or assign the revenues to be received by the authority;
8 may contain such provisions for protecting and enforcing the
9 rights and remedies of the bondholders as may be reasonable
10 and proper and not in violation of law, particularly including
11 such provisions as have hereinabove been specifically
12 authorized to be included in any bond resolution of the
13 authority; and may restrict individual rights of action by
14 bondholders. Any bank or trust company incorporated under the
15 laws of this state which may act as depository of the proceeds
16 of bonds or of revenues or other moneys may furnish such
17 indemnifying bonds or pledge such securities as may be
18 required by the authority. Any such trust agreement may set
19 forth the rights and remedies of the bondholders and of the
20 trustee. In addition, any trust agreement may contain such
21 other provisions as the authority may deem reasonable and
22 proper for the security of the bondholders. All expenses
23 incurred in carrying out the provisions of the trust agreement
24 may be treated as part of the cost of the operation of an
25 education loan program.

26 Section 503. Section 1009.9978, Florida Statutes, is
27 created to read:

28 1009.9978 Payment of obligations.--Obligations issued
29 under the provisions of this act shall not be deemed to
30 constitute a debt or liability of the state or the county or a
31 pledge of the faith and credit of the state or any county, but

1 such obligations shall be payable solely from the funds herein
2 provided therefor from revenues. Each such obligation shall
3 contain on its face a statement to the effect that neither the
4 county nor the authority shall be obligated to pay the same or
5 the interest thereon except from revenues of the loan program
6 for which it is issued and that neither the faith and credit
7 nor the taxing power of the state or of any political
8 subdivision thereof is pledged to the payment of the principal
9 of or the interest on such bonds. The issuance of obligations
10 under the provisions of this act shall not directly,
11 indirectly, or contingently obligate the state or any
12 political subdivision thereof to levy or pledge any form of
13 taxation whatever therefor or to make any appropriation for
14 their payment.

15 Section 504. Section 1009.9979, Florida Statutes, is
16 created to read:

17 1009.9979 Pledge of revenues.--Each authority shall
18 fix, revise, charge, and collect fees, and it is empowered to
19 contract with any person in respect thereof. Each agreement
20 entered into by the authority with an institution shall
21 provide that the fees and other amounts payable by the
22 institution of higher education with respect to any program of
23 the authority shall be sufficient at all times to:

24 (1) Pay the institution's share of the administrative
25 costs and expenses of such program;

26 (2) Pay the principal of, the premium, if any, on, and
27 the interest on outstanding obligations of the authority which
28 have been issued in respect of such program to the extent that
29 other revenues of the authority pledged for the payment of the
30 obligations are insufficient to pay the obligations as they
31 become due and payable;

1 (3) Create and maintain reserves which may, but need
2 not, be required or provided for in the bond resolution
3 relating to such obligations of the authority; and

4 (4) Establish and maintain whatever education loan
5 servicing, control, or audit procedures are deemed necessary
6 to the prudent operations of the authority.

7
8 The authority shall pledge the revenues from each program as
9 security for the issue of obligations relating to such
10 program. Such pledge shall be valid and binding from the time
11 the pledge is made; the revenues so pledged by the authority
12 shall immediately be subject to the lien of such pledge
13 without any physical delivery thereof or further act, and the
14 lien of any such pledge shall be valid and binding against all
15 parties having claims of any kind in tort, in contract, or
16 otherwise against the authority or any participating
17 institution, irrespective of whether such parties have notice
18 thereof.

19 Section 505. Section 1009.998, Florida Statutes, is
20 created to read:

21 1009.998 Funds as trust funds.--All moneys received by
22 or on behalf of an authority pursuant to this act, whether as
23 proceeds from the sale of obligations or as revenues, shall be
24 deemed to be trust funds to be held and applied solely as
25 provided in this act. Any officer with whom, or any bank or
26 trust company with which, such moneys are deposited shall act
27 as trustee of such moneys and shall hold and apply the same
28 for the purposes of this act, subject to such regulations as
29 this act and the bond resolution authorizing the issue of any
30 obligations may provide.

31

1 Section 506. Section 1009.9981, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1009.9981 Obligations; qualities of investment
4 securities.--All obligations issued under the provisions of
5 this act, regardless of form or terms, shall have all the
6 qualities and incidents, including negotiability, of
7 investment securities under the Uniform Commercial Code.
8 Compliance with the provisions of such code respecting the
9 filing of a financing statement to perfect a security interest
10 is not necessary for perfecting any security interest granted
11 by an authority.

12 Section 507. Section 1009.9982, Florida Statutes, is
13 created to read:

14 1009.9982 Rights of holders of obligations.--Any
15 holder of obligations issued pursuant to this act or a trustee
16 under a trust agreement entered into pursuant to this act,
17 except to the extent that the rights herein given may be
18 restricted by any bond resolution or trust agreement, may, by
19 any suitable form of legal proceedings:

20 (1) Protect and enforce any and all rights under the
21 laws of this state or granted hereunder or by the bond
22 resolution or trust agreement;

23 (2) Enjoin unlawful activities; and

24 (3) In the event of default with respect to the
25 payment of any principal of, premiums, if any, on, and
26 interest on any obligation or in the performance of any
27 covenant or agreement on the part of the authority in the bond
28 resolution, apply to the circuit court to appoint a receiver
29 to administer and operate the education loan program or
30 programs, the revenues of which are pledged to the payment of
31 principal of, premium, if any, on, and interest on such

1 obligations, with full power to pay, and to provide for
2 payment of, principal of, premium, if any, on, and interest on
3 such obligations and with such powers, subject to the
4 direction of the court, as are permitted by law and are
5 accorded receivers, excluding any power to pledge additional
6 revenues of the authority to the payment of such principal,
7 premium, and interest.

8 Section 508. Section 1009.9983, Florida Statutes, is
9 created to read:

10 1009.9983 Refunding obligations; purpose, proceeds;
11 investment of proceeds.--

12 (1) An authority may provide for the issuance of
13 obligations for the purpose of refunding any of its
14 obligations then outstanding, including the payment of any
15 redemption premium thereon and any interest accrued or to
16 accrue to the earliest or any subsequent date of redemption,
17 purchase, or maturity of such obligations.

18 (2) The proceeds of any such obligations issued for
19 the purpose of refunding outstanding obligations may, in the
20 discretion of the authority, be applied to the purchase or
21 retirement at maturity or redemption of such outstanding
22 obligations either on their earliest or any subsequent
23 redemption date or upon the purchase or at the maturity
24 thereof and may, pending such application, be placed in escrow
25 to be applied to such purchase or retirement at maturity or
26 redemption on such date as may be determined by the authority.

27 (3) Any such escrowed proceeds, pending such use, may
28 be invested and reinvested in direct obligations of the United
29 States of America or in certificates of deposit or time
30 deposits of financial institutions secured as to principal by
31 such direct obligations, which direct obligations,

1 certificates of deposit, or time deposits mature at such time
2 as shall be appropriate to assure the prompt payment, as to
3 principal, interest, and redemption premium, if any, of the
4 outstanding obligations to be so refunded. The interest,
5 income, and profits, if any, earned or realized on any such
6 investment may also be applied to the payment of the
7 outstanding obligations to be so refunded. After the terms of
8 the escrow have been fully satisfied and carried out, any
9 balance of such proceeds and interest, income, and profits, if
10 any, earned or realized on the investments thereof shall be
11 returned to the authority for use in any lawful manner.

12 (4) All such refunding bonds shall be subject to this
13 act in the same manner and to the same extent as other revenue
14 bonds issued pursuant to this act.

15 Section 509. Section 1009.9984, Florida Statutes, is
16 created to read:

17 1009.9984 Investment of funds of authority.--Except as
18 otherwise provided in s. 1009.9983(3), an authority may invest
19 any funds in:

20 (1) Direct obligations of the United States of
21 America;

22 (2) Obligations as to which the timely payment of
23 principal and interest is fully guaranteed by the United
24 States of America;

25 (3) Obligations of the Federal Intermediate Credit
26 Banks, Federal Banks for Cooperatives, Federal Land Banks,
27 Federal Home Loan Banks, Federal National Mortgage
28 Association, Government National Mortgage Association, and
29 Student Loan Marketing Association;

30 (4) Certificates of deposit or time deposits
31 constituting direct obligations of any financial institution

1 as defined by the financial institutions codes, as now or
2 hereafter amended, except that investments may be made only in
3 those certificates of deposit or time deposits in financial
4 institutions which are insured by the appropriate federal
5 regulatory agency as defined in s. 655.005; and

6 (5) Withdrawable capital accounts or deposits of state
7 or federally chartered savings and loan associations which are
8 insured by an agency of the Federal Government. Any such
9 securities may be purchased at the offering or market price
10 thereof at the time of such purchase. All such securities so
11 purchased shall mature or be redeemable on a date prior to the
12 time when, in the judgment of the authority, the funds so
13 invested will be required for expenditure. The express
14 judgment of the authority as to the time when any funds will
15 be required for expenditure or be redeemable is final and
16 conclusive.

17 Section 510. Section 1009.9985, Florida Statutes, is
18 created to read:

19 1009.9985 Obligations as legal investments.--Any bank,
20 banker, trust company, savings bank or institution, building
21 and loan association, savings and loan association, investment
22 company, or other person carrying on a banking business or
23 investment business; insurance company or insurance
24 association; executor, administrator, guardian, trustee, or
25 other fiduciary; or public officer or public body of the state
26 or its political subdivisions may legally invest any sinking
27 funds, moneys, or other funds belonging to it or within its
28 control in any obligations issued pursuant to this act.

29 Section 511. Section 1009.9986, Florida Statutes, is
30 created to read:

31

1 1009.9986 Validation of bonds and proceedings.--A
2 higher education loan authority shall determine its authority
3 to issue any of its bonds, and the legality of all proceedings
4 in connection therewith, as provided in chapter 75.

5 Section 512. Section 1009.9987, Florida Statutes, is
6 created to read:

7 1009.9987 Actions to contest validity of bonds.--An
8 action or proceeding to contest the validity of any bond
9 issued under this act, other than a proceeding pursuant to s.
10 1009.9986, shall be commenced within 30 days after
11 notification, in a newspaper of general circulation within the
12 area, of the passage by the authority of the resolution
13 authorizing the issuance of such bond.

14 Section 513. Section 1009.9988, Florida Statutes, is
15 created to read:

16 1009.9988 Annual report.--Each authority shall keep an
17 accurate account of all of its activities and shall annually
18 provide a report thereof to the commission and to the
19 Commissioner of Education. Such report shall be a public
20 record and open for inspection at the offices of the authority
21 during normal business hours. The report shall include:

22 (1) Summaries of all applications by institutions of
23 higher education for education loan financing assistance
24 presented to the authority during such fiscal year;

25 (2) Summaries of all education loan programs which
26 have received any form of financial assistance from the
27 authority during such year;

28 (3) The nature and amount of all education loan
29 financing assistance;

30 (4) A report concerning the financial condition of the
31 various education loan series portfolios; and

1 (5) Projected activities of the authority for the next
2 fiscal year, including projections of the total amount of
3 financial assistance anticipated and the amount of obligations
4 that will be necessary to provide the projected level of
5 assistance during the next fiscal year.

6 Section 514. Section 1009.9989, Florida Statutes, is
7 created to read:

8 1009.9989 Act as alternative method.--This act shall
9 be deemed to provide a complete, additional, and alternative
10 method for the doing of the things authorized hereby and shall
11 be regarded as supplemental and additional to powers or rights
12 conferred by other laws; however, the issuance of obligations
13 and refunding obligations under this act need not comply with
14 the requirements of any other law applicable to the issuance
15 of obligations. Except as otherwise expressly provided in
16 this act, none of the powers granted to an authority under
17 this act shall be subject to the supervision or regulation, or
18 require the approval or consent, of any municipality or
19 political subdivision or any department, division, commission,
20 board, body, bureau, official, or agency thereof or of the
21 state.

22 Section 515. Section 1009.9990, Florida Statutes, is
23 created to read:

24 1009.9990 State agreement.--The state does hereby
25 pledge to and agree with the holders of any obligations issued
26 under this act, and with those parties who may enter into
27 contracts with an authority pursuant to the provisions of this
28 act, that the state will not limit or alter the rights hereby
29 vested in the authority until such obligations, together with
30 the interest thereon, are fully met and discharged and such
31 contracts are fully performed on the part of the authority;

1 however, nothing herein contained shall preclude such
2 limitation or alteration if adequate provision is made by law
3 for the protection of the holders of such obligations of an
4 authority or those entering into such contracts with an
5 authority. An authority is authorized to include this pledge
6 and undertaking for the state in such obligations or
7 contracts.

8 Section 516. Section 1009.9991, Florida Statutes, is
9 created to read:

10 1009.9991 Conflicts of interest.--

11 (1) If any member, officer, or employee of an
12 authority has an interest, either direct or indirect, in any
13 contract to which the authority is, or is to be, a party or in
14 any institution requesting an authority loan from the
15 authority, such interest shall be disclosed to the authority
16 in writing and shall be set forth in the minutes of the
17 authority. The person having such interest shall not
18 participate in any action by the authority with respect to
19 such contract or such institution.

20 (2) Nothing in this section shall be construed to
21 limit the right of any member, officer, or employee of an
22 authority to acquire an interest in bonds of the authority or
23 to have an interest in any banking institution in which the
24 bonds of the authority are, or are to be, deposited or which
25 is, or is to be, acting as trustee or paying agent under any
26 bond resolution, trust indenture, or similar instrument to
27 which the authority is a party.

28 Section 517. Section 1009.9992, Florida Statutes, is
29 created to read:

30
31

1 1009.9992 Liberal construction.--This act, being
2 necessary for the welfare of the state and its inhabitants,
3 shall be liberally construed to effect its purpose.

4 Section 518. Section 1009.9993, Florida Statutes, is
5 created to read:

6 1009.9993 Tax exemption.--Neither an authority nor its
7 agent or trustee shall be required to pay any taxes or
8 assessments upon any transactions, or any property acquired or
9 used by the authority or its agents or trustees under the
10 provisions of this act or upon the income therefrom. Any
11 bonds, notes, or other obligations issued under the provisions
12 of this act and their transfer and the income therefrom,
13 including any profit made on the sale thereof, shall at all
14 times be exempt from taxation of any kind by the state or any
15 of its political subdivisions. The exemption granted by this
16 section shall not be applicable to any tax imposed by chapter
17 220 on interest, income, or profits on debt obligations owned
18 by corporations.

19 Section 519. Section 1009.9994, Florida Statutes, is
20 created to read:

21 1009.9994 State Board of Administration authority to
22 borrow and lend funds to finance student loans; conditions and
23 limitations.--

24 (1) The State of Florida, acting through the State
25 Board of Administration, is authorized to borrow funds to
26 finance student loans and to lend such funds to eligible
27 lenders described under the provisions of the Higher Education
28 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. ss. 1071 et seq.), as amended or as may
29 be amended, or other federal laws providing for the guarantee
30 of loans to students and the partial payment of interest on
31 such loans by the United States Government.

1 (2) In order to obtain such funds, the State of
2 Florida, acting through the State Board of Administration, is
3 authorized to enter into loan agreements and interlocal
4 agreements with any county, municipality, special district, or
5 other local governmental body. Such agreements shall be for
6 such periods and under such terms and conditions as may be
7 mutually agreed upon by the parties thereto in order to carry
8 out the purposes of s. 15, Art. VII of the State Constitution.
9 The loans shall be repaid only from the proceeds received
10 under loan agreements with eligible lenders or from the
11 proceeds received from the repayment of the student loans.
12 Such agreements shall provide that the loans to the state will
13 not constitute a general or moral obligation or a pledge of
14 the faith and credit or the taxing power of the state.

15 (3) The State of Florida, acting through the State
16 Board of Administration, is further authorized to enter into
17 loan agreements or other contracts under which the state will
18 loan the funds obtained from the local governments to eligible
19 lenders as defined in s. 435(g)(1)(D) of the Higher Education
20 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. ss. 1071 et seq.), as amended or as may
21 be amended, or other federal laws providing for the guarantee
22 of loans to students and the partial payment of interest on
23 such loans by the United States Government. Such agreements
24 or contracts shall be for such periods and under such terms
25 and conditions as may be mutually agreed upon by the parties
26 thereto in order to carry out the purposes of s. 15, Art. VII
27 of the State Constitution. Higher Education Loan Program of
28 Florida, Inc., a Florida nonprofit corporation, is hereby
29 designated an eligible lender hereunder, and any other lender,
30 to the extent permitted under s. 435(g)(1)(D) of the Higher
31 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. ss. 1071 et seq.), as amended

1 or as may be amended, or other federal laws providing for the
2 guarantee of loans to students and the partial payment of
3 interest on such loans by the United States Government, may be
4 designated by the Governor, with the concurrence of the State
5 Board of Administration, as an eligible lender hereunder.

6 (4) The State of Florida, acting through the State
7 Board of Administration, is further authorized to enter into
8 such further contracts and to take such further actions as may
9 be necessary or convenient in order to carry out the purposes
10 of this section.

11 (5) Notice shall be published in a newspaper of
12 general circulation within the territorial jurisdiction of the
13 governmental body following adoption by the local governmental
14 body of a resolution authorizing a loan agreement or
15 interlocal agreement under this section. An action or
16 proceeding to contest the validity of any such loan agreement
17 or interlocal agreement must be commenced within 30 days after
18 publication of such notice.

19 (6) The provisions of this section shall be liberally
20 construed in order to effectively carry out its purposes.
21 This section shall be deemed to provide an additional and
22 alternative method for the doing of the things authorized
23 hereby and shall be regarded as supplemental to powers
24 conferred by other laws, and shall not be regarded as in
25 derogation of any powers now existing.

26 Section 520. Contingent upon ss. 1011.41 and
27 1011.4106, Florida Statutes, which transfer funding associated
28 with student tuition and fees and other authorized fees for
29 services to local accounts to be managed by university boards
30 of trustees, becoming law, the total receipts of the state
31 which are subject to the revenue limitations of Article VII,

1 Section 1(e) of the Florida Constitution shall be reduced by
2 the Revenue Estimation Conference to reflect this transfer.

3 Section 521. Chapter 1010, Florida Statutes, shall be
4 entitled "Financial Matters" and shall consist of ss.
5 1010.01-1010.86.

6 Section 522. Part I of chapter 1010, Florida Statutes,
7 shall be entitled "General Accounting Requirements" and shall
8 consist of ss. 1010.01-1010.11.

9 Section 523. Section 1010.01, Florida Statutes, is
10 created to read:

11 1010.01 Uniform records and accounts.--

12 (1) The financial records and accounts of each school
13 district, community college, university, and other institution
14 or agency under the supervision of the State Board of
15 Education shall be prepared and maintained as prescribed by
16 law and rules of the State Board of Education.

17 (2) Rules of the State Board of Education shall
18 incorporate the requirements of law and the appropriate
19 requirements of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board
20 (GASB) for State and Local Government.

21 (3) Required financial accounts and reports shall
22 include provisions that are unique to each of the following:
23 K-12 school districts, community colleges, and state
24 universities, and shall provide for the data to be reported to
25 the National Center of Educational Statistics and other
26 governmental and professional educational data information
27 services as appropriate.

28 Section 524. Section 1010.011, Florida Statutes, is
29 created to read:

30 1010.011 Definition.--For purposes of chapters 1010
31 and 1011, the following terms: university, universities, and

1 university board of trustees include New College under the
2 supervision of the State Board of Education.

3 Section 525. Section 1010.02, Florida Statutes, is
4 created to read:

5 1010.02 Financial accounting and expenditures.--All
6 funds accruing to a school district, a community college, or a
7 university must be received, accounted for, and expended in
8 accordance with law and rules of the State Board of Education.

9 Section 526. Section 1010.03, Florida Statutes, is
10 created to read:

11 1010.03 Delinquent accounts.--District school boards,
12 community college boards of trustees, and university boards of
13 trustees:

14 (1) Shall exert every effort to collect all delinquent
15 accounts.

16 (2) May charge off or settle such accounts as may
17 prove uncollectible.

18 (3) May employ the services of a collection agency
19 when deemed advisable in collecting delinquent accounts.

20 (4) May adopt rules, as necessary, to implement the
21 provisions of this section, including setoff procedures,
22 payroll deductions, and restrictions on release of
23 transcripts, awarding of diplomas, and access to other
24 resources and services of the school district, community
25 college, or university.

26 Section 527. Section 1010.04, Florida Statutes, is
27 created to read:

28 1010.04 Purchasing.--

29 (1) Purchases and leases by school districts,
30 community colleges, and universities shall comply with the
31 requirements of law and rules of the State Board of Education.

1 (2) Each district school board, community college
2 board of trustees, and each university board of trustees shall
3 adopt rules to be followed in making purchases.

4 (3) In districts in which the county purchasing agent
5 is authorized by law to make purchases for the benefit of
6 other governmental agencies within the county, the district
7 school board and community college board of trustees shall
8 have the option to purchase from the current county contracts
9 at the unit price stated therein if such purchase is to the
10 economic advantage of the district school board or the
11 community college board of trustees; subject to confirmation
12 of the items of purchase to the standards and specifications
13 prescribed by the school district or community college.

14 (4) The State Board of Education may, by rule, provide
15 for alternative procedures for bidding or purchasing in cases
16 in which the character of the item requested renders
17 competitive bidding impractical.

18 Section 528. Section 1010.05, Florida Statutes, is
19 created to read:

20 1010.05 Federal grants; maximization of indirect cost
21 allowance.--The Department of Education shall maximize the
22 available federal indirect cost allowed on all federal grants.
23 Beginning with the 2002-2003 fiscal year, none of the funds
24 received from indirect cost allowance shall be expended by the
25 department without specific appropriation by the Legislature.
26 Funds received pursuant to s. 1004.22 are specifically exempt
27 from this provision.

28 Section 529. Section 1010.07, Florida Statutes, is
29 created to read:

30 1010.07 Bonds or insurance required.--

31

1 (1) Each district school board, community college
2 board of trustees, and university board of trustees shall
3 ensure that each official and employee responsible for
4 handling, expending, or authorizing the expenditure of funds
5 shall be appropriately bonded or insured to protect the board
6 and the funds involved.

7 (2) Contractors paid from school district, community
8 college, or university funds shall give bond for the faithful
9 performance of their contracts in such amount and for such
10 purposes as prescribed by s. 255.05 or by rules of the State
11 Board of Education relating to the type of contract involved.
12 It shall be the duty of the district school board, community
13 college board of trustees, and university board of trustees to
14 require construction contractors a bond adequate to protect
15 the board and the board's funds involved.

16 Section 530. Section 1010.08, Florida Statutes, is
17 created to read:

18 1010.08 Promotion and public relations; funding.--Each
19 district school board and community college board of trustees
20 may budget and use a portion of the funds accruing to it from
21 auxiliary enterprises and undesignated gifts for promotion and
22 public relations as prescribed by rules of the State Board of
23 Education. Such funds may be used to provide hospitality to
24 business guests in the district or elsewhere. However, such
25 hospitality expenses may not exceed the amount authorized for
26 such contingency funds as prescribed by rules of the State
27 Board of Education.

28 Section 531. Section 1010.09, Florida Statutes, is
29 created to read:

30 1010.09 Direct-support organizations.--School
31 district, community college, and university direct-support

1 organizations shall be organized and conducted under the
2 provisions of ss. 1004.28, 1004.70, 1013.77 and rules of the
3 State Board of Education, as applicable.

4 Section 532. Section 1010.11, Florida Statutes, is
5 created to read:

6 1010.11 Electronic transfer of funds.--Pursuant to the
7 provisions of s. 215.85, each district school board, community
8 college board of trustees, and university board of trustees
9 shall adopt written policies prescribing the accounting and
10 control procedures under which any funds under their control
11 are allowed to be moved by electronic transaction for any
12 purpose including direct deposit, wire transfer, withdrawal,
13 or investment. Electronic transactions shall comply with the
14 provisions of chapter 668.

15 Section 533. Part II of chapter 1010, Florida
16 Statutes, shall be entitled "Financial Reporting" and shall
17 consist of ss. 1010.20-1010.24.

18 Section 534. Section 1010.20, Florida Statutes, is
19 created to read:

20 1010.20 Cost accounting and reporting for school
21 districts.--

22 (1) COST ACCOUNTING.--Each school district shall
23 account for expenditures of all state, local, and federal
24 funds on a school-by-school and a district-aggregate basis in
25 accordance with the manual developed by the Department of
26 Education or as provided by law.

27 (2) COST REPORTING.--

28 (a) Each district shall report on a district-aggregate
29 basis expenditures for inservice training pursuant to s.
30 1011.62(3) and for categorical programs as provided in s.
31 1011.62(5).

1 (b) Each district shall report on a school-by-school
2 and on an aggregate district basis expenditures for each
3 program funded in s. 1011.62(1)(c).

4 (c) The Commissioner of Education shall present to the
5 Legislature, prior to the opening of the regular session each
6 year, a district-by-district report of the expenditures
7 reported pursuant to paragraphs (a) and (b). The report shall
8 include total expenditures, a detailed analysis showing
9 expenditures for each program, and such other data as may be
10 useful for management of the education system. The
11 Commissioner of Education shall also compute cost factors
12 relative to the base student allocation for each funded
13 program in s. 1011.62(1)(c).

14 (3) PROGRAM EXPENDITURE REQUIREMENTS.--

15 (a) Each district shall expend at least the percent of
16 the funds generated by each of the programs listed in this
17 section on the aggregate total school costs for such programs:

18 1. Kindergarten and grades 1, 2, and 3, 90 percent.

19 2. Grades 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, 80 percent.

20 3. Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12, 80 percent.

21 4. Programs for exceptional students, on an aggregate
22 program basis, 90 percent.

23 5. Grades 7 through 12 career and technical education
24 programs, on an aggregate program basis, 80 percent.

25 6. Students-at-risk programs, on an aggregate program
26 basis, 80 percent.

27 7. Juvenile justice programs, on an aggregate program
28 basis, 80 percent.

29 8. Any new program established and funded under s.
30 1011.62(1)(c), that is not included under subparagraphs 1.-6.,
31 on an aggregate basis as appropriate, 80 percent.

1 (b) Funds for inservice training established in s.
2 1011.62(3) and for categorical programs established in s.
3 1011.62(5) shall be expended for the costs of the identified
4 programs as provided by law and in accordance with the rules
5 of the State Board of Education.

6 Section 535. Section 1010.21, Florida Statutes, is
7 created to read:

8 1010.21 Indirect costs.--District school boards shall
9 assess district indirect costs only for services received by
10 the program or institution against which such cost is
11 assessed. When assigning each specific indirect cost to
12 multiple programs or institutions, district school boards
13 shall identify one basis for the assessment of such cost and
14 shall maintain the same basis for assigning such cost to each
15 program or institution.

16 Section 536. Section 1010.215, Florida Statutes, is
17 created to read:

18 1010.215 Educational funding accountability.--

19 (1) As used in this section, the term:

20 (a) "Administrative personnel" means those employees
21 responsible for management functions such as the development
22 of broad policies and implementation of those policies through
23 the direction of personnel.

24 (b) "Educational support personnel" means
25 district-based and school-based employees, including
26 professional staff, technicians, secretaries, clerks, skilled
27 workers, transportation employees, food service employees, and
28 custodial and maintenance workers.

29 (c) "Instructional personnel" means classroom
30 teachers, including substitute teachers.

31

1 (d) "Instructional specialists" means staff members
2 responsible for providing student personnel services,
3 librarians, and media specialists.

4 (e) "Instructional support personnel" means aides or
5 assistants to instructional personnel or instructional
6 specialists.

7 (f) "Managers" means instructional and
8 noninstructional employees with some managerial and
9 supervisory functions, although primarily responsible for
10 general operations. This category includes only
11 district-based employees.

12 (2) Each district school board must classify each
13 employee of the district school board into one of the
14 following categories:

- 15 (a) Instructional personnel;
16 (b) Instructional specialists;
17 (c) Instructional support personnel;
18 (d) Administrative personnel;
19 (e) Managers; or
20 (f) Educational support personnel.

21
22 The district school board shall notify each employee of such
23 classification.

24 (3)(a) The school public accountability report to
25 parents must include the number of employees in each of the
26 categories listed in subsection (2), by work location.
27 However, this does not include the number of temporary
28 substitute employees.

29 (b) Any teacher-to-student ratio or class size measure
30 required by law or State Board of Education rule must be
31 computed by dividing the number of students in membership at

1 the school by the number of full-time equivalent instructional
2 personnel pursuant to paragraph (2)(a). Class size reports for
3 exceptional student education shall be computed by dividing
4 the number of exceptional students in membership by the number
5 of full-time equivalent exceptional education classroom
6 teachers who are classified as instructional personnel
7 pursuant to paragraph (2)(a).

8 (4)(a) All expenditures within the general and special
9 revenue funds for each district school board, including
10 salaries, benefits, purchased services, energy services,
11 materials and supplies, capital outlay, and miscellaneous
12 expenditures, for the following purposes are classified as
13 administrative expenditures:

14 1. District school board.

15 2. General administration.

16 3. School administration, excluding support
17 expenditures.

18 4. Facilities acquisition and construction at the
19 district level.

20 5. Fiscal services.

21 6. Central services at the district level.

22 (b) All expenditures within the general and special
23 revenue funds for each district school board, including
24 salaries, benefits, purchased services, energy services,
25 materials and supplies, capital outlay, and miscellaneous
26 expenditures, for the following purposes are classified as
27 instructional expenditures:

28 1. Instruction.

29 2. Instructional support services, including student
30 personnel services, instructional media services, instruction
31

1 and curriculum development, and instructional staff training
2 services.

3 3. School administration, including support
4 expenditures.

5 4. Facilities acquisition and construction at the
6 school level.

7 5. Food services.

8 6. Central services at the school level.

9 7. Student transportation services.

10 8. Operation of plant.

11 9. Maintenance of plant.

12

13 Definitions for the functions specified in this subsection are
14 specified in State Board of Education rules.

15 (5) The annual school public accountability report
16 required by ss. 1001.42(16) and 1008.345 must include a school
17 financial report. The purpose of the school financial report
18 is to better inform parents and the public concerning how
19 revenues were spent to operate the school during the prior
20 fiscal year. Each school's financial report must follow a
21 uniform, districtwide format that is easy to read and
22 understand.

23 (a) Total revenue must be reported at the school,
24 district, and state levels. The revenue sources that must be
25 addressed are state and local funds, other than lottery funds;
26 lottery funds; federal funds; and private donations.

27 (b) Expenditures must be reported as the total
28 expenditures per unweighted full-time equivalent student at
29 the school level and the average expenditures per full-time
30 equivalent student at the district and state levels in each of
31 the following categories and subcategories:

- 1 1. Teachers, excluding substitute teachers, and
2 education paraprofessionals who provide direct classroom
3 instruction to students enrolled in programs classified by s.
4 1011.62 as:
- 5 a. Basic programs;
 - 6 b. Students-at-risk programs;
 - 7 c. Special programs for exceptional students;
 - 8 d. Career education programs; and
 - 9 e. Adult programs.
- 10 2. Substitute teachers.
- 11 3. Other instructional personnel, including
12 school-based instructional specialists and their assistants.
- 13 4. Contracted instructional services, including
14 training for instructional staff and other contracted
15 instructional services.
- 16 5. School administration, including school-based
17 administrative personnel and school-based education support
18 personnel.
- 19 6. The following materials, supplies, and operating
20 capital outlay:
- 21 a. Textbooks;
 - 22 b. Computer hardware and software;
 - 23 c. Other instructional materials;
 - 24 d. Other materials and supplies; and
 - 25 e. Library media materials.
- 26 7. Food services.
- 27 8. Other support services.
- 28 9. Operation and maintenance of the school plant.
- 29 (c) The school financial report must also identify the
30 types of district-level expenditures that support the school's
31 operations. The total amount of these district-level

1 expenditures must be reported and expressed as total
2 expenditures per full-time equivalent student.
3 (6) Based on the classifications in this section, each
4 district school board shall annually submit a report by
5 January 1, which identifies and summarizes administrative
6 expenditures and instructional expenditures by fund for the
7 preceding fiscal year. The report shall also state the number
8 of unweighted full-time equivalent students enrolled in the
9 school district. The total amount of administrative
10 expenditures shall be divided by the number of unweighted
11 full-time equivalent students to determine the administrative
12 expenditures per student. This calculation is to be made
13 separately for the general and the special revenue funds. In
14 addition, the report shall reflect the number of employees in
15 each category outlined in subsection (2) and the percentage of
16 employees in each category, excluding the number of temporary
17 substitute employees. This report shall be submitted to the
18 commissioner and shall be made available to the public. The
19 school public accountability report shall contain notification
20 of the availability of this report.

21 Section 537. Section 1010.22, Florida Statutes, is
22 created to read:

23 1010.22 Cost accounting and reporting for workforce
24 education.--

25 (1) Each school district and each community college
26 shall account for expenditures of all state, local, federal,
27 and other funds in the manner prescribed by the State Board of
28 Education.

29 (2) Each school district and each community college
30 shall report expenditures for workforce education in
31

1 accordance with requirements prescribed by the State Board of
2 Education.

3 (3) The Department of Education, in cooperation with
4 school districts and community colleges, shall develop and
5 maintain a database of valid comparable information on
6 workforce education which will meet both state and local
7 needs.

8 Section 538. Section 1010.23, Florida Statutes, is
9 created to read:

10 1010.23 Cost accounting and reporting for community
11 colleges.--Community colleges shall provide an annual report
12 on the cost of operations as provided in s. 1011.84.

13 Section 539. Section 1010.24, Florida Statutes, is
14 created to read:

15 1010.24 Cost accounting and reporting for
16 universities.--Universities shall provide an annual
17 expenditure analysis report as provided in s. 1011.90.

18 Section 540. Part III of chapter 1010, Florida
19 Statutes, shall be entitled "Audit Requirements and
20 Procedures" and shall consist of ss. 1010.30-1010.34.

21 Section 541. Section 1010.30, Florida Statutes, is
22 created to read:

23 1010.30 Audits required.--School districts, community
24 colleges, universities, and other institutions and agencies
25 under the supervision of the State Board of Education are
26 subject to the audit provisions under chapter 11.

27 Section 542. Section 1010.305, Florida Statutes, is
28 created to read:

29 1010.305 Audit of student enrollment.--

30 (1) The Auditor General shall periodically examine the
31 records of school districts, and other agencies as

1 appropriate, to determine compliance with law and State Board
2 of Education rules relating to the classification, assignment,
3 and verification of full-time equivalent student enrollment
4 for purposes of the Florida Education Finance Program.

5 (2) If it is determined that the approved criteria and
6 procedures for the placement of students and the conduct of
7 programs have not been followed by the district, appropriate
8 adjustments in the full-time equivalent student count for that
9 district must be made, and any excess funds must be deducted
10 from subsequent allocations of state funds to that district.
11 As provided for by rule, if errors in a specific program of a
12 district recur in consecutive years due to lack of corrective
13 action by the district, adjustments may be made based upon
14 statistical estimates of error projected to the overall
15 district program.

16 Section 543. Section 1010.33, Florida Statutes, is
17 created to read:

18 1010.33 Financial and performance audits.--Each
19 district school board and community college board of trustees,
20 and university board of trustees is authorized to have an
21 audit of their accounts and records by an independent
22 certified public accountant retained by them and paid from
23 their public funds. These audits are in addition to those
24 required by ss. 11.45 and 218.39.

25 Section 544. Section 1010.34, Florida Statutes, is
26 created to read:

27 1010.34 Audits of direct-support organizations and
28 citizen support organizations.--Audits of school district,
29 community college, and state university direct-support
30 organizations and citizen support organizations are subject to
31

1 the audit provisions of ss. 215.981, 1013.77(4), 1004.23(5),
2 and 1004.70(6), as applicable.

3 Section 545. Part IV of chapter 1010, Florida
4 Statutes, shall be entitled "Provisions Relating to Bonding"
5 and shall consist of ss. 1010.40-1010.619.

6 Section 546. Section 1010.40, Florida Statutes, is
7 created to read:

8 1010.40 Proposals for issuing bonds.--Whenever the
9 residents of a school district in this state shall desire the
10 issuance of bonds by such school district for the purpose of
11 acquiring, building, enlarging, furnishing, or otherwise
12 improving buildings or school grounds, or for any other
13 exclusive use of the public schools within such school
14 district, they shall present to the district school board a
15 petition signed by not less than 25 percent of the duly
16 qualified electors residing within the school district,
17 setting forth in general terms the amount of the bonds desired
18 to be issued, the purpose thereof, and that the proceeds
19 derived from the sale of such bonds shall be used for the
20 purposes set forth in the petition. The requirement for such
21 petition may be dispensed with and the proposition of issuing
22 bonds for the purposes as herein outlined may be initiated by
23 the district school board of the said district; however,
24 nothing contained in this section shall repeal any of the
25 provisions of ss. 100.201-100.221, 100.241, 100.261-100.341,
26 and 100.351.

27 Section 547. Section 1010.41, Florida Statutes, is
28 created to read:

29 1010.41 Procedure of district school boards with
30 reference to proposals for issuing bonds.--It shall be the
31 duty of the district school board to plan the school financial

1 program of the district so that, insofar as practicable,
2 needed capital outlay expenditures can be made without the
3 necessity of issuing bonds. Whenever the district school board
4 proposes an issue of bonds or has received any petition
5 proposing the issuance of bonds, as provided in s. 1010.40,
6 the said board shall forthwith proceed as follows:

7 (1) The district school board, after considering
8 recommendations submitted by the district school
9 superintendent, shall determine whether in its opinion the
10 projects for which bonds are proposed to be issued are
11 essential for the school program of the district.

12 (2) If the proposed projects are deemed essential by
13 the district school board or if the proposed projects are
14 rejected in whole or in part, the district school board shall,
15 if practicable, prepare a plan for carrying out the projects,
16 or at least part of the projects, with current funds which
17 have been or can be set aside for that purpose.

18 (3) If the district school board determines that any
19 portion of the projects cannot be carried out so that all
20 costs can be met from the proceeds of a special district
21 millage voted for that purpose or from district current funds
22 that are not needed for salaries of teachers or other
23 necessary expenses of operating the schools or from such funds
24 that can reasonably be expected to be available by the time
25 the projects are completed, or cannot be completed on the
26 basis of a loan against district current funds, approved in
27 accordance with s. 1011.14, the district school board shall
28 then determine the amount of bonds necessary to be issued to
29 complete the projects as proposed for the district and shall
30 adopt and transmit to the Department of Education a resolution
31 setting forth the proposals with reference to the projects and

1 the proposed plan for financing the projects, said resolution
2 to be in such form and contain such information as may be
3 prescribed by the State Board of Education. If the Department
4 of Education shall determine that the issuance of bonds as
5 proposed is unnecessary or is unnecessary in the amount and
6 according to the plan proposed, and shall notify the district
7 school board accordingly, the district school board shall then
8 amend its resolution to conform to the recommendation of the
9 Department of Education, and no further action shall be taken
10 for a period of at least 1 year on the proposal for a bond
11 issue unless, within 30 days thereafter, a petition signed by
12 at least 35 percent of the qualified electors within the
13 district is received by the school board requesting that an
14 election be called to vote bonds for the purposes set forth
15 and in an amount which shall not exceed the amount of bonds
16 proposed by the district school board. If such a petition is
17 received by the district school board, as provided herein, or
18 if the resolution proposing a bond issue has been approved by
19 the Department of Education, the school board shall then
20 proceed at its next ensuing meeting to adopt a resolution
21 authorizing that an election be held for the purpose of
22 determining whether bonds shall be issued as proposed.

23 Section 548. Section 1010.42, Florida Statutes, is
24 created to read:

25 1010.42 Publication of resolution.--It shall be the
26 duty of the district school board, when the resolution
27 proposing a bond issue has been approved by the Department of
28 Education or when such a proposal has been rejected by the
29 Department of Education and a new petition signed by 35
30 percent of the qualified electors of the district has been
31 presented, and when the resolution authorizing an election has

1 been adopted as set forth above, to cause such resolution to
2 be published at least once each week for 2 consecutive weeks
3 in some newspaper published in the district. This resolution
4 may also include a notice of election as prescribed in s.
5 1010.43.

6 Section 549. Section 1010.43, Florida Statutes, is
7 created to read:

8 1010.43 Notice of election; qualifications of
9 electors.--The district school board shall also, at the
10 meeting at which is passed the resolution provided for in s.
11 1010.41, order that an election shall be held in the school
12 district to determine whether or not there shall be issued by
13 the district the bonds provided for in such resolution, in
14 which election only the duly qualified electors thereof shall
15 vote; and prior to the time of holding such election, the
16 district school board shall cause to be published at least
17 once each week for 2 consecutive weeks in a newspaper
18 published in the district a notice of the holding of such
19 election, which shall specify the time and place or places of
20 the holding thereof. The resolution prescribed in s. 1010.41
21 may be incorporated in and published as a part of the notice
22 prescribed in this section.

23 Section 550. Section 1010.44, Florida Statutes, is
24 created to read:

25 1010.44 Conduct of election; form of ballot;
26 appointment of inspectors; canvassing returns.--The election,
27 provided for in s. 1010.43, shall be held at the place or
28 several places in the district where the last general election
29 was held throughout the district, unless the district school
30 board orders otherwise; and the district school board shall
31 appoint inspectors for the election and cause to be prepared

1 and furnished to the inspectors the ballots to be used at the
2 election; the form of ballots for such election shall be: "For
3 bonds" or "Against bonds." The inspectors shall make returns
4 to the the district school board immediately after the
5 election, and the school board shall hold a special meeting as
6 soon thereafter as practicable for the purpose of canvassing
7 the election returns and shall determine and certify its
8 result.

9 Section 551. Section 1010.45, Florida Statutes, is
10 created to read:

11 1010.45 Result of election held.--If it appears by the
12 result of the election that a majority of the votes cast shall
13 be "For bonds," the district school board shall issue the
14 bonds authorized by the election for the purposes specified in
15 the resolution as published, not to exceed the amount named
16 therein. If the majority of the votes cast shall have been
17 "Against bonds," no bonds shall be issued.

18 Section 552. Section 1010.46, Florida Statutes, is
19 created to read:

20 1010.46 If election adverse, no second election within
21 6 months.--If the result of the election is adverse to the
22 issuance of the bonds, no election shall be held for such
23 purpose within 6 months thereafter. In the event such election
24 shall result or shall have resulted in an equal number of
25 votes being cast for the issuance of the bonds as shall be
26 cast adverse to issuance of bonds, the district school board
27 may call and order another or second election within the
28 district to have determined the question of whether the bonds
29 specified in the original petition and resolution shall be
30 issued by the district, after giving notice as provided for by
31 s. 1010.43, and it shall not be necessary to have presented to

1 the district school board further petitions to order the
2 second election.

3 Section 553. Section 1010.47, Florida Statutes, is
4 created to read:

5 1010.47 Receiving bids and sale of bonds.--

6 (1) If the issuance of bonds is authorized at the
7 election, or if any bonds outstanding against the district are
8 being refunded, the district school board shall cause notice
9 to be given by publication in some newspaper published in the
10 district that the board will receive bids for the purchase of
11 the bonds at the office of the district school superintendent.
12 The notice shall be published twice and the first publication
13 shall be given not less than 30 days prior to the date set for
14 receiving the bids. The notice shall specify the amount of the
15 bonds offered for sale, shall state whether the bids shall be
16 sealed bids or whether the bonds are to be sold at auction,
17 and shall give the schedule of maturities of the proposed
18 bonds and such other pertinent information as may be
19 prescribed by rules of the State Board of Education. Bidders
20 may be invited to name the rate of interest that the bonds are
21 to bear or the district school board may name rates of
22 interest and invite bids thereon. In addition to publication
23 of notice of the proposed sale as set forth in this
24 subsection, the district school board shall notify in writing
25 at least three recognized bond dealers in the state, and, at
26 the same time, notify the Department of Education concerning
27 the proposed sale and enclose a copy of the advertisement.

28 (2) All bonds and refunding bonds issued as provided
29 by law shall be sold to the highest and best bidder at such
30 public sale unless sold at a better price or yield basis
31 within 30 days after failure to receive an acceptable bid at a

1 duly advertised public sale, provided that at no time shall
2 bonds or refunding bonds be sold or exchanged at less than par
3 value except as specifically authorized by the Department of
4 Education; and provided, further, that the district school
5 board shall have the right to reject all bids and cause a new
6 notice to be given in like manner inviting other bids for such
7 bonds, or to sell all or any part of such bonds to the State
8 Board of Education at a price and yield basis that shall not
9 be less advantageous to the district school board than that
10 represented by the highest and best bid received. In the
11 marketing of the bonds the district school board shall be
12 entitled to have such assistance as can be rendered by the
13 Division of Bond Finance, the Commissioner of Education, or
14 any other public state officer or agency. In determining the
15 highest and best bidder for bonds offered for sale, the net
16 interest cost to the school board as shown in standard bond
17 tables shall govern, provided that the determination of the
18 district school board as to the highest and best bidder shall
19 be final.

20 Section 554. Section 1010.48, Florida Statutes, is
21 created to read:

22 1010.48 Bidders to give security.--The district school
23 board may require of all bidders for the bonds that they give
24 security by bond or by a deposit to the district school board
25 that the bidder shall comply with the terms of the bid, and
26 any bidder whose bid is accepted shall be liable to the
27 district school board for all damages on account of the
28 nonperformance of the terms of such bid or to a forfeiture of
29 the deposit required by the district school board.

30 Section 555. Section 1010.49, Florida Statutes, is
31 created to read:

1 1010.49 Form and denomination of bonds.--The district
2 school board may prescribe the denomination of the bonds to be
3 issued, and such bonds may be issued with or without interest
4 coupons in the discretion of the board. The form of the bonds
5 to be issued may be prescribed by the State Board of Education
6 on the recommendation of the Department of Legal Affairs. The
7 schedule of maturities of the proposed bonds shall be so
8 arranged that the total payments required each year shall be
9 as nearly equal as practicable. The schedule shall provide
10 that all bonds are to be retired within a period of 20 years
11 from the date of issuance unless a longer period is required
12 and has been specifically approved by the Department of
13 Education. All bonds issued under this section that bear
14 interest in excess of 2.99 percent shall be callable on terms
15 prescribed by the district school board beginning not later
16 than 10 years from the date of issuance.

17 Section 556. Section 1010.50, Florida Statutes, is
18 created to read:

19 1010.50 Investment of fiduciary funds in bonds;
20 security for deposit of public funds.--School district bonds
21 authorized and issued under the provisions of this chapter
22 shall be lawful investments for fiduciary and trust funds,
23 including all funds in the control of trustees, assignees,
24 administrators, and executors, and may be accepted as security
25 for all deposits of public funds.

26 Section 557. Section 1010.51, Florida Statutes, is
27 created to read:

28 1010.51 Records to be kept and reports to be
29 made.--The district school board shall maintain a complete
30 record of all bonds issued under the provisions of this
31 chapter, which record shall show upon what authority the bonds

1 are issued, the amount for which issued, the persons to whom
2 issued, the date of issuance, the purpose or purposes for
3 which issued, the rate of interest to be paid, and the time
4 and place of payment of each installment of principal and
5 interest. This record shall be so arranged as to show the
6 amount of principal and interest to be paid each year and
7 shall also show the annual or semiannual payments which are
8 made and the bonds which are canceled. In addition the
9 district school superintendent shall file with the Department
10 of Education in accordance with rules of the State Board of
11 Education reports giving such information as may be required
12 regarding any bonds which may be issued as provided herein.

13 Section 558. Section 1010.52, Florida Statutes, is
14 created to read:

15 1010.52 Bonds may be validated; validity of
16 bonds.--When an issue of bonds for any school district shall
17 be authorized in the manner provided under the terms of this
18 chapter, such bonds shall, in the discretion of the district
19 school board, be subject to validation in the manner provided
20 for in chapter 75. In lieu of validation as set forth in that
21 chapter, the district school board may, in its discretion,
22 submit to the Department of Legal Affairs all information
23 relating to the issuance of bonds as provided in said chapter
24 75, and an approving opinion of the Department of Legal
25 Affairs shall be sufficient evidence that the bonds are valid.
26 Bonds reciting that they are issued pursuant to the terms of
27 this chapter shall, in any action or proceeding involving
28 their validity, be conclusively deemed to be fully authorized
29 thereby, to have been issued, sold, executed, and delivered in
30 conformity therewith, and with all other provisions of law
31 applicable thereto, and shall be incontestable, anything

1 herein or in other statutes to the contrary notwithstanding,
2 unless such action or proceeding is begun before or within 30
3 days after the date upon which the bonds are sold, paid for
4 and delivered.

5 Section 559. Section 1010.53, Florida Statutes, is
6 created to read:

7 1010.53 Proceeds; how expended.--The proceeds derived
8 from the sale of the bonds shall be held by the district
9 school board and shall be expended by the board for the
10 purpose for which the bonds were authorized for the school
11 district, and shall be held and expended in the manner
12 following:

13 (1) The district school board shall deposit, or cause
14 to be deposited, the proceeds arising from the sale of each
15 issue of bonds in a separate bond construction fund account in
16 the school depository.

17 (2) All or any part of the fund derived from the
18 proceeds of any such bond issue that in the judgment of the
19 district school board is not immediately needed may be placed
20 in the following securities maturing not later than the time
21 when the funds are reasonably expected to be needed:

22 (a) In investments listed in s. 218.415(16).

23 (b) In any bonds issued by the district; provided,
24 such bonds are not in default and can be obtained at a price
25 which will result in a net saving to the taxpayers of the
26 district.

27 (c) In any obligations of the district school board
28 approved in accordance with the provisions of ss. 1011.13,
29 1011.14, and 1011.15.

30 (d) In any bonds issued by the State Board of
31 Education or another school district.

1 Section 560. Section 1010.54, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1010.54 Disposition of surplus of bond issue.--Should
4 there remain any of the proceeds of the sale of school
5 district bonds after the purpose and object for which the
6 bonds were issued shall have been carried out and performed by
7 the district school board, the surplus then shall be held by
8 the district school board and expended for the exclusive use
9 of the public schools within the school district as the
10 district school board may deem reasonable and proper.

11 Section 561. Section 1010.55, Florida Statutes, is
12 created to read:

13 1010.55 Additional bond issues.--After the issuance by
14 any school district of bonds in the manner authorized in this
15 chapter, the qualified electors of the school district may
16 thereafter, from time to time, in the manner herein provided
17 for, authorize one or more additional bond issues as they may
18 determine upon.

19 Section 562. Section 1010.56, Florida Statutes, is
20 created to read:

21 1010.56 Board of Administration to act as fiscal agent
22 in issuance and sale of motor vehicle anticipation
23 certificates.--

24 (1) In aid of the provisions of s. 18, Art. XII of the
25 State Constitution of 1885 as adopted by s. 9(d), Art. XII,
26 1968 revised constitution and the additional provisions of s.
27 9(d), the State Board of Administration may upon request of
28 the State Board of Education, act as fiscal agent for the
29 State Board of Education in the issuance and sale of any or
30 all bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates,
31 including any refunding of bonds, certificates or interest

1 coupons thereon which may be issued pursuant to the above
2 cited provisions of the State Constitution and upon request of
3 the State Board of Education the State Board of Administration
4 may take over the management, control, bond trusteeship,
5 administration, custody and payment of any or all debt service
6 or other funds or assets now or hereafter available for any
7 bonds or certificates issued for the purpose of obtaining
8 funds for the use of any district school board or to pay, fund
9 or refund any bonds or certificates theretofore issued for
10 such purpose. The State Board of Education may from time to
11 time provide by its duly adopted resolution or resolutions the
12 duties said fiscal agent shall perform as authorized by this
13 section and such duties may be changed, modified or repealed
14 by subsequent resolution or resolutions as the State Board of
15 Education may deem appropriate, provided, however, that such
16 changes shall only affect the duties of the State Board of
17 Administration as fiscal agent and shall not affect or modify
18 the paramount constitutional authority of the State Board of
19 Education nor affect, modify, or impair the contract rights of
20 persons holding or owning the obligations so authorized to be
21 issued.

22 (2) No such bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation
23 certificates shall ever be issued by the State Board of
24 Administration until after the adoption of a resolution
25 requesting the issuance thereof by the State Board of
26 Education for and on behalf of the district for which the
27 obligations are to be issued.

28 (3) All such bonds or certificates issued pursuant to
29 this part shall be issued in the name of the State Board of
30 Education but shall be issued for and on behalf of the
31 district school board requesting the issuance thereof and

1 shall be issued pursuant to any rules adopted by the State
2 Board of Education which are not in conflict with the
3 provisions of s. 18, Art. XII of the State Constitution of
4 1885 as adopted by s. 9(d), Art. XII, 1968 revised
5 constitution, and the additional provisions of s. 9(d).

6 (4) The proceeds of any sale of original bonds or
7 original certificates shall be deposited in the State Treasury
8 to the credit of the particular construction account for which
9 the original bonds or original certificates were issued and
10 shall be under the direct control and supervision of the State
11 Board of Education, and withdrawals from such construction
12 accounts shall be made only upon warrants signed by the
13 Comptroller and drawn upon the Treasurer. Such warrants shall
14 be issued by the Comptroller only when the vouchers requesting
15 such warrants are accompanied by the certificates of the State
16 Board of Education to the effect that such withdrawals are
17 proper expenditures for the cost of the particular
18 construction account against which the requested warrants are
19 to be drawn.

20 (5) The State Board of Administration shall annually
21 determine the amounts necessary to meet the debt service
22 requirements of all bonds or certificates administered by it
23 pursuant to this section and shall certify to the State Board
24 of Education said amounts needed. The State Board of
25 Education, upon being satisfied that the amounts are correct,
26 shall pay the amounts direct to the State Board of
27 Administration for application by the State Board of
28 Administration as provided under the terms of the resolutions
29 authorizing the issuance of the bonds or certificates and as
30 provided in s. 18, Art. XII of the State Constitution of 1885
31

1 as adopted by s. 9(d), Art. XII, 1968 revised constitution,
2 and the additional provisions of s. 9(d).
3 (6) The expenses of the State Board of Administration
4 incident to the issuance and sale of any bonds or certificates
5 issued under the provisions of the constitution and under the
6 provisions of this section shall be paid from the proceeds of
7 the sale of the bonds or certificates or from the funds
8 distributable to each county under the provisions of s. 18(a),
9 Art. XII of the Constitution of 1885 as adopted by s. 9(d),
10 Art. XII, 1968 revised constitution. All other expenses of the
11 State Board of Administration for services rendered
12 specifically for, or which are properly chargeable to the
13 account of any bonds or certificates issued for and on behalf
14 of any district school board under the above cited provisions
15 of the State Constitution shall be paid from the funds
16 distributable to each county under the provisions of s. 18(a),
17 Art. XII of the State Constitution of 1885 as adopted by s.
18 9(d), Art. XII, 1968 revised constitution; but general
19 expenses of the State Board of Administration for services
20 rendered all the districts alike shall be prorated among them
21 and paid from the funds distributable to each district on the
22 same basis as such funds are distributable under the
23 provisions of s. 18(a), Art. XII of the State Constitution of
24 1885 as adopted by s. 9(d), Art. XII, 1968 revised
25 constitution.
26 (7) The provisions of this section contemplate that it
27 will aid the State Board of Education and better serve the
28 purposes contemplated by s. 18, Art. XII of the State
29 Constitution of 1885 as adopted by s. 9(d), Art. XII, 1968
30 revised constitution, and the additional provisions of s. 9(d)
31 and not be inconsistent therewith.

1 Section 563. Section 1010.57, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1010.57 Bonds payable from motor vehicle license tax
4 funds; instruction units computed.--

5 (1) For the purpose of administering the provisions of
6 s. 9(d), Art. XII of the State Constitution as amended in
7 1972, the number of current instruction units in districts
8 shall be computed annually by the Department of Education by
9 multiplying the number of full-time equivalent students in
10 programs under s. 1011.62(1)(c) in each district by the cost
11 factors established in the General Appropriations Act and
12 dividing by 23, except that all basic program cost factors
13 shall be one, and the special program cost factors for
14 hospital and homebound I and for community service shall be
15 zero. Full-time equivalent membership for students residing in
16 Department of Children and Family Services residential care
17 facilities or identified as Department of Juvenile Justice
18 students shall not be included in this computation. Any
19 portion of the fund not expended during any fiscal year may be
20 carried forward in ensuing budgets and shall be temporarily
21 invested as prescribed by law or rules of the State Board of
22 Education.

23 (2) Whenever the State Board of Education issues bonds
24 or certificates for and on behalf of any district school
25 board, or whenever any district school board issues bonds or
26 certificates repayable from motor vehicle license tax funds,
27 the aggregate number of instruction units in the district in
28 any future school fiscal year, as authorized under the
29 amendment contained in s. 18, Art. XII of the State
30 Constitution of 1885 as amended and adopted by reference in s.
31 9(d), Art. XII of the Constitution of 1968, to the full extent

1 necessary to pay all principal of and interest on, and
2 reserves for, bonds or certificates issued for and on behalf
3 of the district or by the district school board in any school
4 fiscal year, as they become due and payable, shall be not less
5 than the aggregate number of instruction units in the district
6 for the school fiscal year preceding the school fiscal year in
7 which the bonds or certificates are issued, computed in
8 accordance with the statutes in force in the school fiscal
9 year preceding the school fiscal year in which the bonds or
10 certificates are issued.

11 (3) The provisions of this section are not intended
12 to, and shall not, be applicable to, or confer any rights on,
13 any district to payments from said motor vehicle license taxes
14 except to the full extent necessary to pay all principal of
15 and interest on, and reserves for, bonds or certificates so
16 issued by the district school board and by the State Board of
17 Education for and on behalf of the school districts, in each
18 future school fiscal year as they mature and become due; and
19 except for such purpose, all payments of the amounts of the
20 motor vehicle license taxes distributable under the provisions
21 of s. 18, Art. XII of the State Constitution of 1885 as
22 amended and adopted by reference in s. 9(d), Art. XII of the
23 Constitution of 1968 shall continue to be made and distributed
24 to the districts in the manner provided by the amendment and
25 the general laws of Florida in force and effect at the time of
26 the distributions.

27 Section 564. Section 1010.58, Florida Statutes, is
28 created to read:

29 1010.58 Procedure for determining number of
30 instruction units for community colleges.--The number of
31 instruction units for community colleges shall be determined

1 from the full-time equivalent students in the community
2 college, provided that full-time equivalent students may not
3 be counted more than once in determining instruction units.
4 Instruction units for community colleges shall be computed as
5 follows:

6 (1) One unit for each 12 full-time equivalent students
7 at a community college for the first 420 students and one unit
8 for each 15 full-time equivalent students for all over 420
9 students, in other than career and technical education
10 programs as defined by rules of the State Board of Education,
11 and one unit for each 10 full-time equivalent students in
12 career and technical education programs and compensatory
13 education programs as defined by rules of the State Board of
14 Education. Full-time equivalent students enrolled in a
15 community college shall be defined by rules of the State Board
16 of Education.

17 (2) For each 8 instruction units in a community
18 college, 1 instruction unit or proportionate fraction of a
19 unit shall be allowed for administrative and special
20 instructional services, and for each 20 instruction units, 1
21 instruction unit or proportionate fraction of a unit shall be
22 allowed for student personnel services.

23 Section 565. Section 1010.59, Florida Statutes, is
24 created to read:

25 1010.59 Interest rates.--All bonds issued by the State
26 Board of Education pursuant to the provisions of s. 9(a), Art.
27 XII of the State Constitution, as amended, may bear interest
28 at such rate or rates as may be determined by the State Board
29 of Education. However, the maximum rate of interest shall not
30 exceed the rates authorized under the provisions of s. 215.84.

31

1 Section 566. Section 1010.60, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1010.60 State Board of Education; issuance of bonds
4 pursuant to s. 11(f), Art. VII, State Constitution.--

5 (1) Pursuant to s. 11(f), Art. VII of the State
6 Constitution, the State Board of Education, supported by the
7 building fee, the capital improvement fee, or any other
8 revenue approved by the Legislature for facilities
9 construction, is authorized to request the issuance of bonds
10 or other forms of indebtedness pursuant to the State Bond Act
11 to finance or refinance capital projects authorized by the
12 Legislature. In order to take advantage of economic
13 conditions, the Division of Bond Finance shall process
14 requests by the State Board of Education to refinance capital
15 projects under this section on a priority basis.

16 (2) The State Board of Education may approve the
17 issuance of revenue bonds or other forms of indebtedness by a
18 direct-support organization when such revenue bonds or other
19 forms of indebtedness are used to finance or refinance capital
20 projects which are to provide facilities necessary and
21 desirable to serve the needs and purposes of the university,
22 as determined by the systemwide strategic plan adopted by the
23 State Board of Education, and when the project has been
24 approved by the Legislature.

25 Section 567. Section 1010.61, Florida Statutes, is
26 created to read:

27 1010.61 Powers.--The State Board of Education shall
28 have all the powers necessary or advisable to carry out and
29 effectuate the purposes and provisions of s. 1010.60 and this
30 part and is hereby authorized:

31

1 (1) Pursuant to the State Bond Act, to borrow money
2 and issue interest-bearing revenue certificates or other forms
3 of indebtedness to acquire any projects approved by the
4 Legislature and to provide for the payment of the same and for
5 the rights of the holders thereof as herein provided.

6 (2) To pledge any trust funds which are available, and
7 not otherwise obligated, for purposes of securing the revenue
8 certificates and to combine such funds as the board may deem
9 appropriate.

10 (3) To adopt such rules as may be necessary for
11 carrying out the requirements of this part and to perform all
12 acts and do all things necessary or convenient to carry out
13 the powers granted herein.

14 Section 568. Section 1010.611, Florida Statutes, is
15 created to read:

16 1010.611 Resolution for issuance of revenue
17 certificates.--The issuance of revenue certificates under the
18 provisions of this part and the State Bond Act shall be
19 requested by resolution of the State Board of Education. Said
20 revenue certificates shall bear interest at such rate or rates
21 not exceeding the interest rate limitations set forth in s.
22 215.84(3), provided that certificates may be sold at a
23 reasonable discount to par not to exceed 3 percent, except
24 that this limitation on discount does not apply to the portion
25 of the discount that constitutes original issue discount. The
26 revenue certificates may be issued in one or more series, may
27 bear such date or dates, may be in such denomination or
28 denominations, may mature at such time or times, not exceeding
29 30 years from their respective dates, may be in such form,
30 either coupon or registered, may carry such registration
31 privileges, may be executed in such manner, may be payable in

1 such medium of payment and at such place or places, may be
2 subject to such terms of redemption, with or without premium,
3 may contain such terms, covenants, and conditions, and may be
4 declared or become due before the maturity date thereof as
5 such resolution or other resolutions may provide. The revenue
6 certificate may be sold at public sale by competitive bid or
7 negotiated sale. Pending the preparation of the definitive
8 certificates, interim receipts or certificates in such form
9 and with such provisions as the board may determine may be
10 issued to the purchaser or purchasers of certificates sold
11 pursuant to this part. The certificates and interim receipts
12 shall be fully negotiable within the meaning and for all the
13 purposes of the negotiable instruments law.

14 Section 569. Section 1010.612, Florida Statutes, is
15 created to read:

16 1010.612 Powers to secure revenue certificates.--The
17 State Board of Education, in connection with the issuance of
18 revenue certificates to acquire any projects for an
19 institution or in order to secure the payment of such revenue
20 certificates and interest thereon, shall have power by
21 resolution:

22 (1) To fix and maintain fees, rentals, and other
23 charges from students and others using or being served by, or
24 having the right to use, or having the right to be served by,
25 such projects.

26 (2) To provide that such revenue certificates shall be
27 secured by a first, exclusive, and closed lien on the income
28 and revenue (but not the real property of such institution)
29 derived from, and shall be payable from, fees, rentals, and
30 other charges from students and others using or being served
31

1 by, or having the right to use, or having the right to be
2 served by, such project.

3 (3) To pledge and assign to, or in trust for the
4 benefit of, the holder or holders of such revenue certificates
5 an amount of the income and revenue derived from fees,
6 rentals, and other charges from students and others using or
7 being served by, or having the right to use, or having the
8 right to be served by, such project.

9 (4) To covenant with or for the benefit of the holder
10 or holders of such revenue certificates that so long as any of
11 such revenue certificates shall remain outstanding and unpaid,
12 such institution will fix, maintain, and collect in such
13 installments as may be agreed upon an amount of the fees,
14 rentals, and other charges from students and others using or
15 being served by, or having the right to use, or having the
16 right to be served by, such project, which shall be sufficient
17 to pay when due such revenue certificates and interest
18 thereon, and to create and maintain reasonable reserves
19 therefor, and to pay the cost of operation and maintenance of
20 such project, which costs of operation and maintenance shall
21 be determined by the board in its absolute discretion.

22 (5) To make and enforce and agree to make and enforce
23 parietal rules that shall ensure the use of such project by
24 all students in attendance at such institutions to the maximum
25 extent to which such project is capable of serving such
26 students.

27 (6) To covenant that so long as any of such revenue
28 certificates shall remain outstanding and unpaid, it will not,
29 except upon such terms and conditions as may be determined:

30 (a) Voluntarily create or cause to be created any
31 debt, lien, pledge, assignment, encumbrance or other charge

1 having priority to the lien of such revenue certificates upon
2 any of the income and revenues derived from fees, rentals, and
3 other charges from students and others using or being served
4 by, or having the right to use, or having the right to be
5 served by, such project, or

6 (b) Convey or otherwise alienate such project or the
7 real estate upon which such project shall be located, except
8 at a price sufficient to pay all such revenue certificates
9 then outstanding and interest accrued thereon, and then only
10 in accordance with any agreements with the holder or holders
11 of such revenue certificates.

12 (7) To covenant as to the procedure by which the terms
13 of any contract with a holder or holders of such revenue
14 certificates may be amended or abrogated, the amount of
15 percentage of revenue certificates the holder or holders of
16 which must consent thereto, and the manner in which such
17 consent may be given.

18 (8) To vest in a trustee or trustees the right to
19 receive all or any part of the income and revenue pledged and
20 assigned to, or for the benefit of, the holder or holders of
21 such revenue certificates and to hold, apply and dispose of
22 the same and the right to enforce any covenant made to secure
23 or pay or in relation to such revenue certificates; to execute
24 and deliver a trust agreement or trust agreements which may
25 set forth the powers and duties and the remedies available to
26 such trustee or trustees and limiting the liabilities thereof
27 and describing what occurrences shall constitute events of
28 default and prescribing the terms and conditions upon which
29 such trustee or trustees or the holder or holders of revenue
30 certificates of any specified amount or percentage of such
31 revenue certificate may exercise such rights and enforce any

1 and all such covenants and resort to such remedies as may be
2 appropriate.

3 (9) To vest in a trustee or trustees or the holder or
4 holders of any specified amount or percentage of revenue
5 certificates the right to apply to any court of competent
6 jurisdiction for and have granted the appointment of a
7 receiver or receivers of the income and revenue pledged and
8 assigned to or for the benefit of the holder or holders of
9 such revenue certificates, which receiver or receivers may
10 have and be granted such powers and duties as such court may
11 order or decree for the protection of the revenue certificate
12 holders.

13 (10) To make covenants with the holders of any bonds
14 and to perform any other duties and responsibilities which are
15 deemed necessary or advisable to enhance the security of such
16 bonds, and the marketability thereof, and which are customary
17 in accordance with the market requirements for the sale of
18 such bonds.

19 Section 570. Section 1010.613, Florida Statutes, is
20 created to read:

21 1010.613 Remedies of any holder of revenue
22 certificates.--Any holder or holders of revenue certificates,
23 including a trustee, or trustees for holders of such revenue
24 certificates, shall have the right, in addition to all other
25 rights, by mandamus or other suit, action, or proceeding in
26 any court of competent jurisdiction to enforce his or her or
27 their rights against the State Board of Education to fix and
28 collect such rentals and other charges adequate to carry out
29 any agreement as to or pledge of such fees, rentals, or other
30 charges, and require the State Board of Education to carry out
31

1 any other covenants and agreements and to perform its duties
2 under this part.

3 Section 571. Section 1010.614, Florida Statutes, is
4 created to read:

5 1010.614 Validity of revenue certificates.--The
6 revenue certificates bearing the signatures of officers in
7 office on the date of the signing thereof shall be valid and
8 binding obligations, notwithstanding that before the delivery
9 thereof and payment therefor any or all of the persons whose
10 signatures appear thereon shall have ceased to be officers of
11 the State Board of Education. The validity of the revenue
12 certificates shall not be dependent on nor affected by the
13 validity or regularity of any proceedings to acquire the
14 project financed by the revenue certificates or taken in
15 connection therewith.

16 Section 572. Section 1010.615, Florida Statutes, is
17 created to read:

18 1010.615 Prohibitions against obligating
19 state.--Nothing in this part shall be construed to authorize
20 the State Board of Education to contract a debt on behalf of,
21 or in any way to obligate, the state, or to pledge, assign, or
22 encumber in any way, or to permit the pledging, assigning, or
23 encumbering in any way of, appropriations made by the
24 Legislature.

25 Section 573. Section 1010.616, Florida Statutes, is
26 created to read:

27 1010.616 Revenue certificate obligations of State
28 Board of Education.--All revenue certificates issued pursuant
29 to this part shall be obligations of the State Board of
30 Education, payable only in accordance with the terms thereof
31 and shall not be obligations general, special, or otherwise of

1 the state. Such revenue certificates shall not be a bond or
2 debt of the state, and shall not be enforceable against the
3 state, nor shall payment thereof be enforceable out of any
4 funds of the board other than the income and revenue pledged
5 and assigned to, or in trust for the benefit of, the holder or
6 holders of such revenue certificates.

7 Section 574. Section 1010.617, Florida Statutes, is
8 created to read:

9 1010.617 Tax exemption and eligibility as legal
10 investments.--

11 (1) The exercise of the powers granted by this part in
12 all respects constitutes the performance of essential public
13 functions for the benefit of the people of the state. All
14 properties, revenues, or other assets of the State Board of
15 Education for which revenue certificates are issued under this
16 part, and all revenue certificates issued hereunder and the
17 interest thereon, shall be exempt from all taxation by any
18 agency or instrumentality of a county, municipality, or the
19 state. The exemption granted by this section is not applicable
20 to any tax imposed by chapter 220 on interest, income, or
21 profits on debt obligations owned by corporations.

22 (2) All obligations issued pursuant to this part shall
23 be and constitute legal investments without limitation for all
24 public bodies and for all banks, savings banks, guardians,
25 insurance funds, trustees, or other fiduciaries and shall be
26 and constitute eligible securities to be deposited as
27 collateral for security of any state, county, municipal, or
28 other public funds.

29 Section 575. Section 1010.618, Florida Statutes, is
30 created to read:

31

1 1010.618 Supplemental nature of part; construction and
2 purpose.--The powers conferred by this part shall be in
3 addition to and supplemental to, and the limitations imposed
4 by this part shall not affect, the powers conferred by any
5 other law, general or special, and revenue certificates may be
6 issued hereunder without any referendum, notwithstanding the
7 provisions of any other such law and without regard to the
8 procedure required by any other such law. Insofar as the
9 provisions of this part are inconsistent with the provisions
10 of any other law, general or special, the provisions of this
11 part shall be controlling.

12 Section 576. Section 1010.619, Florida Statutes, is
13 created to read:

14 1010.619 Board of Administration to act as fiscal
15 agent.--Prior to the issuance of any revenue certificates, the
16 State Board of Education may request the State Board of
17 Administration to advise the State Board of Education as to
18 the fiscal sufficiency of the proposed issue. Upon sale and
19 delivery of any revenue certificates and disbursement of the
20 proceeds thereof pursuant to this part, the State Board of
21 Administration may upon request of the State Board of
22 Education take over the management, control, administration,
23 custody, and payment of any or all debt services or funds or
24 assets now or hereafter available for any revenue certificates
25 issued pursuant to this part. The State Board of
26 Administration shall upon request of the State Board of
27 Education invest all funds, including reserve funds, available
28 for any revenue certificates issued pursuant to this part in
29 the manner provided in s. 215.47. The State Board of Education
30 may from time to time provide by its duly adopted resolution
31 the duties the State Board of Administration shall perform,

1 and such duties may be changed, modified, or repealed by
2 subsequent resolution as the State Board of Education may deem
3 appropriate.

4 Section 577. Part V of chapter 1010, Florida Statutes,
5 shall be entitled "Trust Funds" and shall consist of ss.
6 1010.70-1010.86.

7 Section 578. Section 1010.70, Florida Statutes, is
8 created to read:

9 1010.70 Educational Enhancement Trust Fund.--Each
10 fiscal year, at least 38 percent of the gross revenue from the
11 sale of lottery tickets and other earned revenue, excluding
12 application processing fees, shall be deposited in the
13 Educational Enhancement Trust Fund as provided in s. 24.121.

14 Section 579. Section 1010.71, Florida Statutes, is
15 created to read:

16 1010.71 State School Trust Fund.--

17 (1) The State School Trust Fund shall be derived from
18 the following sources:

19 (a) The proceeds of all lands that have been or may
20 hereafter be granted to the state by the United States for
21 public school purposes;

22 (b) Donations to the state when the purpose is not
23 specified;

24 (c) Appropriations by the state;

25 (d) The proceeds of escheated property or forfeitures;
26 and

27 (e) Twenty-five percent of the sales of public lands
28 which are now or may hereafter be owned by the state.

29 (2) The land comprising part of the State School Trust
30 Fund shall not be subject to taxes of any kind whatsoever, but
31 shall enjoy constitutional immunity therefrom, nor shall taxes

1 of any kind be imposed thereon; nor, since not subject to tax,
2 shall the state or any state agency be liable for taxes or the
3 equivalent thereof sought to be imposed upon said land. All
4 outstanding tax sale certificates against land of the State
5 School Trust Fund are hereby canceled.

6 Section 580. Section 1010.72, Florida Statutes, is
7 created to read:

8 1010.72 Excellent Teaching Program Trust Fund.--

9 (1) The Excellent Teaching Program Trust Fund is
10 created to be administered by the Department of Education.
11 Funds must be credited to the trust fund as provided in
12 chapter 98-309, Laws of Florida, to be used for the purposes
13 set forth therein.

14 (2) Pursuant to the provisions of s. 19(f)(2), Art.
15 III of the State Constitution, the Excellent Teaching Program
16 Trust Fund shall, unless terminated sooner, be terminated on
17 July 1, 2002. Prior to its scheduled termination, the trust
18 fund shall be reviewed as provided in s. 215.3206(1) and (2).

19 Section 581. Section 1010.73, Florida Statutes, is
20 created to read:

21 1010.73 State Student Financial Assistance Trust
22 Fund.--

23 (1) The State Student Financial Assistance Trust Fund
24 is hereby created, to be administered by the Department of
25 Education. Funds shall be credited to the trust fund as
26 provided in the General Appropriations Act or similar
27 legislation, to be used for the purposes set forth therein.

28 (2) The department may transfer into this trust fund
29 general revenue, private donations for the purpose of matching
30 state funds, and federal receipts for scholarships and grant
31 programs. An individual account code shall be established for

1 each funded scholarship and grant program for auditing
2 purposes.

3 (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 216.301, and
4 pursuant to s. 216.351, any balance in the trust fund at the
5 end of any fiscal year shall remain in the trust fund and
6 shall be available for carrying out the purposes of the trust
7 fund.

8 Section 582. Section 1010.731, Florida Statutes, is
9 created to read:

10 1010.731 Student Loan Guaranty Reserve Trust
11 Fund.--Chapter 99-35, Laws of Florida, re-created the Student
12 Loan Guaranty Reserve Trust Fund to be used by the Department
13 of Education for the administration of the guaranteed student
14 loan program as provided in s. 1009.92.

15 Section 583. Section 1010.74, Florida Statutes, is
16 created to read:

17 1010.74 Educational Certification and Services Trust
18 Fund.--The proceeds from the collection of certification fees,
19 finances, penalties, and costs levied pursuant to s. 1012.59
20 shall be remitted by the Department of Education to the
21 Treasurer for deposit into and disbursed from the "Educational
22 Certification and Services Trust Fund" as re-created by
23 chapter 99-31, Laws of Florida.

24 Section 584. Section 1010.75, Florida Statutes, is
25 created to read:

26 1010.75 Teacher Certification Examination Trust
27 Fund.--The proceeds for the certification examination fee
28 levied pursuant to s. 1012.59 shall be remitted by the
29 Department of Education to the Treasurer for deposit into and
30 disbursed for the "Teacher Certification Examination Trust
31 Fund" as re-created by chapter 99-28, Laws of Florida.

1 Section 585. Section 1010.76, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1010.76 Educational Aids Trust Fund.--Chapter 99-27,
4 Laws of Florida, re-created the Educational Aids Trust Fund to
5 administer receipts and disbursements for federal grants
6 received by the Department of Education.

7 Section 586. Section 1010.77, Florida Statutes, is
8 created to read:

9 1010.77 Food and Nutrition Services Trust
10 Fund.--Chapter 99-34, Laws of Florida, re-created the Food and
11 Nutrition Services Trust Fund to record revenue and
12 disbursements of Federal Food and Nutrition funds received by
13 the Department of Education as authorized in s. 1006.06.

14 Section 587. Section 1010.78, Florida Statutes, is
15 created to read:

16 1010.78 Projects, Contracts, and Grants Trust
17 Fund.--There is created in the Department of Education the
18 Projects, Contracts, and Grants Trust Fund. The personnel
19 employed to plan and administer grants or contracts for
20 specific projects shall be considered in time-limited
21 employment not to exceed the duration of the grant or until
22 completion of the project, whichever first occurs. Such
23 employees shall not acquire retention rights under the Career
24 Service System. Any employee holding permanent career service
25 status in a Department of Education position who is appointed
26 to a position under the Projects, Contracts, and Grants Trust
27 Fund shall retain such permanent status in the career service
28 position.

29 Section 588. Section 1010.79, Florida Statutes, is
30 created to read:

31

1 1010.79 Sophomore Level Test Trust Fund.--Chapter
2 99-26, Laws of Florida, re-created the Sophomore Level Test
3 Trust Fund to record revenue and disbursements of examination
4 fees received by the Department of Education as authorized in
5 s. 1008.29.

6 Section 589. Section 1010.80, Florida Statutes, is
7 created to read:

8 1010.80 Educational Media and Technology Trust
9 Fund.--Chapter 99-25, Laws of Florida, re-created the
10 Educational Media and Technology Trust Fund to record revenue
11 and disbursements by the Department of Education for the cost
12 of producing and disseminating educational materials and
13 products as authorized in s. 1006.39.

14 Section 590. Section 1010.81, Florida Statutes, is
15 created to read:

16 1010.81 Knott Data Center Working Capital Trust
17 Fund.--Chapter 99-29, Laws of Florida, re-created the Knott
18 Data Center Working Capital Trust Fund to record the revenue
19 from fees paid for services provided by the Department of
20 Education's data center and disbursements to pay the costs of
21 operating the data center as authorized in s. 216.272.

22 Section 591. Section 1010.82, Florida Statutes, is
23 created to read:

24 1010.82 Textbook Bid Trust Fund.--Chapter 99-36, Laws
25 of Florida, re-created the Textbook Bid Trust Fund to record
26 the revenue and disbursements of textbook bid performance
27 deposits submitted to the Department of Education as required
28 in s. 1006.32.

29 Section 592. Section 1010.83, Florida Statutes, is
30 created to read:

31 1010.83 Institutional Assessment Trust Fund.--

1 (1) Chapter 99-32, Laws of Florida, re-created the
2 Institutional Assessment Trust Fund to be administered by the
3 Department of Education pursuant to this section and rules of
4 the State Board of Education. The trust fund shall consist of
5 all fees and fines imposed upon nonpublic colleges and schools
6 pursuant to this chapter, including all fees collected from
7 nonpublic colleges for participation in the common course
8 designation and numbering system. The department shall
9 maintain separate revenue accounts for independent colleges
10 and universities; nonpublic career education; and the
11 Department of Education.

12 (2) Funds from the trust fund shall be used for
13 purposes including, but not limited to, the following:

14 (a) Authorized expenses of the respective boards in
15 carrying out their required duties.

16 (b) Financial assistance programs for students who
17 attend nonpublic institutions licensed by the board.

18 (c) Educational programs for the benefit of current
19 and prospective owners, administrators, agents, authorized
20 groups of individuals, and faculty of institutions receiving a
21 license, a certificate of exemption, or an authorization by
22 the board.

23 (d) Authorized expenses of the Department of Education
24 incurred as a result of the inclusion of nonpublic colleges in
25 the statewide course numbering system.

26 (3) The board may utilize other individuals or
27 entities to administer the programs authorized in subsection
28 (2).

29 Section 593. Section 1010.84, Florida Statutes, is
30 created to read:

31

1 1010.84 Displaced Homemaker Trust Fund.--Chapter
2 99-33, Laws of Florida, re-created the Displaced Homemaker
3 Trust Fund to record revenue and disbursements from fees as
4 authorized in s. 446.50.

5 Section 594. Section 1010.85, Florida Statutes, is
6 created to read:

7 1010.85 Phosphate Research Trust Fund.--Chapter 99-45,
8 Laws of Florida, re-created the Phosphate Research Trust Fund
9 to record the revenue and disbursements from tax on severance
10 of phosphate rock as provided in s. 211.3103.

11 Section 595. Section 1010.86, Florida Statutes, is
12 created to read:

13 1010.86 Administration of capital improvement and
14 building fees trust funds.--The State Board of Education shall
15 administer the Capital Improvement Fee Trust Fund and the
16 Building Fee Trust Fund which include receipts from capital
17 improvement and building student fee assessments, interest
18 earnings, and subsidy grants. All funds, except those to be
19 used for debt service payments, reserve requirements, and
20 educational research centers for child development, pursuant
21 to s. 1011.48, shall be used to fund projects appropriated by
22 the Legislature. Projects funded pursuant to this section may
23 be expanded by the use of supplemental funds such as grants,
24 auxiliary enterprises, private donations, and other nonstate
25 sources.

26 Section 596. Chapter 1011, Florida Statutes, shall be
27 entitled "Planning and Budgeting" and shall consist of ss.
28 1011.01-1011.93.

29 Section 597. Part I of chapter 1011, Florida Statutes,
30 shall be entitled "Preparation, Adoption, and Implementation
31 of Budgets" and shall consist of ss. 1011.01-1011.57.

1 Section 598. Section 1011.01, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1011.01 Budget system established.--

4 (1) The State Board of Education shall prepare and
5 submit a coordinated K-20 education annual legislative budget
6 request to the Governor and the Legislature on or before the
7 date provided by the Governor and the Legislature. The board's
8 legislative budget request must clearly define the needs of
9 school districts, community colleges, universities, other
10 institutions, organizations, programs, and activities under
11 the supervision of the board and that are assigned by law or
12 the General Appropriations Act to the Department of Education.

13 (2) There shall be established in each school
14 district, community college, and university a budget system as
15 prescribed by law and rules of the State Board of Education.

16 (3) Each district school board, each community college
17 board of trustees, and each state university board of trustees
18 shall prepare, adopt, and submit to the Commissioner of
19 Education for review an annual operating budget. Operating
20 budgets shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with the
21 provisions of law, rules of the State Board of Education, the
22 General Appropriations Act, and for district school boards in
23 accordance with the provisions of ss. 200.065 and 1011.64.

24 Section 599. Section 1011.011, Florida Statutes, is
25 created to read:

26 1011.011 Legislative capital outlay budget

27 request.--The State Board of Education shall submit an
28 integrated, comprehensive budget request for educational
29 facilities construction and fixed capital outlay needs for
30 school districts, community colleges, and universities

31

1 pursuant to this section and 1013.46 and applicable provisions
2 of chapter 216.

3 Section 600. Section 1011.012, Florida Statutes, is
4 created to read:

5 1011.012 Annual capital outlay budget.--

6 (1) Each district school board, community college
7 board of trustees, and university board of trustees shall,
8 each year, adopt a capital outlay budget for the ensuing year
9 in order that the capital outlay needs of the board for the
10 entire year may be well understood by the public. This capital
11 outlay budget shall be a part of the annual budget and shall
12 be based upon and in harmony with the educational plant and
13 ancillary facilities plan. This budget shall designate the
14 proposed capital outlay expenditures by project for the year
15 from all fund sources. The board may not expend any funds on
16 any project not included in the budget, as amended.

17 (2) Each district school board must prepare its
18 tentative district facilities work program as required by s.
19 1013.35 before adopting the capital outlay budget.

20 Section 601. Part I.a. of chapter 1011, Florida
21 Statutes, shall be entitled "District School Boards:
22 Preparation, Adoption, and Implementation of Budgets" and
23 shall consist of ss. 1011.02-1011.24.

24 Section 602. Section 1011.02, Florida Statutes, is
25 created to read:

26 1011.02 District school boards to adopt tentative
27 budget.--

28 (1) On or before the date prescribed in rules of the
29 State Board of Education, each district school board shall
30 receive and examine the tentative budget submitted by the
31 district school superintendent, and shall require such changes

1 to be made, in keeping with the purposes of the school code,
2 as may be to the best interest of the school program in the
3 district.

4 (2) The district school board shall determine, within
5 prescribed limits, the reserves to be allotted for
6 contingencies, and the cash balance to be carried forward at
7 the end of the year. If the district school board shall
8 require any changes to be made in receipts, in the reserves
9 for contingencies, or in the cash balance to be carried
10 forward at the end of the year, it shall also require
11 necessary changes to be made in the appropriations for
12 expenditures so that the budget, as changed, will not contain
13 appropriations for expenditures and reserves in excess of, or
14 less than, estimated receipts and balances.

15 (3) The proposed budget shall include an amount for
16 local required effort for current operation, in accordance
17 with the requirements of s. 1011.62(4).

18 (4) When a tentative budget has been prepared in
19 accordance with rules of the State Board of Education, the
20 proposed expenditures, plus transfers, and balances shall not
21 exceed the estimated income, transfers, and balances. The
22 budget and each of the parts thereof shall balance.

23 (5) The district school board shall adopt a tentative
24 budget.

25 Section 603. Section 1011.03, Florida Statutes, is
26 created to read:

27 1011.03 Public hearings; budget to be submitted to
28 Department of Education.--

29 (1) Each district school board must cause a summary of
30 its tentative budget, including the proposed millage levies as
31 provided for by law, and graphs illustrating a historical

1 summary of financial and demographic data, to be advertised at
2 least one time as a full-page advertisement in the newspaper
3 with the largest circulation published in the district or to
4 be posted at the courthouse door if there be no such
5 newspaper.

6 (2)(a) The advertisement must include a graph
7 illustrating the historical summary of financial and
8 demographic data for each of the following data values which
9 shall be plotted along the vertical axis of each graph:

10 1. Total revenue provided to the school district from
11 all sources for the corresponding fiscal year, including all
12 federal, state, and local revenue.

13 2. Total revenue provided to the school district for
14 the corresponding fiscal year for current operations.

15 3. Total revenue provided to the school district for
16 the corresponding fiscal year for fixed capital outlay
17 projects.

18 4. Total revenue provided to the school district for
19 the corresponding fiscal year for debt service.

20 5. Total number of unweighted full-time equivalent
21 students, inclusive of all programs listed in s. 1011.62.

22 6. Total revenue provided to the school district for
23 current operations divided by the number of unweighted
24 full-time equivalent students for the corresponding fiscal
25 year.

26 7. Total number of employees of the school district
27 for the corresponding fiscal year.

28 8. Total number of employees of the school district
29 classified as instructional personnel under s. 1012.01 for the
30 corresponding fiscal year.

31

1 (b) Each graph must include a separate histogram
2 corresponding to the financial and demographic data for each
3 of the following fiscal years, which shall be plotted along
4 the horizontal axis of each graph:

5 1. Current fiscal year.

6 2. Fiscal year that is 5 years before the current
7 fiscal year.

8 3. Fiscal year that is 10 years before the current
9 fiscal year.

10 (c) The numeric value of the financial and demographic
11 data corresponding to each histogram must be included in each
12 graph.

13 (3) The advertisement of a district that has been
14 required by the Legislature to increase classroom expenditures
15 pursuant to s. 1011.64 must include the following statement:

16
17 "This proposed budget reflects an increase in classroom
18 expenditures as a percent of total current operating
19 expenditures of XX percent over the (previous fiscal year)
20 fiscal year. This increase in classroom expenditures is
21 required by the Legislature because the district has performed
22 below the required performance standard on XX of XX student
23 performance standards for the (previous school year) school
24 year. In order to achieve the legislatively required level of
25 classroom expenditures as a percentage of total operating
26 expenditures, the proposed budget includes an increase in
27 overall classroom expenditures of \$XX,XXX,XXX above the amount
28 spent for this same purpose during the (previous fiscal year)
29 fiscal year. In order to achieve improved student academic
30 performance, this proposed increase is being budgeted for the
31 following activities: (list activities and amount budgeted)."

1 (4) The advertisement shall appear adjacent to the
2 advertisement required pursuant to s. 200.065. The State Board
3 of Education may adopt rules necessary to provide specific
4 requirements for the format of the advertisement.

5 (5) The board shall hold public hearings to adopt
6 tentative and final budgets pursuant to s. 200.065. The
7 hearings shall be primarily for the purpose of hearing
8 requests and complaints from the public regarding the budgets
9 and the proposed tax levies and for explaining the budget and
10 proposed or adopted amendments thereto, if any. The district
11 school board shall then require the superintendent to transmit
12 forthwith two copies of the adopted budget to the Department
13 of Education for approval as prescribed by law and rules of
14 the State Board of Education.

15 Section 604. Section 1011.04, Florida Statutes, is
16 created to read:

17 1011.04 Levying of taxes.--

18 (1) Upon receipt of the certificate of the property
19 appraiser giving the assessed valuation of the county and of
20 each of the special tax school districts pursuant to s.
21 200.065, the district school board shall determine by
22 resolution the amounts necessary to be raised for current
23 operating purposes and for each district bond interest and
24 sinking fund and the millage necessary to be levied for each
25 such fund, including the voted millage. A certified copy of
26 the resolution shall thereupon be filed with the county
27 property appraiser, and the district school board shall also
28 order the property appraiser to assess the several millages
29 certified by the school board against the appropriate taxable
30 property in the school district.

31

1 (2) The property appraiser shall then assess the taxes
2 as ordered by the district school board. Tax millages so
3 assessed shall be clearly designated and separately identified
4 as to source on the tax bill for other county taxes.

5 (3) The collector shall collect said taxes and pay
6 over the same promptly as collected to the district school
7 depository or depositories to be used as provided by law;
8 provided, that all taxes authorized herein shall be assessed
9 and collected on railroad, street railroad, sleeping car,
10 parlor car, and telegraph company property in the manner now
11 provided by law.

12 Section 605. Section 1011.05, Florida Statutes, is
13 created to read:

14 1011.05 Implementation of the official budget.--The
15 official budget shall give the appropriations and reserves
16 therein the force and effect of fixed appropriations and
17 reserves, and the same shall not be altered, amended, or
18 exceeded except as authorized. However, if the actual
19 receipts during any year are less than budgeted receipts, and
20 any obligations are thereby incurred which cannot be met
21 before the close of the year, such obligations shall be paid
22 and accounted for in the ensuing fiscal year in the manner
23 prescribed by rules of the State Board of Education and shall
24 be payable out of the first funds available for that purpose.

25 Section 606. Section 1011.06, Florida Statutes, is
26 created to read:

27 1011.06 Expenditures.--

28 (1) Expenditures shall be limited to the amount
29 budgeted under the classification of accounts provided for
30 each fund and to the total amount of the budget after the same
31 have been amended as prescribed by law and rules of the State

1 Board of Education. The school board shall endeavor to obtain
2 maximum value for all expenditures.

3 (2) EXPENDITURES FROM DISTRICT AND OTHER
4 FUNDS.--Expenditures from district and all other funds
5 available for the public school program of any district shall
6 be authorized by law and must be in accordance with procedures
7 prescribed by the district school board. A district school
8 board may establish policies that allow expenditures to exceed
9 the amount budgeted by function and object, provided that the
10 district school board approves the expenditure and amends the
11 budget within timelines established by school board policies.

12 Section 607. Section 1011.07, Florida Statutes, is
13 created to read:

14 1011.07 Internal funds.--

15 (1) The district school board shall be responsible for
16 the administration and control of all local school funds
17 derived by any public school from all activities or sources,
18 and shall prescribe the principles and procedures to be
19 followed in administering these funds consistent with
20 regulations adopted by the State Board of Education.

21 (2) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
22 governing the procedures for the recording of the receipts,
23 expenditures, deposits, and disbursements of internal funds.

24 Section 608. Section 1011.08, Florida Statutes, is
25 created to read:

26 1011.08 Expenditures between July 1 and date budget
27 becomes official.--During the period from July 1 to the date
28 the tentative budget becomes official, district school boards
29 are authorized to approve ordinary expenditures, including
30 salary payments, which are necessary for the approved school
31 program.

1 Section 609. Section 1011.09, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1011.09 Expenditure of funds by district school
4 board.--All state funds apportioned to the credit of any
5 district constitute a part of the district school fund of that
6 district and must be budgeted and expended under authority of
7 the district school board subject to the provisions of law and
8 rules of the State Board of Education.

9 (1) A district school board shall credit interest or
10 profits on investments to the specific budgeted fund, as
11 defined by the accounting system required by s. 1010.01, that
12 produced the earnings unless otherwise authorized by law or
13 rules of the State Board of Education.

14 (2) A district school board may temporarily advance
15 moneys from one fund, as defined by the accounting system
16 required by s. 1010.01, to another fund when insufficient
17 moneys are available to meet current obligations if the
18 temporary advancement is repaid within 13 months, appropriate
19 accounting records are maintained, and the temporary
20 advancement does not restrict, impede, or limit implementation
21 or fulfillment of the original purposes for which the moneys
22 were received in the fund providing the advancement.

23 (3) Funds expended from school nonrecurring incentives
24 or bonus type state or federal funded programs based on
25 performance outcomes may not be used for measuring compliance
26 with state or federal maintenance of effort, supplanting, or
27 comparability standards.

28 Section 610. Section 1011.10, Florida Statutes, is
29 created to read:

30 1011.10 Penalty.--
31

1 (1) Any member of a district school board or any
2 district school superintendent who violates the provisions of
3 this section commits malfeasance and misfeasance in office and
4 shall be subject to removal from office by the Governor, and
5 any contract or attempted contract entered into by any school
6 officer or subordinate school officer that is not within the
7 purview or in violation of the provisions of this section
8 shall be void, and no such contract or attempted contract
9 shall be enforceable in any court.

10 (2) Each member of any district school board voting to
11 incur an indebtedness against the district school funds in
12 excess of the expenditure allowed by law, or in excess of any
13 appropriation as adopted in the original official budget or
14 amendments thereto, or to approve or pay any illegal charge
15 against the funds, and any chair of a district school board or
16 district school superintendent who signs a warrant for payment
17 of any such claim or bill of indebtedness against any of the
18 funds shall be personally liable for the amount, and shall be
19 guilty of malfeasance in office and subject to removal by the
20 Governor. It shall be the duty of the Auditor General or other
21 state official charged by law with the responsibility for
22 auditing school accounts, upon discovering any such illegal
23 expenditure or expenditures in excess of the appropriations in
24 the budget as officially amended, to certify such fact to the
25 Department of Banking and Finance, which thereupon shall
26 verify such fact and it shall be the duty of the Department of
27 Banking and Finance to advise the Department of Legal Affairs
28 thereof, and it shall be the duty of the Department of Legal
29 Affairs to cause to be instituted and prosecuted, either
30 through its office or through any state attorney, proceedings
31 at law or in equity against such member or members of a

1 district school board or district school superintendent. If
2 either of the officers does not institute proceedings within
3 90 days after the audit has been certified to them by the
4 Department of Banking and Finance, any taxpayer may institute
5 suit in his or her own name on behalf of the district.

6 Section 611. Section 1011.11, Florida Statutes, is
7 created to read:

8 1011.11 Certain provisions to be directory.--No
9 irregularities of form or manner in the preparation or
10 adoption of any budget under the provisions of this chapter
11 shall invalidate either the budget adopted or the taxes levied
12 therefor. However, the budget and the taxes levied must
13 conform substantially to the principles and provisions of law
14 and rules of the State Board of Education.

15 Section 612. Section 1011.12, Florida Statutes, is
16 created to read:

17 1011.12 Purposes of and procedures in incurring school
18 indebtedness.--Indebtedness for school purposes may be
19 incurred only as follows:

20 (1) School districts may issue bonds creating a
21 long-term indebtedness as prescribed by law.

22 (2) Notes may be issued for money borrowed in
23 anticipation of the receipt of current school funds, included
24 in the budget from the state, county, or districts, as
25 authorized under s. 1011.13.

26 (3) Indebtedness may be incurred for certain purposes
27 as authorized under s. 1011.14, s. 1011.15, or s. 1011.16.

28 (4) Bonds or revenue certificates issued on behalf of
29 the district by the State Board of Education as authorized by
30 s. 18, Art. XII of the State Constitution of 1885 as adopted
31

1 by s. 9(d), Art. XII, 1968 revised constitution, and the
2 additional provisions of s. 9(d), Art. XII of said revision.

3 Section 613. Section 1011.13, Florida Statutes, is
4 created to read:

5 1011.13 Current loans authorized under certain
6 conditions.--Except as provided in subsection (2), for any
7 fiscal year in which school funds are estimated to be
8 insufficient at any time during that fiscal year to pay
9 obligations created by the district school board in accordance
10 with the official budget of the district, or a budget approved
11 by the district school board which is prepared preliminarily
12 to the tentative budget required by this chapter, the school
13 board is authorized to negotiate a current loan to pay these
14 obligations, providing for the repayment of that loan from the
15 proceeds of revenues reasonably to be anticipated during the
16 fiscal year in which the loan is made as prescribed below.
17 However, the district school board shall, whenever possible,
18 so arrange its expenditures as to make the incurring of
19 current loans unnecessary. When it is deemed necessary for the
20 benefit of the schools of the district for a current loan to
21 be negotiated, the school board shall arrange for a loan in an
22 amount not violative of federal arbitrage regulations and for
23 the repayment of the loan, in accord with the other provisions
24 of this section.

25 (1) CURRENT LOANS AGAINST DISTRICT FUND, DISTRICT
26 CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS, AND DISTRICT INTEREST AND SINKING
27 FUNDS.--

28 (a) District school boards are authorized and
29 empowered to borrow money, to be retired from the district tax
30 receipts anticipated in the operating budget, the district
31 capital projects budget, and the debt service budget, at a

1 rate of interest not to exceed the rate authorized under the
2 provisions of s. 215.84, for the purpose of paying all
3 outstanding obligations and for the further purpose of paying
4 any and all lawful expenses incurred in operating the schools
5 of the district. However, it is unlawful for any district
6 school board to borrow any sum of money in any one year in
7 excess of 80 percent of the amount as estimated by it in the
8 official budget for the current fiscal year for the district
9 to be available from the district tax. The sum so borrowed
10 shall be paid in full before the school board is authorized to
11 borrow money in any succeeding year.

12 (b) Nothing in paragraph (a) shall be construed to
13 invalidate any outstanding debt of any district as now
14 existing and now due, or to become due, or as requiring any
15 school board to pay the same in full before being permitted to
16 borrow 80 percent on the estimate for the next ensuing year.

17 (c) In the event that the county tax roll is subjected
18 to litigation and the tax collector is prevented from
19 collecting taxes on that roll, the following provisions shall
20 apply:

21 1. The restriction of 80 percent in paragraph (b)
22 shall not apply if the collection of taxes is delayed beyond
23 May 1.

24 2. District school boards are authorized and empowered
25 to borrow money, to be repaid from the district school fund
26 for operating purposes, the district capital projects funds,
27 and the district interest and sinking funds, at a rate not to
28 exceed the rate authorized under the provisions of s. 215.84,
29 for the purposes of paying any and all lawful operating
30 expense, capital expense, and required debt service necessary
31 for the outstanding bond issues of such districts at the times

1 that the funds are needed to prevent the bonds or interest
2 payments from being in default. However, the amount of money
3 so borrowed shall be limited to the amount of the district
4 school fund and district interest and sinking fund tax
5 receipts included in the official school budget for that year
6 or the amount necessary to be borrowed to meet such
7 obligations, whichever amount is the lesser. Any funds
8 borrowed pursuant to the authority of this subsection shall,
9 insofar as possible, be repaid during the fiscal year in which
10 the loan was made. However, any such loan unpaid at the end
11 of the fiscal year shall be repaid from the first available
12 revenue in the next succeeding year.

13 (2) CURRENT LOANS PAYABLE FROM REVENUE PROCEEDS.--

14 (a) A district school board is also authorized to
15 negotiate a current loan before the end of the fiscal year,
16 the note or notes from which loan shall be issued no earlier
17 than 60 days before the beginning of the subsequent fiscal
18 year, to be repaid during the subsequent fiscal year from the
19 proceeds of revenue reasonably anticipated to be received
20 during that year. The proceeds of any loan obtained pursuant
21 to this subsection shall be limited, and the district school
22 board shall take any and all action necessary, to assure that
23 the Internal Revenue Code and the regulations promulgated
24 thereunder are not violated.

25 (b) Loans arranged pursuant to this subsection shall
26 be negotiated in accordance with a budget approved by the
27 district school board which is prepared preliminarily to the
28 tentative budget required by this chapter. Such loans shall
29 be at a rate of interest not to exceed the rate of interest
30 authorized under the provisions of s. 215.84 and shall not be
31

1 in excess of amounts authorized under the Internal Revenue
2 Code for arbitrage.

3 (c) The proceeds of any loan obtained pursuant to this
4 subsection, or any interest earnings thereon, shall not be
5 used to pay any expenses incurred in the fiscal year in which
6 the loan is made; nor shall the proceeds of the loan or
7 interest earnings thereon be in any way encumbered to pay
8 expenses incurred in the fiscal year in which the loan is
9 made, but shall be held in escrow until the subsequent fiscal
10 year. Any outstanding loan issued pursuant to subsection (1)
11 must be defeased not less than 5 business days prior to the
12 issuance of any obligation pursuant to this subsection. All
13 proceeds of any loan obtained pursuant to this subsection, and
14 any interest earnings thereon, shall be placed at closing in
15 an irrevocable escrow account and held until the beginning of
16 the subsequent fiscal year. The district school board shall
17 maintain the integrity of such loan proceeds and related
18 interest in its accounting records so as to be able to
19 validate compliance with the provisions of this paragraph.

20 Section 614. Section 1011.14, Florida Statutes, is
21 created to read:

22 1011.14 Obligations for a period of 1 year.--District
23 school boards are authorized only under the following
24 conditions to create obligations by way of anticipation of
25 budgeted revenues accruing on a current basis without pledging
26 the credit of the district or requiring future levy of taxes
27 for certain purposes for a period of 1 year; however, such
28 obligations may be extended from year to year with the consent
29 of the lender for a period not to exceed 4 years, or for a
30 total of 5 years including the initial year of the loan:
31

1 (1) PURPOSES.--The purposes for which such obligations
2 may be incurred within the intent of this section shall
3 include only the purchase of school buses, land, and equipment
4 for educational purposes; the erection of, alteration to, or
5 addition to educational facilities; and the adjustment of
6 insurance on educational property on a 5-year plan, as
7 provided by rules of the State Board of Education.

8 (2) OBLIGATIONS MAY NOT EXCEED ONE-FOURTH OF DISTRICT
9 AD VALOREM TAX REVENUE FOR OPERATIONS FOR THE PRECEDING
10 YEAR.--No obligation of the nature prescribed herein may be
11 incurred by any district school board when such proposed
12 obligations exceed one-fourth of the revenue received during
13 the preceding year for the district school fund for operating
14 expense of the district.

15 (3) DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TO ADOPT PROPOSAL.--When the
16 district school board proposes to incur obligations of the
17 nature authorized in this section, it shall adopt and spread
18 upon its minutes a resolution giving the nature of the
19 obligations to be incurred, stating the plan of payment, and
20 providing that such funds will be budgeted during the period
21 of the loan from the current revenue to retire the obligations
22 maturing during the year. This plan of payment shall not
23 extend over a period longer than 1 year.

24 (4) INTEREST-BEARING NOTES AUTHORIZED.--Each district
25 school board which has authorized the incurring of the
26 obligations as provided in this section shall issue
27 interest-bearing notes for the obligations. The notes shall
28 provide the terms of payment and shall not bear interest in
29 excess of the rate authorized under the provisions of s.
30 215.84. No additional obligations of a similar nature may be
31 incurred against the funds of any school district when notes

1 authorized under this subsection are still outstanding and
2 unpaid when such proposed obligations together with the unpaid
3 notes outstanding exceed one-fourth of the revenue of the
4 preceding year, as defined in subsection (2).

5 Section 615. Section 1011.15, Florida Statutes, is
6 created to read:

7 1011.15 Obligations to eliminate major emergency
8 conditions.--The district school board of any district
9 experiencing a major emergency condition in an existing school
10 plant that demands immediate correction in order to prevent
11 further damage to the building or equipment or to eliminate a
12 safety hazard that constitutes an immediate danger to the
13 students and other occupants is authorized to create an
14 obligation for a period of 1 year by way of anticipation of
15 revenues for capital outlay purposes accruing on a current
16 basis without pledging the credit of the district. Such
17 obligation may be extended from year to year with the consent
18 of the lender for a period not to exceed 4 years, or for a
19 total of 5 years including the initial year of the loan.
20 Obligations occurring under this section may be repaid from
21 funds to be received from taxes authorized by s. 1011.71(2)
22 and from any other funds available to the district school
23 board for the purpose under the following conditions:

24 (1) DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TO ADOPT PROPOSAL.--When the
25 district school board proposes to incur obligations of the
26 nature authorized in this section, it shall adopt and spread
27 upon its minutes a resolution fully describing the emergency
28 condition outlined above, giving the nature of the obligations
29 to be incurred, stating the plan of payment, and providing
30 that such funds will be budgeted during the period of the loan
31 from the current revenue to retire the obligations maturing

1 during the year. This plan of payment shall not extend over a
2 period longer than 1 year.

3 (2) INTEREST-BEARING NOTES AUTHORIZED.--Each district
4 school board which has authorized the incurring of the
5 obligations as provided in this section shall issue
6 interest-bearing notes for the obligations. The notes shall
7 provide the terms of payment and shall not bear interest in
8 excess of the rate authorized in s. 1010.59.

9 Section 616. Section 1011.16, Florida Statutes, is
10 created to read:

11 1011.16 Provisions for retirement of existing
12 indebtedness which is unfunded or in default.--In any district
13 in which there is any indebtedness outstanding against the
14 district school fund which has not yet been funded, or at any
15 time any such indebtedness is in default as to principal or
16 interest, the district school board shall proceed as follows:

17 (1) PLAN FOR RETIRING INDEBTEDNESS TO BE
18 PROPOSED.--The district school board shall prepare and propose
19 a plan for retiring any unfunded indebtedness or any such
20 indebtedness which is in default so that no creditor having a
21 valid claim will be given a preferred status. This plan shall
22 be so prepared as to show the funds needed for operating the
23 schools on the most economical basis practicable, the amount
24 of any other obligations which must be met each year, the
25 total funds available each year for the entire school program,
26 and the funds that can reasonably be spared for retirement of
27 indebtedness without needlessly handicapping the school
28 program and which can be budgeted each year for the retirement
29 of such indebtedness.

30 (2) PROPOSAL TO BE SUBMITTED TO DEPARTMENT OF
31 EDUCATION.--The proposal for funding and retiring all such

1 indebtedness, when approved by the district school board,
2 shall be submitted to the Department of Education for
3 consideration. The district school board shall not attempt to
4 retire any such indebtedness until this procedure has been
5 followed and until it has had the benefit of the
6 recommendations of the department. Upon receiving the
7 proposal, the department shall determine the minimum funds
8 which are, in its opinion, necessary for the operation of the
9 school program in the district; shall determine what funds
10 remain for retirement of indebtedness each year; shall
11 determine whether the proposed plan is in accordance with
12 these facts, and, if it is not, shall propose modifications in
13 the plan in accordance with the facts. The recommendations of
14 the department shall then be submitted to the district school
15 board for consideration.

16 (3) WHEN PLAN TO BE EFFECTIVE.--The plan for retiring
17 indebtedness, herein prescribed, shall become effective when
18 the district school board and the Department of Education
19 jointly agree upon the amount of funds necessary for operating
20 the schools and the amount which can be budgeted each year for
21 retiring indebtedness. When this plan has been agreed upon, it
22 shall become the duty of the district school board to see that
23 the amount approved for retiring indebtedness is incorporated
24 in the budget each year, and the department shall see that
25 this amount has been incorporated before the budget is
26 approved, or, if such an amount can not reasonably be
27 incorporated in the budget, as shown by evidence submitted by
28 the district school board, determine the respects in which the
29 plan should be modified, and to see that the budget includes
30 the amount for retiring indebtedness which can reasonably be
31 included.

1 (4) FUNDING OUTSTANDING INDEBTEDNESS.--
2 (a) Each district school board having an outstanding
3 indebtedness legally incurred and constituting an obligation
4 or obligations payable from the district school fund is
5 authorized to issue and sell interest-bearing coupon warrants
6 in a sum or sums not to exceed the total amount of such
7 indebtedness. Such coupon warrants shall bear interest at a
8 rate not to exceed the rates authorized under the provisions
9 of s. 215.84, shall be payable either annually or
10 semiannually, and shall be in such form and denomination as
11 the district school board issuing the same shall prescribe.
12 None of such warrants shall be issued to run for a longer
13 period of time than 10 years from the date of issue. Such
14 warrants shall be numbered consecutively, beginning with
15 number one, and each warrant shall have attached thereto
16 interest coupons, each coupon bearing the number of its
17 warrant and representing or calling for an annual or
18 semiannual, as the case may be, payment of interest on its
19 warrant.
20 (b) Each such warrant shall be signed by the chair and
21 attested by the secretary of the district school board issuing
22 the same, and shall have the seal of the district school board
23 affixed thereto, and the interest coupons attached thereto
24 shall be signed by, or bear the printed or lithographed
25 facsimile signature of the chair and secretary. Each warrant
26 and interest coupon shall be dated and shall bear the due
27 date. Such warrants and interest coupons shall be issued upon,
28 and payable from, the fund designated on the face thereof. The
29 fund so designated shall be the district school fund. All
30 funds derived from the sale of interest-bearing coupon
31 warrants, as herein provided, shall be used for the purpose of

1 retiring the indebtedness for payment of which the warrants
2 were issued, and for no other purpose, and any funds remaining
3 from the sale of such warrants shall be applied to retiring
4 the interest-bearing coupon warrants from which such funds
5 were derived.

6 (5) FUNDING OR REFUNDING OTHER TYPES OF
7 INDEBTEDNESS.--Any proposed plan for refunding any type of
8 outstanding and legally incurred school indebtedness, not
9 covered by this section, shall be submitted to the Department
10 of Education for approval under rules of the State Board of
11 Education. No such indebtedness may be refunded and no plan
12 for refunding such indebtedness may be approved, unless the
13 plan provides for retiring the indebtedness in reasonably
14 equal annual installments over the period of years covered,
15 unless other obligations to be retired during any of these
16 years make adjustments necessary. No indebtedness of any type
17 may be refunded on a sinking fund basis. The district school
18 board shall provide that all refunding warrants, notes, or
19 bonds shall be callable, upon proper notice, beginning not
20 more than 10 years following the date of refunding. If any
21 indebtedness outstanding against the county or district
22 current school funds cannot be retired over a period of 10
23 years as prescribed in this section, or cannot be funded or
24 refunded by issuing interest-bearing coupon warrants, the
25 Department of Education is authorized to cooperate with the
26 school officials of the district in developing a practicable
27 plan for refunding such indebtedness and, when such a plan has
28 been developed, may approve an agreement with the district
29 school officials for refunding such indebtedness to be retired
30 over a period of time which shall not exceed a maximum of 20
31 years; and, if necessary, for refunding the indebtedness by

1 issuing interest-bearing notes. Any funding or refunding
2 obligations issued, as prescribed herein, are not and shall
3 not be deemed to be additional bonds within the meaning of the
4 Constitution and laws of Florida, and it shall not be
5 necessary for such obligations to be submitted to, or approved
6 by, a vote of the people of the district. In preparing and
7 carrying out such a plan for funding or refunding the school
8 indebtedness, the district school board and the district
9 school superintendent shall follow the procedures prescribed
10 in this section, supplemented by rules of the State Board of
11 Education, except for the modifications which are herein
12 authorized.

13 Section 617. Section 1011.17, Florida Statutes, is
14 created to read:

15 1011.17 School funds to be paid to Treasurer or into
16 depository.--

17 (1) Every tax collector, or other person having moneys
18 which by law go to any district school fund shall at least
19 once each month pay the same over to the depository or
20 depositories designated by the district school board for such
21 purpose, and shall provide said board with confirmation of the
22 deposit. Every officer having moneys which by law go to any
23 state school fund, shall pay the same to the Treasurer of the
24 state, and the Treasurer shall see that these moneys are
25 deposited to the credit of the proper state school fund.

26 (2) The district school board shall have the authority
27 to designate that funds due it be placed for investment for
28 its account with the State Board of Administration rather than
29 be deposited, and said board may direct those persons having
30 moneys due it or due any state school fund to pay out such
31

1 funds to the State Board of Administration to make authorized
2 investments for its account.

3 Section 618. Section 1011.18, Florida Statutes, is
4 created to read:

5 1011.18 School depositories; payments into and
6 withdrawals from depositories.--

7 (1) SCHOOL FUNDS TO BE PAID INTO DEPOSITORIES.--The
8 tax collector, the clerk of the circuit court, the
9 superintendent, and all other persons having, receiving, or
10 collecting any money payable to the school district shall
11 promptly pay the same to the bank or banks selected by the
12 district school board to receive funds for that purpose. No
13 bank shall be so selected unless it is qualified as an
14 approved depository as provided by law. Each bank receiving
15 any school money as provided herein shall make a receipt for
16 same.

17 (2) INVESTMENT OF FUNDS DUE.--The district school
18 board shall have the authority to designate that funds due it
19 be placed for investment for its account with the State Board
20 of Administration rather than be deposited, and the district
21 school board may direct those persons having moneys due it or
22 due any state school fund to pay out such funds to the State
23 Board of Administration to make authorized investments for its
24 account.

25 (3) FUNDS ON DEPOSIT WITH EACH DEPOSITORY; OVERDRAWING
26 ACCOUNTS PROHIBITED.--The district school board shall require
27 an accurate and complete set of accounts to be maintained in
28 the books and records for each fund on deposit in each
29 district school depository. Each such account shall show the
30 amount subject to withdrawal, the amount deposited, the amount
31 expended, and the balance of the account. In compliance with

1 the provisions of this subsection, a district school board may
2 maintain a separate checking account for each such fund or may
3 utilize a single checking account for the deposit and
4 withdrawal of moneys from all funds and segregate the various
5 funds on the books and records only. No check or warrant shall
6 be drawn in excess of the balance to the credit of the
7 appropriate fund. The funds awaiting clearing may be invested
8 in an approved county depository in instruments earning
9 interest, such as repurchase agreements, savings accounts,
10 etc. If repurchase agreements are involved, United States
11 Treasury securities or GNMA's must be pledged as collateral
12 for an amount to exceed the principal, interest, and a
13 reasonable safety margin for protection against date-to-date
14 price fluctuation.

15 (4) HOW FUNDS DRAWN FROM DEPOSITORIES.--All money
16 drawn from any district school depository holding same as
17 prescribed herein shall be upon a check or warrant drawn on
18 authority of the district school board as prescribed by law.
19 Each check or warrant shall be signed by the chair or, in his
20 or her absence, the vice chair of the district school board
21 and countersigned by the district school superintendent, with
22 corporate seal of the school board affixed. However, as a
23 matter of convenience, the corporate seal of the district
24 school board may be printed upon the warrant and a proper
25 record of such warrant shall be maintained. The district
26 school board may by resolution, a copy of which must be
27 delivered to the depository, provide for internal funds to be
28 withdrawn from any district depository by a check duly signed
29 by at least two bonded school employees designated by the
30 board to be responsible for administering such funds. However,
31 the district school superintendent or his or her designee,

1 after having been by resolution specifically authorized by the
2 district school board, may transfer funds from one depository
3 to another, within a depository, to another institution, or
4 from another institution to a depository for investment
5 purposes and may transfer funds in a similar manner when the
6 transfer does not represent an expenditure, advance, or
7 reduction of cash assets. Such transfer may be made by
8 electronic, telephonic, or other medium; and each transfer
9 shall be confirmed in writing and signed by the district
10 school superintendent or his or her designee.

11 (5) FORM OF WARRANTS; DIRECT DEPOSIT OF FUNDS.--The
12 district school board is authorized to establish the form or
13 forms of warrants, which are to be signed by the chair or, in
14 his or her absence, the vice chair of the district school
15 board and countersigned by the district school superintendent,
16 for payment or disbursement of moneys out of the school
17 depository and to change the form thereof from time to time as
18 the district school board deems appropriate. If authorized in
19 writing by the payee, such district school board warrants may
20 provide for the direct deposit of funds to the account of the
21 payee in any financial institution that is designated in
22 writing by the payee and that has lawful authority to accept
23 such deposits. The written authorization of the payee must be
24 filed with the district school board. Direct deposit of funds
25 may be by any electronic or other medium approved by the
26 district school board for such purpose. The State Board of
27 Education shall adopt rules prescribing minimum security
28 measures that must be implemented by any district school board
29 before establishing the system authorized in this subsection.

30 (6) EXEMPTION FOR SELF-INSURANCE PROGRAMS AND
31 THIRD-PARTY ADMINISTERED EMPLOYEES' FRINGE BENEFIT PROGRAMS.--

1 (a) Each district school board is authorized to
2 contract with an approved service organization to provide
3 self-insurance services, including, but not limited to, the
4 evaluation, settlement, and payment of self-insurance claims
5 on behalf of the district school board. Pursuant to such
6 contract, the district school board may advance money to the
7 service organization to be deposited in a special checking
8 account for paying claims against the district school board
9 under its self-insurance program. The special checking
10 account shall be maintained in a designated district school
11 depository. The district school board may replenish such
12 account as often as necessary upon the presentation by the
13 service organization of documentation for claims paid equal to
14 the amount of the requested reimbursement. Such replenishment
15 shall be made by a warrant signed by the chair of the district
16 school board and countersigned by the district school
17 superintendent. Such replenishment may be made by electronic,
18 telephonic, or other medium, and each transfer shall be
19 confirmed in writing and signed by the superintendent or his
20 or her designee.

21 (b) The district school board may contract with an
22 insurance company or professional administrator who holds a
23 valid certificate of authority issued by the Department of
24 Insurance to provide any or all services that a third-party
25 administrator is authorized by law to perform. Pursuant to
26 such contract, the district school board may advance or remit
27 money to the administrator to be deposited in a designated
28 special checking account for paying claims against the
29 district school board under its self-insurance programs, and
30 remitting premiums to the providers of insured benefits on
31 behalf of the district school board and the participants in

1 such programs, and otherwise fulfilling the obligations
2 imposed upon the administrator by law and the contractual
3 agreements between the district school board and the
4 administrator. The special checking account shall be
5 maintained in a designated district school depository. The
6 district school board may replenish such account as often as
7 necessary upon the presentation by the service organization of
8 documentation for claims or premiums due paid equal to the
9 amount of the requested reimbursement. Such replenishment
10 shall be made by a warrant signed by the chair of the district
11 school board and countersigned by the district school
12 superintendent. Such replenishment may be made by electronic,
13 telephonic, or other medium, and each transfer shall be
14 confirmed in writing and signed by the district school
15 superintendent or his or her designee. The provisions of
16 strict accountability of all funds and an annual audit by an
17 independent certified public accountant as provided in s.
18 1001.42(10)(k) shall apply to this subsection.

19 Section 619. Section 1011.19, Florida Statutes, is
20 created to read:

21 1011.19 Sources of district school fund.--The district
22 school fund shall consist of funds derived from the district
23 school tax levy; state appropriations; appropriations by
24 county commissioners; local, state, and federal school food
25 service funds; any and all other sources for school purposes;
26 national forest trust funds and other federal sources; and
27 gifts and other sources.

28 Section 620. Section 1011.20, Florida Statutes, is
29 created to read:

30 1011.20 Apportionment and use of district school
31 fund.--The district school fund shall be apportioned, expended

1 and disbursed in the district solely for the support of the
2 public schools of the district as prescribed by law; provided,
3 however, that the district school fund shall also be used to
4 pay the principal and interest on bonds legally issued and
5 payable from said fund, together with other proper items of
6 debt service against such fund, including any necessary
7 refunding expense as prescribed by rules of the State Board of
8 Education. The district school board shall, before the
9 maturity of such bonds or other indebtedness and before
10 interest due dates, deposit with the paying agent or make
11 available, as designated in the resolution authorizing the
12 issuance of the bonds or other legal evidences of
13 indebtedness, sufficient funds with which to pay all principal
14 and interest when due; provided, that when such funds have
15 been so deposited with the paying agent or made available, all
16 interest on the indebtedness represented by the maturing
17 bonds, coupons or other evidences of indebtedness shall cease
18 as of their maturity dates; and provided, further, that if any
19 such bonds, coupons or other evidences of indebtedness are not
20 presented for payment within 6 months after the date on which
21 they mature, the funds shall be returned to the district
22 school board and shall be placed by said board in the district
23 school fund and the district school board shall pay said
24 bonds, coupons or other evidences of indebtedness from said
25 fund when presented for payment. Any holder of bonds, coupons
26 or other indebtedness claiming interest after maturity on
27 account of the fact that funds were not deposited with the
28 paying agent or made available to pay such bonds, coupons or
29 other indebtedness at maturity, shall be required to produce
30 evidence in the form of a letter from the paying agent or the
31 district school board, respectively, acknowledging that the

1 bonds, coupons and other evidences of indebtedness upon which
2 interest is claimed were presented for payment, that no funds
3 were available for the payment thereof, that such bonds,
4 coupons and other evidences of indebtedness were presented for
5 payment at least annually thereafter and that no funds were
6 available to pay such indebtedness. The paying agent or the
7 district school board, whichever has the duty of holding the
8 funds, shall, upon request of the holder of defaulted bonds,
9 coupons or other evidences of indebtedness, furnish to such
10 holder the letter required herein. When such evidence is
11 presented the district school fund shall be liable for the
12 payment of principal and interest on the bonds, coupons or
13 other evidences of indebtedness from maturity until paid at
14 the rate prescribed on the face thereof. If at any time any
15 bonds, coupons or other evidences of indebtedness are reduced
16 to judgment, the district school fund shall be responsible for
17 past due interest only at the rate prescribed by the bonds or
18 other evidences of indebtedness and any rate of interest in
19 excess of that amount shall be illegal and invalid. Such
20 judgments shall bear interest at the rate of 5 percent per
21 annum until paid. When any proposal for refunding the
22 indebtedness against said district school fund has been
23 prepared and approved by the State Board of Education, as
24 required by law, and when the holders of at least 80 percent
25 of the outstanding indebtedness against said fund have agreed
26 in writing to the refunding plan, the district school board
27 shall be authorized to pay, out of the district school fund,
28 from and after that date, on the original and refunding bonds
29 or other evidences of indebtedness only the rate of interest
30 which has been agreed upon for the refunding bonds or other
31 evidences of indebtedness and no owner or holder of a bond,

1 coupon or other evidence of indebtedness shall be entitled to
2 a higher rate of interest after that date; provided, that such
3 owner or holder shall be given the option by the district
4 school board of receiving payment in cash for all principal
5 and interest due on the bonds and coupons or other evidence of
6 indebtedness he or she holds at the same rate at which the
7 remaining indebtedness has been refunded.

8 Section 621. Section 1011.21, Florida Statutes, is
9 created to read:

10 1011.21 Source and use of district interest and
11 sinking fund.--The district interest and sinking fund of any
12 school district shall comprise the proceeds of the tax levied
13 for the purpose of paying the principal and interest of bonds
14 outstanding against the district as provided in this chapter
15 and in addition such funds as may accrue to the credit of the
16 district interest and sinking fund from interest on deposits,
17 investments or other sources. The district interest and
18 sinking fund in each district shall be used to pay the
19 principal and interest on bonds legally issued against the
20 district and other proper items of debt service against such
21 district, including any necessary refunding expense as
22 prescribed by rules of the State Board of Education. The
23 district school board shall, before the maturity of bonds and
24 before interest due dates, deposit with the paying agent or
25 make available, as designated in the resolution authorizing
26 the issuance of bonds, sufficient money of the district
27 interest and sinking fund with which to pay all principal and
28 interest when due; provided, that when such money has been so
29 deposited with the paying agent or made available, all
30 interest on the indebtedness represented by the maturing bonds
31 or coupons shall cease as of their maturity dates; and

1 provided, further, that if any such bonds or coupons are not
2 presented for payment within 6 months after the date on which
3 they mature, the money shall be returned to the district
4 school board and shall be held by the board as a reserve fund
5 in the account of the district interest and sinking fund until
6 the bonds and coupons are presented for payment. Any holder
7 of bonds or coupons claiming interest after maturity shall be
8 required to produce evidence in the form of a letter from the
9 paying agent or the district school board of the district,
10 respectively, acknowledging that the bonds or coupons upon
11 which interest is claimed were presented for payment upon
12 maturity, that no funds were available for the payment
13 thereof, that such bonds or coupons were presented for payment
14 at least annually thereafter and that no funds were available
15 to pay such bonds or coupons. The paying agent or the
16 district school board, whichever has the duty of holding the
17 money shall, upon request of the holder of defaulted bonds or
18 coupons, furnish to such holder the letter required herein.
19 When such evidence is presented, the district interest and
20 sinking fund shall be liable for the payment of principal and
21 interest on the bonds and coupons from maturity until paid at
22 the rate prescribed on the face of the bonds. If at any time
23 any bonds or coupons are reduced to judgment, the district
24 interest and sinking fund shall be responsible for past due
25 interest only at the rate prescribed by the bonds and any rate
26 of interest in excess of that amount shall be illegal and
27 invalid. Such judgments shall bear interest at the rate of 5
28 percent per annum until paid. When any proposal for refunding
29 the indebtedness against any district has been prepared and
30 approved by the Department of Education, as required by law,
31 and when the holders of at least 80 percent of the outstanding

1 indebtedness represented by the bond issue have agreed in
2 writing to the refunding plan, the district school board shall
3 be authorized to pay, from and after that date on the original
4 and refunding bonds from the district interest and sinking
5 fund, only the rate of interest which has been agreed upon for
6 the refunding bonds and no owner or holder of a bond or coupon
7 shall be entitled to a higher rate of interest after that
8 date; provided, that such owner or holder shall be given the
9 option by the school board of receiving payment in cash for
10 all principal and interest due on the bonds and coupons he or
11 she holds at the same rate at which the remaining bonds and
12 coupons have been refunded.

13 Section 622. Section 1011.22, Florida Statutes, is
14 created to read:

15 1011.22 Interest and sinking funds may be invested in
16 certain bonds, warrants, and notes.--Each district school
17 board shall have the power at all times to invest the interest
18 and sinking funds collected for the retirement of any bonds of
19 the school district in any investment as authorized in s.
20 1010.53(2). The district school board shall have authority at
21 any time to use the interest and sinking fund of any district
22 for purchasing, for the purpose of canceling and retiring,
23 bonds outstanding against the interest and sinking fund of
24 said district at any price which will result in a net saving
25 to the taxpayers of the district; provided, always, that the
26 district school board shall have the right to keep the
27 interest and sinking fund on deposit earning the rate of
28 interest agreed upon until such time as within its judgment it
29 may be able to invest it in bonds, warrants, or notes to
30 better advantage as provided herein.

31

1 Section 623. Section 1011.23, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1011.23 Disposition of balance in interest and sinking
4 fund.--If all principal and interest outstanding against any
5 school district shall have been paid, and there shall still
6 remain a balance in the interest and sinking fund to the
7 credit of that district, the district school board shall, by
8 resolution, authorize this balance to be transferred to the
9 credit of the district school fund.

10 Section 624. Section 1011.24, Florida Statutes, is
11 created to read:

12 1011.24 Special district units.--For the purposes of
13 funding through chapters 1011 and 1013, developmental research
14 schools shall be designated as special school districts. Such
15 districts shall be accountable to the Department of Education
16 for budget requests and reports on expenditures.

17 Section 625. Part I.b. of chapter 1011, Florida
18 Statutes, shall be entitled "Community Colleges: Preparation,
19 Adoption, and Implementation of Budgets" and shall consist of
20 ss. 1011.30-1011.32.

21 Section 626. Section 1011.30, Florida Statutes, is
22 created to read:

23 1011.30 Budgets for community colleges.--Each
24 community college president shall recommend to the community
25 college board of trustees a budget of income and expenditures
26 at such time and in such form as the State Board of Education
27 may prescribe. Upon approval of a budget by the community
28 college board of trustees, such budget shall be transmitted to
29 the Department of Education for review and approval. Rules of
30 the State Board of Education shall prescribe procedures for
31

1 effecting budget amendments subsequent to the final approval
2 of a budget for a given year.

3 Section 627. Section 1011.31, Florida Statutes, is
4 created to read:

5 1011.31 Current loans to community college boards of
6 trustees.--

7 (1) At any time the current funds on hand are
8 insufficient to pay obligations created by a community college
9 board of trustees in accordance with the approved budget of
10 the community college, the community college board of trustees
11 may request approval by the Commissioner of Education of a
12 proposal to negotiate a current loan, with provisions for the
13 repayment of such loan during the fiscal year in which the
14 loan is made, in order to meet these obligations.

15 (2) The Commissioner of Education shall approve such
16 proposal when, in his opinion, the proposal is reasonable and
17 just, the expenditure is necessary, and revenues sufficient to
18 meet the requirements of the loan can reasonably be
19 anticipated.

20 Section 628. Section 1011.32, Florida Statutes, is
21 created to read:

22 1011.32 Community College Facility Enhancement
23 Challenge Grant Program.--

24 (1) The Legislature recognizes that the community
25 colleges do not have sufficient physical facilities to meet
26 the current demands of their instructional and community
27 programs. It further recognizes that, to strengthen and
28 enhance community colleges, it is necessary to provide
29 facilities in addition to those currently available from
30 existing revenue sources. It further recognizes that there are
31 sources of private support that, if matched with state

1 support, can assist in constructing much needed facilities and
2 strengthen the commitment of citizens and organizations in
3 promoting excellence at each community college. Therefore, it
4 is the intent of the Legislature to establish a program to
5 provide the opportunity for each community college through its
6 direct-support organization to receive and match challenge
7 grants for instructional and community-related capital
8 facilities within the community college.

9 (2) There is established the Community College
10 Facility Enhancement Challenge Grant Program for the purpose
11 of assisting the community colleges in building high priority
12 instructional and community-related capital facilities
13 consistent with s. 1004.65, including common areas connecting
14 such facilities. The direct-support organizations that serve
15 the community colleges shall solicit gifts from private
16 sources to provide matching funds for capital facilities. For
17 the purposes of this section, private sources of funds shall
18 not include any federal or state government funds that a
19 community college may receive.

20 (3) The Community College Capital Facilities Matching
21 Program shall provide funds to match private contributions for
22 the development of high priority instructional and
23 community-related capital facilities, including common areas
24 connecting such facilities, within the community colleges.

25 (4) Within the direct-support organization of each
26 community college there must be established a separate capital
27 facilities matching account for the purpose of providing
28 matching funds from the direct-support organization's
29 unrestricted donations or other private contributions for the
30 development of high priority instructional and
31 community-related capital facilities, including common areas

1 connecting such facilities. The Legislature shall appropriate
2 funds for distribution to a community college after matching
3 funds are certified by the direct-support organization and
4 community college. The Public Education Capital Outlay and
5 Debt Service Trust Fund shall not be used as the source of the
6 state match for private contributions.

7 (5) A project may not be initiated unless all private
8 funds for planning, construction, and equipping the facility
9 have been received and deposited in the direct-support
10 organization's matching account and the state's share for the
11 minimum amount of funds needed to begin the project has been
12 appropriated by the Legislature. The Legislature may
13 appropriate the state's matching funds in one or more fiscal
14 years for the planning, construction, and equipping of an
15 eligible facility. However, these requirements shall not
16 preclude the community college or direct-support organization
17 from expending available funds from private sources to develop
18 a prospectus, including preliminary architectural schematics
19 and/or models, for use in its efforts to raise private funds
20 for a facility. Additionally, any private sources of funds
21 expended for this purpose are eligible for state matching
22 funds should the project materialize as provided for in this
23 section.

24 (6) To be eligible to participate in the Community
25 College Facility Enhancement Challenge Grant Program, a
26 community college, through its direct-support organization,
27 shall raise a contribution equal to one-half of the total cost
28 of a facilities construction project from private sources
29 which shall be matched by a state appropriation equal to the
30 amount raised for a facilities construction project, subject
31 to the General Appropriations Act.

1 (7) If the state's share of the required match is
2 insufficient to meet the requirements of subsection (6), the
3 community college shall renegotiate the terms of the
4 contribution with the donors. If the project is terminated,
5 each private donation, plus accrued interest, reverts to the
6 direct-support organization for remittance to the donor.

7 (8) By September 1 of each year, the State Board of
8 Education shall transmit to the Legislature a list of projects
9 which meet all eligibility requirements to participate in the
10 Community College Facility Enhancement Challenge Grant Program
11 and a budget request which includes the recommended schedule
12 necessary to complete each project.

13 (9) In order for a project to be eligible under this
14 program, it must be survey recommended under the provisions of
15 s. 1013.31 and included in the community colleges 5-year
16 capital improvement plan, and it must receive prior approval
17 from the State Board of Education.

18 (10) A community college project may not be removed
19 from the approved 3-year PECO priority list because of its
20 successful participation in this program until approved by the
21 Legislature and provided for in the General Appropriations
22 Act. When such a project is completed and removed from the
23 list, all other projects shall move up on the 3-year PECO
24 priority list.

25 (11) Any project funds that are unexpended after a
26 project is completed shall revert to the community college's
27 direct-support organization capital facilities matching
28 account. Fifty percent of such unexpended funds shall be
29 reserved for the community college which originally received
30 the private contribution for the purpose of providing private
31 matching funds for future facility construction projects as

1 provided in this section. The balance of such unexpended funds
2 shall be returned to the General Revenue Fund.

3 (12) The surveys, architectural plans, facility, and
4 equipment shall be the property of the participating community
5 college. A facility constructed under this section may be
6 named in honor of a donor at the option of the community
7 college district board of trustees. A facility may not be
8 named after a living person without prior approval by the
9 State Board of Education.

10 Section 629. Part I.c. of chapter 1011, Florida
11 Statutes, shall be entitled "Universities: Preparation,
12 Adoption, and Implementation of Budgets" and shall consist of
13 ss. 1011.40-1011.52.

14 Section 630. Section 1011.40, Florida Statutes, is
15 created to read:

16 1011.40 Budgets for universities.--

17 (1) LEGISLATIVE BUDGET REQUEST.--The State Board of
18 Education shall provide instructions, guidelines, and standard
19 formats to be used by each university that will provide to the
20 State Board of Education and the Legislature adequate
21 information to support and justify the legislative budget
22 requests submitted pursuant to ss. 216.023, 1013.60, and
23 1011.90 for each university.

24 (2) OPERATING BUDGET.--Each university board of
25 trustees shall adopt an operating budget for the operation of
26 the university as prescribed by law and rules of the State
27 Board of Education. Each university president shall prepare
28 and implement the operating budget of the university as
29 prescribed by law, rules of the State Board of Education,
30 policies of the university board of trustees, and provisions
31 of the General Appropriations Act. The proposed expenditures,

1 plus transfers, and balances shall not exceed the estimated
2 income, transfers, and balances. The budget and each part
3 thereof shall balance. If at any time the unencumbered balance
4 in the education and general fund of the university board of
5 trustees approved operating budget goes below five percent,
6 the president shall provide written notification to the State
7 Board of Education.

8 (3) EXPENDITURES.--Expenditures from any source of
9 funds by any university shall not exceed the funds available.
10 Expenditures shall not exceed the amount budgeted under each
11 classification of accounts for each fund and the total amount
12 of the budget, as amended as prescribed by rules of the State
13 Board of Education. No expenditure of funds, contract, or
14 agreement of any nature shall be made that requires additional
15 appropriation of funds by the Legislature unless specifically
16 authorized in advance by law or the General Appropriations
17 Act.

18 (4) DISTRIBUTION OF APPROPRIATION.--Funds appropriated
19 in the General Appropriations Act for the operation of state
20 universities shall be distributed by the State Board of
21 Education to the universities twice monthly. The Executive
22 Office of the Governor may modify this schedule if required to
23 meet specific needs of a university.

24 Section 631. Section 1011.41, Florida Statutes, is
25 created to read:

26 1011.41 University appropriations.--Funds for the
27 general operations of universities shall be requested and
28 appropriated as Aid to Local Governments Grants and Aids,
29 subject to provisions of the General Appropriations Act.

30 Section 632. Section 1011.4105, Florida Statutes, is
31 created to read:

1 1011.4105 Transition from state accounting system
2 (FLAIR) to university accounting system.--
3 (1) Universities and colleges under the supervision of
4 the State Board of Education shall use the state accounting
5 system (FLAIR) for fiscal year 2002-2003. The universities
6 shall not be required to provide funds to the Department of
7 Banking and Finance for the utilization of FLAIR.
8 (2) Beginning with the 2003-2004 fiscal year any
9 university may transition from FLAIR to the university's
10 accounting system.
11 (3) To accomplish the transition from FLAIR to a
12 university's accounting system the university board of
13 trustees must submit to the State Board of Education a plan
14 developed in cooperation with the State Comptroller (Chief
15 Financial Officer.) The plan must contain the actions the
16 university will take, or has taken, to implement this
17 transition. The plan must provide time lines for completion of
18 actions and the target date the university will have
19 implemented and tested parallel systems with appropriate audit
20 and internal controls in place that will enable the university
21 to satisfactorily and timely perform all accounting and
22 reporting functions required by State and Federal law and
23 rules of the State Board of Education.
24 (4) When a university is ready to transition from
25 FLAIR to its own system, the State Board of Education shall
26 verify that the system the university has implemented and
27 tested is adequate for the university, the university has
28 appropriate audit and internal controls in place, the
29 university has the resources required to operate and maintain
30 the system, and that the university and the State Comptroller
31 (Chief Financial Officer) are prepared to implement the

1 transition. The State Board of Education shall submit to the
2 Executive Office of the Governor and the Chairs of the
3 Appropriations Committees of the Senate and House of
4 Representatives confirmation of this verification and the date
5 the transition will be effective. Transition for any
6 university shall not take place until after the State Board of
7 Education has submitted this confirmation.

8 (5) The State Board of Education in cooperation with
9 each university and the Department of Banking and Finance
10 shall develop a plan and establish the deadline for all
11 universities to have completed the transition from FLAIR. The
12 Board shall submit a copy of this plan to the Executive Office
13 of the Governor and the Chairs of the Appropriations
14 Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives.

15 Section 633. Section 1011.4106, Florida Statutes, is
16 created to read:

17 1011.4106 Trust fund dissolution.--Notwithstanding the
18 provisions of ss. 215.3206(2) and 215.3208(2), and pursuant to
19 s. 216.351, all unexpended balances as of June 30, 2002 in the
20 following state university system trust funds are hereby
21 appropriated to the appropriate accounts of each university
22 based upon the original source of the trust fund revenue and
23 any accrued interest: the Education/General Student and Other
24 Fees Trust Fund, the Experiment Station Federal Grant Trust
25 Fund, the Experiment Station Incidental Trust Fund, the
26 Extension Service Federal Grant Trust Fund, the Extension
27 Service Incidental Trust Fund, the Incidental Trust Fund, the
28 UF Health Center Operations and Maintenance Trust Fund, the
29 Operations and Maintenance Trust Fund, and all other trust
30 funds in the State Treasury for universities. Expenditure of
31 these funds by each university must be based on the laws,

1 rules, grant agreements, or other legal controlling factors
2 associated with all trust fund balances which are appropriated
3 to local accounts pursuant to this section, and included in
4 each university board of trustees' approved operating budget.
5 Each university shall be responsible for the payment of
6 outstanding debts or obligations associated with these funds.

7 Section 634. Section 1011.411, Florida Statutes, is
8 created to read:

9 1011.411 Budgets for sponsored research at
10 universities.--Funds for sponsored research at each university
11 shall be budgeted and expended pursuant to ss. 1010.30 and
12 1011.42.

13 Section 635. Section 1011.42, Florida Statutes, is
14 created to read:

15 1011.42 University depositories; deposits into and
16 withdrawals from depositories.--

17 (1) The board of trustees of each university shall
18 designate the depositories in which any university funds may
19 be deposited. No bank shall be designated unless it is a
20 qualified depository as provided by Florida Statutes.

21 (2) All funds received by a university, from whatever
22 source and for whatever purpose, shall promptly be deposited
23 in a board of trustees approved qualified depository.

24 (3) The board of trustees shall require an accurate
25 and complete set of accounts to be maintained in the books and
26 records for each fund on deposit in each university
27 depository. Each account shall show the amount subject to
28 withdrawal, the amount deposited, the amount expended, and the
29 balance of the account.

30 (4) The university may maintain a separate checking
31 account for each fund or may utilize a single checking account

1 for the deposit and withdrawal of moneys from all funds and
2 segregate the various funds on the books and records only. No
3 check or withdrawal shall be drawn in excess of the balance to
4 the credit of the appropriate fund.

5 (5) Funds awaiting clearing may be invested in
6 investments earning interest in a qualified depository, in the
7 State Treasury, and in the State Board of Administration.
8 Investments of university funds shall comply with the
9 requirements of Florida Statutes for the investment of public
10 funds by local government. Due diligence shall be exercised to
11 assure that the highest available amount of earnings is
12 obtained on investments.

13 (6) The university president or his designee, after
14 having been specifically authorized by the university board of
15 trustees, may transfer funds from one depository to another,
16 within a depository, to another institution, or from another
17 institution to a depository for investment purposes and may
18 transfer funds in a similar manner when the transfer does not
19 represent an expenditure, advance, or reduction of cash
20 assets.

21 (7) The university board of trustees shall
22 specifically designate and spread upon the minutes of the
23 board the legal name and position title of any university
24 employee authorized to sign checks to pay legal obligations of
25 the university.

26 Section 636. Section 1011.43, Florida Statutes, is
27 created to read:

28 1011.43 Investment of university agency and activity
29 funds; earnings used for scholarships.--Each university is
30 authorized to invest available agency and activity funds and
31 to use the earnings from such investments for student

1 scholarships and loans. The university board of trustees shall
2 provide procedures for the administration of these
3 scholarships and loans by rules.

4 Section 637. Section 1011.45, Florida Statutes, is
5 created to read:

6 1011.45 End of year balance of funds.--Unexpended
7 amounts in any fund in a university current year operating
8 budget shall be carried forward and included as the balance
9 forward for that fund in the approved operating budget for the
10 following year.

11 Section 638. Section 1011.47, Florida Statutes, is
12 created to read:

13 1011.47 Auxiliary enterprises; contracts, grants, and
14 donations.--As used in s. 19(f)(3), Art. III of the State
15 Constitution, the term:

16 (1) "Auxiliary enterprises" includes activities that
17 directly or indirectly provide a product or a service, or
18 both, to a university or its students, faculty, or staff and
19 for which a charge is made. These auxiliary enterprises are
20 business activities of a university which require no support
21 from the General Revenue Fund, and include activities such as
22 housing, bookstores, student health services, continuing
23 education programs, food services, college stores, operation
24 of vending machines, specialty shops, day care centers, golf
25 courses, student activities programs, data center operations,
26 and intercollegiate athletics programs.

27 (2) "Contracts, grants, and donations" includes
28 noneducational and general funding sources in support of
29 research, public services, and training. The term includes
30 grants and donations, sponsored-research contracts, and
31 Department of Education funding for developmental research

1 schools and other activities for which the funds are deposited
2 outside the State Treasury.

3 Section 639. Section 1011.48, Florida Statutes, is
4 created to read:

5 1011.48 Establishment of educational research centers
6 for child development.--

7 (1) Upon approval of the university president, the
8 student government association of any state university may
9 establish an educational research center for child development
10 in accordance with the provisions of this section. Each such
11 center shall be a child day care center established to provide
12 care for the children of students, both graduate and
13 undergraduate, faculty, and other staff and employees of the
14 university and to provide an opportunity for interested
15 schools or departments of the university to conduct
16 educational research programs and establish internship
17 programs within such centers. Whenever possible, such center
18 shall be located on the campus of the university. There shall
19 be a director of each center, selected by the board of
20 directors of the center.

21 (2) There shall be a board of directors for each
22 educational research center for child development, consisting
23 of the president of the university or his or her designee, the
24 student government president or his or her designee, the chair
25 of each department participating in the center or his or her
26 designee, and one parent for each 50 children enrolled in the
27 center, elected by the parents of children enrolled in the
28 center. The director of the center shall be an ex officio,
29 nonvoting member of the board. The board shall establish local
30 policies and perform local oversight and operational guidance
31 for the center.

1 (3) Each center is authorized to charge fees for the
2 care and services it provides. Such fees must be approved by
3 the State Board of Education and may be imposed on a sliding
4 scale based on ability to pay or any other factors deemed
5 relevant by the board.

6 (4) The State Board of Education is authorized and
7 directed to promulgate rules for the establishment, operation,
8 and supervision of educational research centers for child
9 development. Such rules shall include, but need not be limited
10 to: a defined method of establishment of and participation in
11 the operation of centers by the appropriate student government
12 associations; guidelines for the establishment of an intern
13 program in each center; and guidelines for the receipt and
14 monitoring of funds from grants and other sources of funds
15 consistent with existing laws.

16 (5) Each educational research center for child
17 development shall be funded by a portion of the Capital
18 Improvement Trust Fund fee established by the State Board of
19 Education pursuant to s. 1009.24(7). Each university that
20 establishes a center shall receive a portion of such fees
21 collected from the students enrolled at that university,
22 usable only at that university, equal to 22.5 cents per
23 student per credit hour taken per term, based on the summer
24 term and fall and spring semesters. This allocation shall be
25 used by the university only for the establishment and
26 operation of a center as provided by this section and rules
27 promulgated hereunder. Said allocation may be made only after
28 all bond obligations required to be paid from such fees have
29 been met.

30 Section 640. Section 1011.49, Florida Statutes, is
31 created to read:

1 1011.49 Assent to Smith-Lever Act; university board of
2 trustees authorized to receive grants.--The Legislature, in
3 behalf of and for the state, assents to, and gives its assent
4 to, the provisions and requirements of the Act of Congress
5 commonly known as the "Smith-Lever Act," and all acts
6 supplemental thereto, and the University of Florida Board of
7 Trustees, having supervision over and control of the
8 University of Florida, located at Gainesville, may receive the
9 grants of money appropriated under said Act of Congress and
10 organize and conduct agricultural and home economics extension
11 work, which shall be carried on in connection with the
12 University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural
13 Sciences, in accordance with the terms and conditions
14 expressed in said Act of Congress.

15 Section 641. Section 1011.50, Florida Statutes, is
16 created to read:

17 1011.50 Agricultural experiment stations; assent to
18 Act of Congress; federal appropriation.--The objects and
19 purposes contained in the Act of Congress entitled "An Act to
20 provide for an increased annual appropriation for agricultural
21 experiment stations and regulating the expenditure thereof"
22 are assented to; and the Board of Trustees of the University
23 of Florida is authorized to accept and receive the annual
24 appropriations for the use and benefit of the agricultural
25 experiment station fund of the Institute of Food and
26 Agricultural Sciences of the University of Florida, located at
27 Gainesville, upon the terms and conditions contained in said
28 Act of Congress.

29 Section 642. Section 1011.501, Florida Statutes, is
30 created to read:

31

1 1011.501 Assent to ss. 1444 and 1445 of the Food and
2 Agriculture Act of 1977; board of trustees authorized to
3 receive grants, etc.--The assent of Legislature is given to
4 the provisions and requirements of ss. 1444 and 1445 of the
5 Act of Congress commonly known as the "Food and Agriculture
6 Act of 1977" and all acts supplemental thereto. The Board of
7 Trustees of the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
8 may receive grants of money appropriated under said sections
9 of said act and may organize and conduct agricultural
10 extension work and conduct agricultural research, which shall
11 be carried on in connection with the College of Engineering
12 Sciences, Technology and Agriculture of said Florida
13 Agricultural and Mechanical University, in accordance with the
14 terms and conditions expressed in the Act of Congress
15 aforsaid.

16 Section 643. Section 1011.51, Florida Statutes, is
17 created to read:

18 1011.51 Independent postsecondary endowment grants.--
19 (1) The Legislature finds and declares that accredited
20 baccalaureate-degree-granting independent nonprofit colleges
21 and universities are an integral part of the higher education
22 system in this state; that significant numbers of persons
23 choose to utilize these institutions for obtaining higher
24 education; that the burdens on public colleges and
25 universities are lessened because of the students that choose
26 to utilize these institutions for their higher education; that
27 having a strong system of baccalaureate-degree-granting
28 independent nonprofit colleges and universities will improve
29 the educational, economic, and social well-being of the state;
30 and that creation of a state program to provide matching
31 endowment grants will improve the academic excellence of these

1 institutions and enhance educational opportunities for Florida
2 citizens, furthering the improvement of the overall
3 educational system in the state.

4 (2) There is established the Florida Postsecondary
5 Endowment Grants Program to be administered by the Department
6 of Education. The program shall provide matching endowment
7 grants to independent nonprofit colleges and universities in
8 Florida that meet the requirements of this section. The
9 Legislature shall designate funds for the program to be
10 transferred to the Grants and Donations Trust Fund from
11 available sources. All funds transferred to the trust fund,
12 or retained in the trust fund, shall be invested in accordance
13 with the provisions of chapter 215. Notwithstanding the
14 provisions of s. 216.301 and pursuant to s. 216.351, any
15 undisbursed balance remaining in the trust fund for the
16 program and income from investments and interest related
17 thereto shall remain in the trust fund and shall increase the
18 total funds available for such matching endowment grants.

19 (3) The matching endowment grants made available under
20 this section shall be made available to any independent
21 nonprofit college or university which:

22 (a) Is located in and chartered by the state.

23 (b) Is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the
24 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

25 (c) Grants baccalaureate degrees.

26 (d) Is not a state university or community college.

27 (e) Has a secular purpose, so long as the receipt of
28 state aid by students at the institution would not have the
29 primary effect of advancing or impeding religion or result in
30 an excessive entanglement between the state and any religious
31 sect.

1 (4)(a) The amounts appropriated for the program shall
2 be allocated by the Department of Education to each
3 independent nonprofit college or university that meets the
4 criteria of subsection (3) in the following manner:
5 1. Each such college or university that raises an
6 endowment contribution of at least \$50,000, but no more than
7 \$75,000, from private sources shall receive a matching
8 endowment grant equal to 70 percent of the private
9 contribution.
10 2. Each such college or university that raises an
11 endowment contribution in excess of \$75,000, but no more than
12 \$100,000, from private sources shall receive a matching
13 endowment grant equal to 75 percent of the private
14 contribution.
15 3. Each such college or university that raises an
16 endowment contribution in excess of \$100,000, but no more than
17 \$125,000, from private sources shall receive a matching
18 endowment grant equal to 80 percent of the private
19 contribution.
20 4. Each such college or university that raises an
21 endowment contribution in excess of \$125,000 from private
22 sources shall receive a matching endowment grant equal to 100
23 percent of the private contribution.
24 (b) The private sources may include combined
25 contributions for a common purpose, but shall not include
26 separate unrelated contributions. The state endowment
27 matching grant shall be disbursed to the independent nonprofit
28 college or university upon certification by the college or
29 university that it has received and deposited the
30 proportionate amount specified in this subsection.
31

1 (c) Contributions may also be eligible for matching if
2 there is a commitment to make a donation of \$125,000, and an
3 initial payment of \$25,000 is accompanied by a written pledge
4 to provide the balance within 4 years after the date of such
5 initial payment. Payments on the balance must be at least
6 \$25,000 per year and shall be made on or before the
7 anniversary date of the initial payment. No matching
8 endowment grant shall be disbursed prior to collection of the
9 total pledged contribution from the private source, but a
10 pledged contribution shall encumber the matching endowment
11 grant for that independent nonprofit college or university.

12 (5)(a) By July 1 of each year, each independent
13 nonprofit college or university that desires to participate in
14 the program shall certify to the department its eligibility.
15 The department, upon receipt and acceptance of such
16 certifications, shall reserve an equal amount of the
17 additional funds for the program transferred to the Grants and
18 Donations Trust Fund for that fiscal year for each independent
19 nonprofit college or university that is eligible to
20 participate. An eligible independent nonprofit college or
21 university shall have 3 fiscal years within which to encumber
22 its share of trust funds reserved during the first 3 fiscal
23 years. After the third fiscal year, if any independent
24 nonprofit college or university does not fully utilize or
25 encumber its share of reserved trust funds for any single
26 fiscal year, such reserved funds shall be available in
27 subsequent fiscal years for the purposes of this program.

28 (b) Each eligible institution shall certify to the
29 department its contributions for the year ending June 30,
30 1989. Only the qualified new contributions above the certified
31 base shall be calculated for the purpose of allocating grants

1 during the first 3 years of the program. In subsequent years,
2 only the qualified new contributions above the certified prior
3 year base shall be calculated for the purpose of allocating
4 such grants.

5 (6) Matching endowment grants made pursuant to this
6 section to a qualified independent nonprofit college or
7 university shall be placed in a separate restricted endowment
8 by such institution. The interest or other income accruing
9 from the endowment shall be expended exclusively for
10 professorships, library resources, scientific and technical
11 equipment, and nonathletic scholarships. Moreover, the funds
12 in the endowment shall not be used for pervasively sectarian
13 instruction, religious worship, or theology or divinity
14 programs or resources. The records of the endowment shall be
15 subject to review by the department and audit or examination
16 by the Auditor General and the Office of Program Policy
17 Analysis and Government Accountability. If any institution
18 receiving a matching endowment grant pursuant to this section
19 ceases operations and undergoes dissolution proceedings, then
20 all funds received pursuant to this section from the state
21 shall be returned.

22 (7) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
23 necessary to implement this section.

24 (8) This section shall be implemented to the extent
25 specifically funded and authorized by law.

26 Section 644. Section 1011.52, Florida Statutes, is
27 created to read:

28 1011.52 Appropriation to first accredited medical
29 school.--

30 (1) Subject to the provisions hereinafter set forth,
31 the Legislature shall provide an annual appropriation to the

1 first accredited medical school. Payments of moneys from such
2 appropriation shall be made semiannually at the beginning of
3 the first and third quarters.

4 (2) In order for a medical school to qualify under the
5 provisions of this section and to be entitled to the benefits
6 herein, such medical school:

7 (a) Must be primarily operated and established to
8 offer, afford, and render a medical education to residents of
9 the state qualifying for admission to such institution;

10 (b) Must be operated by a municipality or county of
11 this state, or by a nonprofit organization heretofore or
12 hereafter established exclusively for educational purposes;

13 (c) Must, upon the formation and establishment of an
14 accredited medical school, transmit and file with the
15 Department of Education documentary proof evidencing the facts
16 that such institution has been certified and approved by the
17 council on medical education and hospitals of the American
18 Medical Association and has adequately met the requirements of
19 that council in regard to its administrative facilities,
20 administrative plant, clinical facilities, curriculum, and all
21 other such requirements as may be necessary to qualify with
22 the council as a recognized, approved, and accredited medical
23 school;

24 (d) Must certify to the Department of Education the
25 name, address, and educational history of each student
26 approved and accepted for enrollment in such institution for
27 the ensuing school year.

28 (3) The Department of Education shall, within 60 days
29 of the receipt of the student enrollment of the medical
30 school, pay to the school, each year, the amount appropriated
31 for students accepted and approved for enrollment in such

1 medical institution, provided each medical student is a legal
2 resident of the state or, if the student is not of legal age,
3 his or her parents or legal guardian are residents of the
4 state at the time of the student's acceptance and approval as
5 a medical student. In the event a student resigns or is
6 dismissed from such medical institution for any reason
7 whatsoever before the end of a school year, then the medical
8 institution shall, within 30 days from such dismissal or
9 resignation, remit to the state, through the Department of
10 Education, a pro rata amount of the sum before paid by the
11 state to the medical institution, which amount is to be
12 computed by dividing the total number of days in the school
13 year into the sum paid for that student and multiplying the
14 result by the total number of days remaining in such school
15 year after such resignation or dismissal.

16 (4) Such institution is prohibited from expending any
17 of the sums received under the terms of this section for any
18 purposes whatsoever, except for the operation and maintenance
19 of a medical school and for medical research. The institution
20 is further prohibited from expending any sums received under
21 the terms of this section for the construction or erection of
22 any buildings of any kind, nature, or description or for the
23 maintenance and operation of a hospital in any form or manner
24 whatsoever.

25 Section 645. Part I.d. of chapter 1011, Florida
26 Statutes, shall be entitled "Florida School for the Deaf and
27 the Blind: Preparation, Adoption, and Implementation of
28 Budgets" and shall consist of ss. 1011.55-1011.57.

29 Section 646. Section 1011.55, Florida Statutes, is
30 created to read:

31

1 1011.55 Procedure for legislative budget requests for
2 the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.--

3 (1) The legislative budget request of the Florida
4 School for the Deaf and the Blind shall be prepared using the
5 same format, procedures, and timelines required for the
6 submission of the legislative budget of the Department of
7 Education. The Commissioner of Education shall include the
8 Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind in the department's
9 legislative budget request to the State Board of Education,
10 the Governor, and the Legislature. The legislative budget
11 request and the appropriation for the Florida School for the
12 Deaf and the Blind shall be a separate identifiable sum in the
13 public schools budget entity of the Department of Education.
14 The annual appropriation for the school shall be distributed
15 monthly in payments as nearly equal as possible.
16 Appropriations for textbooks, instructional technology, and
17 school buses may be released and distributed as necessary to
18 serve the instructional program for the students.

19 (2) Fixed capital outlay needs of the school shall
20 continue to be requested in the public education capital
21 outlay legislative budget request of the Department of
22 Education.

23 Section 647. Section 1011.56, Florida Statutes, is
24 created to read:

25 1011.56 Operating budget for the Florida School for
26 the Deaf and the Blind.--The president of the school shall
27 recommend to the board of trustees a budget of income and
28 expenditures at such time and in such form as the board of
29 trustees may prescribe. The board of trustees shall adopt
30 procedures for the approval of budget amendments.

31

1 Section 648. Section 1011.57, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1011.57 Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind;
4 board of trustees; management flexibility.--

5 (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of ss. 216.031,
6 216.181, and 216.262 to the contrary and pursuant to the
7 provisions of s. 216.351, but subject to any guidelines
8 imposed in the General Appropriations Act, funds for the
9 operation of the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind
10 shall be requested and appropriated within budget entities,
11 program components, program categories, lump sums, or special
12 categories. Funds appropriated to the Florida School for the
13 Deaf and the Blind for each program category, lump sum, or
14 special category may be transferred to traditional categories
15 for expenditure by the board of trustees of the school. The
16 board of trustees shall develop an annual operating budget
17 that allocates funds by program component and traditional
18 expenditure category.

19 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 216.181 and
20 pursuant to the provisions of s. 216.351, but subject to any
21 requirements imposed in the General Appropriations Act, no
22 lump-sum plan is required to implement the special categories,
23 program categories, or lump-sum appropriations. Upon release
24 of the special categories, program categories, or lump-sum
25 appropriations to the board of trustees, the Comptroller, upon
26 the request of the board of trustees, shall transfer or
27 reallocate funds to or among accounts established for
28 disbursement purposes. The board of trustees shall maintain
29 records to account for the original appropriation.

30 (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of ss. 216.031,
31 216.181, 216.251, and 216.262 to the contrary and pursuant to

1 the provisions of s. 216.351, but subject to any requirements
2 imposed in the General Appropriations Act, the board of
3 trustees shall establish the authorized positions and may
4 amend such positions, within the total funds authorized
5 annually in the appropriations act.

6 Section 649. Part II of chapter 1011, Florida
7 Statutes, shall be entitled "Funding for School Districts" and
8 shall consist of ss. 1011.60-1011.77.

9 Section 650. Section 1011.60, Florida Statutes, is
10 created to read:

11 1011.60 Minimum requirements of the Florida Education
12 Finance Program.--Each district which participates in the
13 state appropriations for the Florida Education Finance Program
14 shall provide evidence of its effort to maintain an adequate
15 school program throughout the district and shall meet at least
16 the following requirements:

17 (1) ACCOUNTS AND REPORTS.--Maintain adequate and
18 accurate records, including a system of internal accounts for
19 individual schools, and file with the Department of Education,
20 in correct and proper form on or before the date due as fixed
21 by law or rule, each annual or periodic report that is
22 required by rules of the State Board of Education.

23 (2) MINIMUM TERM.--Operate all schools for a term of
24 at least 180 actual teaching days as prescribed in s.
25 1003.01(14) or the equivalent on an hourly basis as specified
26 by rules of the State Board of Education each school year. The
27 State Board of Education may prescribe procedures for
28 altering, and, upon written application, may alter, this
29 requirement during a national, state, or local emergency as it
30 may apply to an individual school or schools in any district
31 or districts if, in the opinion of the board, it is not

1 feasible to make up lost days, and the apportionment may, at
2 the discretion of the Commissioner of Education and if the
3 board determines that the reduction of school days is caused
4 by the existence of a bona fide emergency, be reduced for such
5 district or districts in proportion to the decrease in the
6 length of term in any such school or schools. A strike, as
7 defined in s. 447.203(6), by employees of the school district
8 may not be considered an emergency.

9 (3) EMPLOYMENT POLICIES.--Adopt rules relating to the
10 appointment, promotion, transfer, suspension, and dismissal of
11 personnel.

12 (a) Such rules must conform to applicable law and
13 rules of the State Board of Education and must include the
14 duties and responsibilities of the district school
15 superintendent and school board pertaining to these and other
16 personnel matters.

17 (b) All personnel shall be paid in accordance with
18 payroll period schedules adopted by the school board and
19 included in the official salary schedule.

20 (c) No salary payment shall be paid to any employee in
21 advance of service being rendered.

22 (d) District school boards may authorize a maximum of
23 six paid legal holidays which shall apply to the 196 days of
24 service.

25 (e) Such rules may include reasonable time for
26 vacation and absences for further professional studies for
27 personnel employed on a 12-month basis.

28 (f) Such rules must require 12 calendar months of
29 service for such principals as prescribed by rules of the
30 State Board of Education and must require 10 months to include
31 not less than 196 days of service, excluding Sundays and other

1 holidays, for all members of the instructional staff, with any
2 such service on a 12-month basis to include reasonable
3 allowance for vacation or further study as prescribed by the
4 school board in accordance with rules of the State Board of
5 Education.

6 (4) SALARY SCHEDULES.--Expend funds for salaries in
7 accordance with a salary schedule or schedules adopted by the
8 school board in accordance with the provisions of law and
9 rules of the State Board of Education. Expenditures for
10 salaries of instructional personnel must include compensation
11 based on employee performance demonstrated under s. 1012.34.

12 (5) BUDGETS.--Observe fully at all times all
13 requirements of law and rules of the State Board of Education
14 relating to the preparation, adoption, and execution of
15 budgets for district school boards.

16 (6) MINIMUM FINANCIAL EFFORT REQUIRED.--Make the
17 minimum financial effort required for the support of the
18 Florida Education Finance Program as prescribed in the current
19 year's General Appropriations Act.

20 (7) DISTRICT EDUCATIONAL PLANNING.--Maintain a system
21 of planning and evaluation as required by law.

22 (8) MINIMUM CLASSROOM EXPENDITURE
23 REQUIREMENTS.--Comply with the minimum classroom expenditure
24 requirements and associated reporting pursuant to s. 1011.64.

25 Section 651. Section 1011.61, Florida Statutes, is
26 created to read:

27 1011.61 Definitions.--Notwithstanding the provisions
28 of s. 1000.21, the following terms are defined as follows for
29 the purposes of the Florida Education Finance Program:

30
31

1 (1) A "full-time equivalent student" in each program
2 of the district is defined in terms of full-time students and
3 part-time students as follows:

4 (a) A "full-time student" is one student on the
5 membership roll of one school program or a combination of
6 school programs listed in s. 1011.62(1)(c) for the school year
7 or the equivalent for:

8 1. Instruction in a standard school, comprising not
9 less than 900 net hours for a student in or at the grade level
10 of 4 through 12, or not less than 720 net hours for a student
11 in or at the grade level of kindergarten through grade 3 or in
12 an authorized prekindergarten exceptional program;

13 2. Instruction in a double-session school or a school
14 utilizing an experimental school calendar approved by the
15 Department of Education, comprising not less than the
16 equivalent of 810 net hours in grades 4 through 12 or not less
17 than 630 net hours in kindergarten through grade 3; or

18 3. Instruction comprising the appropriate number of
19 net hours set forth in subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2. for
20 students who, within the past year, have moved with their
21 parents for the purpose of engaging in the farm labor or fish
22 industries, if a plan furnishing such an extended school day
23 or week, or a combination thereof, has been approved by the
24 commissioner. Such plan may be approved to accommodate the
25 needs of migrant students only or may serve all students in
26 schools having a high percentage of migrant students. The plan
27 described in this subparagraph is optional for any school
28 district and is not mandated by the state.

29 (b) A "part-time student" is a student on the active
30 membership roll of a school program or combination of school
31

1 programs listed in s. 1011.62(1)(c) who is less than a
2 full-time student.
3 (c)1. A "full-time equivalent student" is:
4 a. A full-time student in any one of the programs
5 listed in s. 1011.62(1)(c); or
6 b. A combination of full-time or part-time students in
7 any one of the programs listed in s. 1011.62(1)(c) which is
8 the equivalent of one full-time student based on the following
9 calculations:
10 (I) A full-time student, except a postsecondary or
11 adult student or a senior high school student enrolled in
12 adult education when such courses are required for high school
13 graduation, in a combination of programs listed in s.
14 1011.62(1)(c) shall be a fraction of a full-time equivalent
15 membership in each special program equal to the number of net
16 hours per school year for which he or she is a member, divided
17 by the appropriate number of hours set forth in subparagraph
18 (a)1. or subparagraph (a)2. The difference between that
19 fraction or sum of fractions and the maximum value as set
20 forth in subsection (4) for each full-time student is presumed
21 to be the balance of the student's time not spent in such
22 special education programs and shall be recorded as time in
23 the appropriate basic program.
24 (II) A prekindergarten handicapped student shall meet
25 the requirements specified for kindergarten students.
26 2. A student in membership in a program scheduled for
27 more or less than 180 school days is a fraction of a full-time
28 equivalent membership equal to the number of instructional
29 hours in membership divided by the appropriate number of hours
30 set forth in subparagraph (a)1.; however, for the purposes of
31 this subparagraph, membership in programs scheduled for more

1 than 180 days is limited to students enrolled in juvenile
2 justice education programs.

3
4 The department shall determine and implement an equitable
5 method of equivalent funding for experimental schools and for
6 schools operating under emergency conditions, which schools
7 have been approved by the department to operate for less than
8 the minimum school day.

9 (2) A "full-time equivalent student" is a student in
10 grades 4 through 8 who is participating in a student-teacher
11 adviser program conducted during homeroom period, who is a
12 fraction of a full-time equivalent membership based on net
13 hours in the program, with a maximum of 36 net hours in any
14 fiscal year. Each district program shall be approved by the
15 Department of Education.

16 (3) For the purpose of calculating the "current
17 operation program," a student is in membership until he or she
18 withdraws or until the close of the 11th consecutive school
19 day of his or her absence, whichever comes first.

20 (4) The maximum value for funding a student in
21 kindergarten through grade 12 or in a prekindergarten program
22 for exceptional children as provided in s. 1003.21(1)(e),
23 except for a student as set forth in sub-sub-subparagraph
24 (1)(c)1.b.(I), is one full-time equivalent student membership
25 for a school year or equivalent.

26 (5) The "Florida Education Finance Program" includes
27 all programs and costs as provided in s. 1011.62.

28 (6) "Basic programs" include, but are not limited to,
29 language arts, mathematics, art, music, physical education,
30 science, and social studies.

31

1 Section 652. Section 1011.62, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1011.62 Funds for operation of schools.--If the annual
4 allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each
5 district for operation of schools is not determined in the
6 annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing
7 the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as
8 follows:

9 (1) COMPUTATION OF THE BASIC AMOUNT TO BE INCLUDED FOR
10 OPERATION.--The following procedure shall be followed in
11 determining the annual allocation to each district for
12 operation:

13 (a) Determination of full-time equivalent
14 membership.--During each of several school weeks, including
15 scheduled intersessions of a year-round school program during
16 the fiscal year, a program membership survey of each school
17 shall be made by each district by aggregating the full-time
18 equivalent student membership of each program by school and by
19 district. The department shall establish the number and
20 interval of membership calculations, except that for basic and
21 special programs such calculations shall not exceed nine for
22 any fiscal year. The district's full-time equivalent
23 membership shall be computed and currently maintained in
24 accordance with regulations of the commissioner.

25 (b) Determination of base student allocation.--The
26 base student allocation for the Florida Education Finance
27 Program for kindergarten through grade 12 shall be determined
28 annually by the Legislature and shall be that amount
29 prescribed in the current year's General Appropriations Act.

30 (c) Determination of programs.--Cost factors based on
31 desired relative cost differences between the following

1 programs shall be established in the annual General
2 Appropriations Act. The Commissioner of Education shall
3 specify a matrix of services and intensity levels to be used
4 by districts in the determination of the two weighted cost
5 factors for exceptional students with the highest levels of
6 need. For these students, the funding support level shall fund
7 the exceptional students' education program, with the
8 exception of extended school year services for students with
9 disabilities.

10 1. Basic programs.--

11 a. Kindergarten and grades 1, 2, and 3.

12 b. Grades 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8.

13 c. Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12.

14 2. Programs for exceptional students.--

15 a. Support Level IV.

16 b. Support Level V.

17 3. Secondary career and technical education
18 programs.--

19 4. English for Speakers of Other Languages.--

20 (d) Annual allocation calculation.--

21 1. The Department of Education is authorized and
22 directed to review all district programs and enrollment
23 projections and calculate a maximum total weighted full-time
24 equivalent student enrollment for each district for the K-12
25 FEFP.

26 2. Maximum enrollments calculated by the department
27 shall be derived from enrollment estimates used by the
28 Legislature to calculate the FEFP. If two or more districts
29 enter into an agreement under the provisions of s.
30 1001.42(4)(d), after the final enrollment estimate is agreed
31 upon, the amount of FTE specified in the agreement, not to

1 exceed the estimate for the specific program as identified in
2 paragraph (c), may be transferred from the participating
3 districts to the district providing the program.

4 3. As part of its calculation of each district's
5 maximum total weighted full-time equivalent student
6 enrollment, the department shall establish separate enrollment
7 ceilings for each of two program groups. Group 1 shall be
8 composed of basic programs for grades K-3, grades 4-8, and
9 grades 9-12. Group 2 shall be composed of students in
10 exceptional student education programs, English for Speakers
11 of Other Languages programs, and all career and technical
12 programs in grades 7-12.

13 a. The weighted enrollment ceiling for group 2
14 programs shall be calculated by multiplying the final
15 enrollment conference estimate for each program by the
16 appropriate program weight. The weighted enrollment ceiling
17 for program group 2 shall be the sum of the weighted
18 enrollment ceilings for each program in the program group,
19 plus the increase in weighted full-time equivalent student
20 membership from the prior year for clients of the Department
21 of Children and Family Services and the Department of Juvenile
22 Justice.

23 b. If, for any calculation of the FEFP, the weighted
24 enrollment for program group 2, derived by multiplying actual
25 enrollments by appropriate program weights, exceeds the
26 enrollment ceiling for that group, the following procedure
27 shall be followed to reduce the weighted enrollment for that
28 group to equal the enrollment ceiling:

29 (I) The weighted enrollment ceiling for each program
30 in the program group shall be subtracted from the weighted
31 enrollment for that program derived from actual enrollments.

1 (II) If the difference calculated under
2 sub-sub-subparagraph (I) is greater than zero for any program,
3 a reduction proportion shall be computed for the program by
4 dividing the absolute value of the difference by the total
5 amount by which the weighted enrollment for the program group
6 exceeds the weighted enrollment ceiling for the program group.

7 (III) The reduction proportion calculated under
8 sub-sub-subparagraph (II) shall be multiplied by the total
9 amount of the program group's enrollment over the ceiling as
10 calculated under sub-sub-subparagraph (I).

11 (IV) The prorated reduction amount calculated under
12 sub-sub-subparagraph (III) shall be subtracted from the
13 program's weighted enrollment. For any calculation of the
14 FEFP, the enrollment ceiling for group 1 shall be calculated
15 by multiplying the actual enrollment for each program in the
16 program group by its appropriate program weight.

17 c. For program group 2, the weighted enrollment
18 ceiling shall be a number not less than the sum obtained by:

19 (I) Multiplying the sum of reported FTE for all
20 programs in the program group that have a cost factor of 1.0
21 or more by 1.0, and

22 (II) By adding this number to the sum obtained by
23 multiplying the projected FTE for all programs with a cost
24 factor less than 1.0 by the actual cost factor.

25 4. Following completion of the weighted enrollment
26 ceiling calculation as provided in subparagraph 3., a
27 supplemental capping calculation shall be employed for those
28 districts that are over their weighted enrollment ceiling. For
29 each such district, the total reported unweighted FTE
30 enrollment for group 2 programs shall be compared with the
31 total appropriated unweighted FTE enrollment for group 2

1 programs. If the total reported unweighted FTE for group 2 is
2 greater than the appropriated unweighted FTE, then the excess
3 unweighted FTE up to the unweighted FTE transferred from group
4 2 to group 1 for each district by the Public School FTE
5 Estimating Conference shall be funded at a weight of 1.0 and
6 added to the funded weighted FTE computed in subparagraph 3.

7 (e) Funding model for exceptional student education
8 programs.--

9 1.a. The funding model uses basic, at-risk, support
10 levels IV and V for exceptional students and career and
11 technical Florida Education Finance Program cost factors, and
12 a guaranteed allocation for exceptional student education
13 programs. Exceptional education cost factors are determined by
14 using a matrix of services to document the services that each
15 exceptional student will receive. The nature and intensity of
16 the services indicated on the matrix shall be consistent with
17 the services described in each exceptional student's
18 individual educational plan.

19 b. In order to generate funds using one of the two
20 weighted cost factors, a matrix of services must be completed
21 at the time of the student's initial placement into an
22 exceptional student education program and at least once every
23 3 years by personnel who have received approved training.
24 Nothing listed in the matrix shall be construed as limiting
25 the services a school district must provide in order to ensure
26 that exceptional students are provided a free, appropriate
27 public education.

28 c. Students identified as exceptional, in accordance
29 with chapter 6A-6, Florida Administrative Code, who do not
30 have a matrix of services as specified in sub-subparagraph b.
31 shall generate funds on the basis of full-time-equivalent

1 student membership in the Florida Education Finance Program at
2 the same funding level per student as provided for basic
3 students. Additional funds for these exceptional students will
4 be provided through the guaranteed allocation designated in
5 subparagraph 2.

6 2. For students identified as exceptional who do not
7 have a matrix of services, there is created a guaranteed
8 allocation to provide these students with a free appropriate
9 public education, in accordance with s. 1001.42(4)(m) and
10 rules of the State Board of Education, which shall be
11 allocated annually to each school district in the amount
12 provided in the General Appropriations Act. These funds shall
13 be in addition to the funds appropriated on the basis of FTE
14 student membership in the Florida Education Finance Program,
15 and the amount allocated for each school district shall not be
16 recalculated during the year. These funds shall be used to
17 provide special education and related services for exceptional
18 students.

19 (f) Supplemental academic instruction; categorical
20 fund.--

21 1. There is created a categorical fund to provide
22 supplemental academic instruction to students in kindergarten
23 through grade 12. This paragraph may be cited as the
24 "Supplemental Academic Instruction Categorical Fund."

25 2. Categorical funds for supplemental academic
26 instruction shall be allocated annually to each school
27 district in the amount provided in the General Appropriations
28 Act. These funds shall be in addition to the funds
29 appropriated on the basis of FTE student membership in the
30 Florida Education Finance Program and shall be included in the
31 total potential funds of each district. These funds shall be

1 used to provide supplemental academic instruction to students
2 enrolled in the K-12 program. Supplemental instruction
3 strategies may include, but are not limited to: modified
4 curriculum, reading instruction, after-school instruction,
5 tutoring, mentoring, class size reduction, extended school
6 year, intensive skills development in summer school, and other
7 methods for improving student achievement. Supplemental
8 instruction may be provided to a student in any manner and at
9 any time during or beyond the regular 180-day term identified
10 by the school as being the most effective and efficient way to
11 best help that student progress from grade to grade and to
12 graduate.

13 3. Effective with the 1999-2000 fiscal year, funding
14 on the basis of FTE membership beyond the 180-day regular term
15 shall be provided in the FEFP only for students enrolled in
16 juvenile justice education programs. Funding for instruction
17 beyond the regular 180-day school year for all other K-12
18 students shall be provided through the supplemental academic
19 instruction categorical fund and other state, federal, and
20 local fund sources with ample flexibility for schools to
21 provide supplemental instruction to assist students in
22 progressing from grade to grade and graduating.

23 4. The Florida State University School, as a
24 developmental research school, is authorized to expend from
25 its FEFP or Lottery Enhancement Trust Fund allocation the cost
26 to the student of remediation in reading, writing, or
27 mathematics for any graduate who requires remediation at a
28 postsecondary educational institution.

29 5. Beginning in the 1999-2000 school year, dropout
30 prevention programs as defined in ss. 1003.52, 1003.53(1)(a),
31

1 (b), and (c), and 1003.54 shall be included in Group 1
2 programs under subparagraph (1)(d)3.

3 (g) Education for speakers of other languages.--A
4 school district shall be eligible to report full-time
5 equivalent student membership in the ESOL program in the
6 Florida Education Finance Program provided the following
7 conditions are met:

8 1. The school district has a plan approved by the
9 Department of Education.

10 2. The eligible student is identified and assessed as
11 limited English proficient based on assessment criteria.

12 3.a. An eligible student may be reported for funding
13 in the ESOL program for a base period of 3 years. However, a
14 student whose English competency does not meet the criteria
15 for proficiency after 3 years in the ESOL program may be
16 reported for a fourth, fifth, and sixth year of funding,
17 provided his or her limited English proficiency is assessed
18 and properly documented prior to his or her enrollment in each
19 additional year beyond the 3-year base period.

20 b. If a student exits the program and is later
21 reclassified as limited English proficient, the student may be
22 reported in the ESOL program for funding for an additional
23 year, or extended annually for a period not to exceed a total
24 of 6 years pursuant to this paragraph, based on an annual
25 evaluation of the student's status.

26 4. An eligible student may be reported for funding in
27 the ESOL program for membership in ESOL instruction in English
28 and ESOL instruction or home language instruction in the basic
29 subject areas of mathematics, science, social studies, and
30 computer literacy.

31

1 (h) Small, isolated high schools.--Districts which
2 levy the maximum nonvoted discretionary millage, exclusive of
3 millage for capital outlay purposes levied pursuant to s.
4 1011.71(2), may calculate full-time equivalent students for
5 small, isolated high schools by multiplying the number of
6 unweighted full-time equivalent students times 2.75; provided
7 the percentage of students at such school passing both parts
8 of the high school competency test, as defined by law and
9 rule, has been equal to or higher than such percentage for the
10 state or district, whichever is greater. For the purpose of
11 this section, the term "small, isolated high school" means any
12 high school which is located no less than 28 miles by the
13 shortest route from another high school; which has been
14 servicing students primarily in basic studies provided by
15 sub-subparagraphs (c)1.b. and c. and may include subparagraph
16 (c)4.; and which has a membership of no more than 100
17 students, but no fewer than 28 students, in grades 9 through
18 12.

19 (i) Calculation of full-time equivalent membership
20 with respect to instruction from community colleges or state
21 universities.--Students enrolled in community college or
22 university dual enrollment instruction pursuant to s. 1007.271
23 may be included in calculations of full-time equivalent
24 student memberships for basic programs for grades 9 through 12
25 by a district school board. Such students may also be
26 calculated as the proportional shares of full-time equivalent
27 enrollments they generate for the community college or
28 university conducting the dual enrollment instruction. Early
29 admission students shall be considered dual enrollments for
30 funding purposes. Students may be enrolled in dual enrollment
31 instruction provided by an eligible independent college or

1 university and may be included in calculations of full-time
2 equivalent student memberships for basic programs for grades 9
3 through 12 by a district school board. However, those
4 provisions of law which exempt dual enrolled and early
5 admission students from payment of instructional materials and
6 tuition and fees, including laboratory fees, shall not apply
7 to students who select the option of enrolling in an eligible
8 independent institution. An independent college or university
9 which is located and chartered in Florida, is not for profit,
10 is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern
11 Association of Colleges and Schools or the Accrediting
12 Commission of the Association of Independent Colleges and
13 Schools, and which confers degrees as defined in s. 1005.02
14 shall be eligible for inclusion in the dual enrollment or
15 early admission program. Students enrolled in dual enrollment
16 instruction shall be exempt from the payment of tuition and
17 fees, including laboratory fees. No student enrolled in
18 college credit mathematics or English dual enrollment
19 instruction shall be funded as a dual enrollment unless the
20 student has successfully completed the relevant section of the
21 entry-level examination required pursuant to s. 1008.30.

22 (j) Coenrollment.--If a high school student wishes to
23 earn high school credits from a community college and enrolls
24 in one or more adult secondary education courses at the
25 community college, the community college shall be reimbursed
26 for the costs incurred because of the high school student's
27 coenrollment as provided in the General Appropriations Act.

28 (k) Instruction in exploratory career
29 education.--Students in grades 7 through 12 who are enrolled
30 for more than four semesters in exploratory career education
31

1 may not be counted as full-time equivalent students for this
2 instruction.

3 (1) Calculation of additional full-time equivalent
4 membership based on international baccalaureate examination
5 scores of students.--A value of 0.24 full-time equivalent
6 student membership shall be calculated for each student
7 enrolled in an international baccalaureate course who receives
8 a score of 4 or higher on a subject examination. A value of
9 0.3 full-time equivalent student membership shall be
10 calculated for each student who receives an international
11 baccalaureate diploma. Such value shall be added to the total
12 full-time equivalent student membership in basic programs for
13 grades 9 through 12 in the subsequent fiscal year. The school
14 district shall distribute to each classroom teacher who
15 provided international baccalaureate instruction:

16 1. A bonus in the amount of \$50 for each student
17 taught by the International Baccalaureate teacher in each
18 international baccalaureate course who receives a score of 4
19 or higher on the international baccalaureate examination.

20 2. An additional bonus of \$500 to each International
21 Baccalaureate teacher in a school designated performance grade
22 category "D" or "F" who has at least one student scoring 4 or
23 higher on the international baccalaureate examination,
24 regardless of the number of classes taught or of the number of
25 students scoring a 4 or higher on the international
26 baccalaureate examination.

27

28 Bonuses awarded to a teacher according to this paragraph shall
29 not exceed \$2,000 in any given school year and shall be in
30 addition to any regular wage or other bonus the teacher
31 received or is scheduled to receive.

1 (m) Calculation of additional full-time equivalent
2 membership based on Advanced International Certificate of
3 Education examination scores of students.--A value of 0.24
4 full-time equivalent student membership shall be calculated
5 for each student enrolled in a full-credit Advanced
6 International Certificate of Education course who receives a
7 score of 2 or higher on a subject examination. A value of 0.12
8 full-time equivalent student membership shall be calculated
9 for each student enrolled in a half-credit Advanced
10 International Certificate of Education course who receives a
11 score of 1 or higher on a subject examination. A value of 0.3
12 full-time equivalent student membership shall be calculated
13 for each student who received an Advanced International
14 Certificate of Education diploma. Such value shall be added to
15 the total full-time equivalent student membership in basic
16 programs for grades 9 through 12 in the subsequent fiscal
17 year. The school district shall distribute to each classroom
18 teacher who provided Advanced International Certificate of
19 Education instruction:

20 1. A bonus in the amount of \$50 for each student
21 taught by the Advanced International Certificate of Education
22 teacher in each full-credit Advanced International Certificate
23 of Education course who receives a score of 2 or higher on the
24 Advanced International Certificate of Education examination. A
25 bonus in the amount of \$25 for each student taught by the
26 Advanced International Certificate of Education teacher in
27 each half-credit Advanced International Certificate of
28 Education course who receives a score of 1 or higher on the
29 Advanced International Certificate of Education examination.

30 2. An additional bonus of \$500 to each Advanced
31 International Certificate of Education teacher in a school

1 designated performance grade category "D" or "F" who has at
2 least one student scoring 2 or higher on the full-credit
3 Advanced International Certificate of Education examination,
4 regardless of the number of classes taught or of the number of
5 students scoring a 2 or higher on the full-credit Advanced
6 International Certificate of Education examination.

7 3. Additional bonuses of \$250 each to teachers of
8 half-credit Advanced International Certificate of Education
9 classes in a school designated performance grade category "D"
10 or "F" which has at least one student scoring a 1 or higher on
11 the half-credit Advanced International Certificate of
12 Education examination in that class. The maximum additional
13 bonus for a teacher awarded in accordance with this
14 subparagraph shall not exceed \$500 in any given school year.
15 Teachers receiving an award under subparagraph 2. are not
16 eligible for a bonus under this subparagraph.

17
18 Bonuses awarded to a teacher according to this paragraph shall
19 not exceed \$2,000 in any given school year and shall be in
20 addition to any regular wage or other bonus the teacher
21 received or is scheduled to receive.

22 (n) Calculation of additional full-time equivalent
23 membership based on college board advanced placement scores of
24 students.--A value of 0.24 full-time equivalent student
25 membership shall be calculated for each student in each
26 advanced placement course who receives a score of 3 or higher
27 on the College Board Advanced Placement Examination for the
28 prior year and added to the total full-time equivalent student
29 membership in basic programs for grades 9 through 12 in the
30 subsequent fiscal year. Each district must allocate at least
31 80 percent of the funds provided to the district for advanced

1 placement instruction, in accordance with this paragraph, to
2 the high school that generates the funds. The school district
3 shall distribute to each classroom teacher who provided
4 advanced placement instruction:

5 1. A bonus in the amount of \$50 for each student
6 taught by the Advanced Placement teacher in each advanced
7 placement course who receives a score of 3 or higher on the
8 College Board Advanced Placement Examination.

9 2. An additional bonus of \$500 to each Advanced
10 Placement teacher in a school designated performance grade
11 category "D" or "F" who has at least one student scoring 3 or
12 higher on the College Board Advanced Placement Examination,
13 regardless of the number of classes taught or of the number of
14 students scoring a 3 or higher on the College Board Advanced
15 Placement Examination.

16
17 Bonuses awarded to a teacher according to this paragraph shall
18 not exceed \$2,000 in any given school year and shall be in
19 addition to any regular wage or other bonus the teacher
20 received or is scheduled to receive.

21 (o) Year-round-school programs.--The Commissioner of
22 Education is authorized to adjust student eligibility
23 definitions, funding criteria, and reporting requirements of
24 statutes and rules in order that year-round-school programs
25 may achieve equivalent application of funding requirements
26 with non-year-round-school programs.

27 (p) Extended-school-year program.--It is the intent of
28 the Legislature that students be provided additional
29 instruction by extending the school year to 210 days or more.
30 Districts may apply to the Commissioner of Education for funds
31 to be used in planning and implementing an

1 extended-school-year program. The Department of Education
2 shall recommend to the Legislature the policies necessary for
3 full implementation of an extended school year.

4 (q) Determination of the basic amount for current
5 operation.--The basic amount for current operation to be
6 included in the Florida Education Finance Program for
7 kindergarten through grade 12 for each district shall be the
8 product of the following:

9 1. The full-time equivalent student membership in each
10 program, multiplied by

11 2. The cost factor for each program, adjusted for the
12 maximum as provided by paragraph (c), multiplied by

13 3. The base student allocation.

14 (r) Computation for funding through the Florida
15 Education Finance Program.--The State Board of Education may
16 adopt rules establishing programs and courses for which the
17 student may earn credit toward high school graduation.

18 (2) DETERMINATION OF DISTRICT COST DIFFERENTIALS.--The
19 Commissioner of Education shall annually compute for each
20 district the current year's district cost differential. The
21 district cost differential shall be calculated by adding each
22 district's price level index as published in the Florida Price
23 Level Index for the most recent 3 years and dividing the
24 resulting sum by 3. The result for each district shall be
25 multiplied by 0.008 and to the resulting product shall be
26 added 0.200; the sum thus obtained shall be the cost
27 differential for that district for that year.

28 (3) INSERVICE EDUCATIONAL PERSONNEL TRAINING
29 EXPENDITURE.--Of the amount computed in subsections (1) and
30 (2), a percentage of the base student allocation per full-time
31 equivalent student or other funds shall be expended for

1 educational training programs as determined by the district
2 school board as provided in s. 1012.98.

3 (4) COMPUTATION OF DISTRICT REQUIRED LOCAL
4 EFFORT.--The Legislature shall prescribe the aggregate
5 required local effort for all school districts collectively as
6 an item in the General Appropriations Act for each fiscal
7 year. The amount that each district shall provide annually
8 toward the cost of the Florida Education Finance Program for
9 kindergarten through grade 12 programs shall be calculated as
10 follows:

11 (a) Estimated taxable value calculations.--

12 1.a. Not later than 2 working days prior to July 19,
13 the Department of Revenue shall certify to the Commissioner of
14 Education its most recent estimate of the taxable value for
15 school purposes in each school district and the total for all
16 school districts in the state for the current calendar year
17 based on the latest available data obtained from the local
18 property appraisers. Not later than July 19, the Commissioner
19 of Education shall compute a millage rate, rounded to the next
20 highest one one-thousandth of a mill, which, when applied to
21 95 percent of the estimated state total taxable value for
22 school purposes, would generate the prescribed aggregate
23 required local effort for that year for all districts. The
24 Commissioner of Education shall certify to each district
25 school board the millage rate, computed as prescribed in this
26 subparagraph, as the minimum millage rate necessary to provide
27 the district required local effort for that year.

28 b. The General Appropriations Act shall direct the
29 computation of the statewide adjusted aggregate amount for
30 required local effort for all school districts collectively
31 from ad valorem taxes to ensure that no school district's

1 revenue from required local effort millage will produce more
2 than 90 percent of the district's total Florida Education
3 Finance Program calculation, and the adjustment of the
4 required local effort millage rate of each district that
5 produces more than 90 percent of its total Florida Education
6 Finance Program entitlement to a level that will produce only
7 90 percent of its total Florida Education Finance Program
8 entitlement in the July calculation.

9 2. As revised data are received from property
10 appraisers, the Department of Revenue shall amend the
11 certification of the estimate of the taxable value for school
12 purposes. The Commissioner of Education, in administering the
13 provisions of subparagraph (9)(a)2., shall use the most recent
14 taxable value for the appropriate year.

15 (b) Final calculation.--

16 1. The Department of Revenue shall, upon receipt of
17 the official final assessed value of property from each of the
18 property appraisers, certify to the Commissioner of Education
19 the taxable value total for school purposes in each school
20 district, subject to the provisions of paragraph (d). The
21 commissioner shall use the official final taxable value for
22 school purposes for each school district in the final
23 calculation of the annual Florida Education Finance Program
24 allocations.

25 2. For the purposes of this paragraph, the official
26 final taxable value for school purposes shall be the taxable
27 value for school purposes on which the tax bills are computed
28 and mailed to the taxpayers, adjusted to reflect final
29 administrative actions of value adjustment boards and judicial
30 decisions pursuant to part I of chapter 194. By September 1 of
31 each year, the Department of Revenue shall certify to the

1 commissioner the official prior year final taxable value for
2 school purposes. For each county that has not submitted a
3 revised tax roll reflecting final value adjustment board
4 actions and final judicial decisions, the Department of
5 Revenue shall certify the most recent revision of the official
6 taxable value for school purposes. The certified value shall
7 be the final taxable value for school purposes, and no further
8 adjustments shall be made, except those made pursuant to
9 subparagraph (9)(a)2.

10 (c) Equalization of required local effort.--

11 1. The Department of Revenue shall include with its
12 certifications provided pursuant to paragraph (a) its most
13 recent determination of the assessment level of the prior
14 year's assessment roll for each county and for the state as a
15 whole.

16 2. The Commissioner of Education shall adjust the
17 required local effort millage of each district for the current
18 year, computed pursuant to paragraph (a), as follows:

19 a. The equalization factor for the prior year's
20 assessment roll of each district shall be multiplied by 95
21 percent of the taxable value for school purposes shown on that
22 roll and by the prior year's required local-effort millage,
23 exclusive of any equalization adjustment made pursuant to this
24 paragraph. The dollar amount so computed shall be the
25 additional required local effort for equalization for the
26 current year.

27 b. Such equalization factor shall be computed as the
28 quotient of the prior year's assessment level of the state as
29 a whole divided by the prior year's assessment level of the
30 county, from which quotient shall be subtracted 1.

31

1 c. The dollar amount of additional required local
2 effort for equalization for each district shall be converted
3 to a millage rate, based on 95 percent of the current year's
4 taxable value for that district, and added to the required
5 local effort millage determined pursuant to paragraph (a).

6 3. Notwithstanding the limitations imposed pursuant to
7 s. 1011.71(1), the total required local-effort millage,
8 including additional required local effort for equalization,
9 shall be an amount not to exceed 10 minus the maximum millage
10 allowed as nonvoted discretionary millage, exclusive of
11 millage authorized pursuant to s. 1011.71(2). Nothing herein
12 shall be construed to allow a millage in excess of that
13 authorized in s. 9, Art. VII of the State Constitution.

14 4. For the purposes of this chapter, the term
15 "assessment level" means the value-weighted mean assessment
16 ratio for the county or state as a whole, as determined
17 pursuant to s. 195.096, or as subsequently adjusted. In the
18 event a court has adjudicated that the department failed to
19 establish an accurate estimate of an assessment level of a
20 county and recomputation resulting in an accurate estimate
21 based upon the evidence before the court was not possible,
22 that county shall be presumed to have an assessment level
23 equal to that of the state as a whole.

24 5. If, in the prior year, taxes were levied against an
25 interim assessment roll pursuant to s. 193.1145, the
26 assessment level and prior year's nonexempt assessed valuation
27 used for the purposes of this paragraph shall be those of the
28 interim assessment roll.

29 (d) Exclusion.--

30 1. In those instances in which:

31

1 a. There is litigation either attacking the authority
2 of the property appraiser to include certain property on the
3 tax assessment roll as taxable property or contesting the
4 assessed value of certain property on the tax assessment roll,
5 and

6 b. The assessed value of the property in contest
7 involves more than 6 percent of the total nonexempt assessment
8 roll, the plaintiff shall provide to the district school board
9 of the county in which the property is located and to the
10 Department of Education a certified copy of the petition and
11 receipt for the good faith payment at the time they are filed
12 with the court.

13 2. For purposes of computing the required local effort
14 for each district affected by such petition, the Department of
15 Education shall exclude from the district's total nonexempt
16 assessment roll the assessed value of the property in contest
17 and shall add the amount of the good faith payment to the
18 district's required local effort.

19 (e) Recomputation.--Following final adjudication of
20 any litigation on the basis of which an adjustment in taxable
21 value was made pursuant to paragraph (d), the department shall
22 recompute the required local effort for each district for each
23 year affected by such adjustments, utilizing taxable values
24 approved by the court, and shall adjust subsequent allocations
25 to such districts accordingly.

26 (5) CATEGORICAL FUNDS.--

27 (a) In addition to the basic amount for current
28 operations for the FEFP as determined in subsection (1) the
29 Legislature may appropriate categorical funding for specified
30 programs, activities, or purposes.

31

1 (b) If a district school board finds and declares in a
2 resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the school board
3 that the funds received for any of the following categorical
4 appropriations are urgently needed to maintain school board
5 specified academic classroom instruction, the school board may
6 consider and approve an amendment to the school district
7 operating budget transferring the identified amount of the
8 categorical funds to the appropriate account for expenditure:

- 9 1. Funds for student transportation.
10 2. Funds for in-service educational personnel
11 training.
12 3. Funds for safe schools.
13 4. Funds for public school technology.
14 5. Funds for teacher recruitment and retention.
15 6. Funds for supplemental academic instruction.

16 (c) Each district school board shall include in its
17 annual financial report to the Department of Education the
18 amount of funds the school board transferred from each of the
19 categorical funds identified in this subsection and the
20 specific academic classroom instruction for which the
21 transferred funds were expended. The Department of Education
22 shall provide instructions and specify the format to be used
23 in submitting this required information as a part of the
24 district annual financial report.

25 (6) DETERMINATION OF SPARSITY SUPPLEMENT.--

26 (a) Annually, in an amount to be determined by the
27 Legislature through the General Appropriations Act, there
28 shall be added to the basic amount for current operation of
29 the FEFP qualified districts a sparsity supplement which shall
30 be computed as follows:

31

1 3. For districts that have a levy value per FTE as
2 calculated in subparagraph 1. higher than the state average
3 calculated in subparagraph 2., a sparsity wealth adjustment
4 shall be calculated as the product of the difference between
5 the state average levy value per FTE calculated in
6 subparagraph 2. and the district's levy value per FTE
7 calculated in subparagraph 1. and the district's FTE student
8 count and -1;

9 4. Each district's sparsity supplement allocation
10 shall be calculated by adding the amount calculated as
11 specified in paragraphs (a) and (b) and the wealth adjustment
12 amount calculated in this paragraph.

13 (7) DECLINE IN FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT STUDENTS.--In
14 those districts where there is a decline between prior year
15 and current year unweighted FTE students, 50 percent of the
16 decline in the unweighted FTE students shall be multiplied by
17 the prior year calculated FEFP per unweighted FTE student and
18 shall be added to the allocation for that district. For this
19 purpose, the calculated FEFP shall be computed by multiplying
20 the weighted FTE students by the base student allocation and
21 then by the district cost differential. If a district
22 transfers a program to another institution not under the
23 authority of the district's school board, including a charter
24 technical career center, the decline is to be multiplied by a
25 factor of 0.15.

26 (8) QUALITY ASSURANCE GUARANTEE.--The Legislature may
27 annually in the General Appropriations Act determine a
28 percentage increase in funds per K-12 unweighted FTE as a
29 minimum guarantee to each school district. The guarantee shall
30 be calculated from prior year base funding per unweighted FTE
31 student which shall include the adjusted FTE dollars as

1 provided in subsection (9), quality guarantee funds, and
2 actual nonvoted discretionary local effort from taxes. From
3 the base funding per unweighted FTE, the increase shall be
4 calculated for the current year. The current year funds from
5 which the guarantee shall be determined shall include the
6 adjusted FTE dollars as provided in subsection (9) and
7 potential nonvoted discretionary local effort from taxes. A
8 comparison of current year funds per unweighted FTE to prior
9 year funds per unweighted FTE shall be computed. For those
10 school districts which have less than the legislatively
11 assigned percentage increase, funds shall be provided to
12 guarantee the assigned percentage increase in funds per
13 unweighted FTE student. Should appropriated funds be less than
14 the sum of this calculated amount for all districts, the
15 commissioner shall prorate each district's allocation. This
16 provision shall be implemented to the extent specifically
17 funded.

18 (9) TOTAL ALLOCATION OF STATE FUNDS TO EACH DISTRICT
19 FOR CURRENT OPERATION.--The total annual state allocation to
20 each district for current operation for the FEFP shall be
21 distributed periodically in the manner prescribed in the
22 General Appropriations Act.

23 (a) The basic amount for current operation for the
24 FEFP as determined in subsection (1), multiplied by the
25 district cost differential factor as determined in subsection
26 (2), plus the amounts provided for categorical components
27 within the FEFP, plus the amount for the sparsity supplement
28 as determined in subsection (6), the decline in full-time
29 equivalent students as determined in subsection (7), and the
30 quality assurance guarantee as determined in subsection (8),
31 less the required local effort as determined in subsection

1 (4). If the funds appropriated for the purpose of funding the
2 total amount for current operation as provided in this
3 paragraph are not sufficient to pay the state requirement in
4 full, the department shall prorate the available state funds
5 to each district in the following manner:
6 1. Determine the percentage of proration by dividing
7 the sum of the total amount for current operation, as provided
8 in this paragraph for all districts collectively, and the
9 total district required local effort into the sum of the state
10 funds available for current operation and the total district
11 required local effort.
12 2. Multiply the percentage so determined by the sum of
13 the total amount for current operation as provided in this
14 paragraph and the required local effort for each individual
15 district.
16 3. From the product of such multiplication, subtract
17 the required local effort of each district; and the remainder
18 shall be the amount of state funds allocated to the district
19 for current operation.
20 (b) The amount thus obtained shall be the net annual
21 allocation to each school district. However, if it is
22 determined that any school district received an
23 underallocation or overallocation for any prior year because
24 of an arithmetical error, assessment roll change, full-time
25 equivalent student membership error, or any allocation error
26 revealed in an audit report, the allocation to that district
27 shall be appropriately adjusted. If the Department of
28 Education audit adjustment recommendation is based upon
29 controverted findings of fact, the Commissioner of Education
30 is authorized to establish the amount of the adjustment based
31 on the best interests of the state.

1 (c) The amount thus obtained shall represent the net
2 annual state allocation to each district; however,
3 notwithstanding any of the provisions herein, each district
4 shall be guaranteed a minimum level of funding in the amount
5 and manner prescribed in the General Appropriations Act.

6 Section 653. Section 1011.64, Florida Statutes, is
7 created to read:

8 1011.64 School district minimum classroom expenditure
9 requirements.--

10 (1) The Legislature may require any school district
11 that fails to meet minimum academic performance standards to
12 increase emphasis on classroom instruction activities from
13 operating funds, including, but not limited to, those provided
14 for the operation of schools pursuant to s. 1011.62.

15 (2) For the purpose of implementing the provisions of
16 this section, the Legislature shall prescribe minimum academic
17 performance standards and minimum classroom expenditure
18 requirements for districts not meeting such minimum academic
19 performance standards in the General Appropriations Act.

20 (a) Minimum academic performance standards may be
21 based on, but are not limited to, district performance grades
22 determined pursuant to s. 1008.34(8).

23 (b) School district minimum classroom expenditure
24 requirements shall be calculated pursuant to subsection (3).

25 (3)(a) Annually the Department of Education shall
26 calculate for each school district:

27 1. Total K-12 operating expenditures, which are
28 defined as the amount of total general fund expenditures for
29 K-12 programs as reported in accordance with the accounts and
30 codes prescribed in the most recent issuance of the Department
31 of Education publication entitled "Financial and Program Cost

1 Accounting and Reporting for Florida Schools" and as included
2 in the most recent annual financial report submitted to the
3 Commissioner of Education, less the student transportation
4 revenue allocation from the state appropriation for that
5 purpose, amounts transferred to other funds, and increases to
6 the amount of the general fund unreserved ending fund balance
7 when the total unreserved ending fund balance is in excess of
8 5 percent of the total general fund revenues.

9 2. Expenditures for classroom instruction, which shall
10 be the sum of the general fund expenditures for K-12
11 instruction and instructional staff training.

12 (b) The department shall annually calculate for each
13 district, and for the entire state, the percentage of
14 classroom expenditures to total operating expenditures as
15 calculated pursuant to subparagraphs (a)1. and 2.

16 (4) In order for the Department of Education to
17 monitor the implementation of this section, each school
18 district which is required to increase emphasis on classroom
19 activities from operating funds pursuant to subsection (1)
20 shall submit to the department the following two reports in a
21 format determined by the department:

22 (a) An initial report, which shall include the
23 proposed budget actions identified for increased classroom
24 expenditures, a description of how such actions are designed
25 to improve student achievement, and a copy of the published
26 statement required by s. 1011.03(3). This report shall be
27 submitted within 30 days after final budget approval as
28 provided in s. 200.065.

29 (b) A final report, prepared at the end of each fiscal
30 year, which shall include, but is not limited to, information
31 that clearly indicates the degree of each district's

1 compliance or noncompliance with the requirements of this
2 section. If not fully compliant, the district shall include a
3 statement which has been adopted at a public hearing and
4 signed by the district school superintendent and district
5 school board members, which explains why the requirements of
6 this section have not been met.

7 (c) The department shall provide annual summaries of
8 these two reports to the Governor, the President of the
9 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

10 Section 654. Section 1011.65, Florida Statutes, is
11 created to read:

12 1011.65 Florida Education Finance Program
13 Appropriation Allocation Conference.--Prior to the
14 distribution of any funds appropriated in the General
15 Appropriations Act for the K-12 Florida Education Finance
16 Program formula and for the formula-funded categorical
17 programs, the Commissioner of Education shall conduct an
18 allocation conference. Conference principals shall include
19 representatives of the Department of Education, the Executive
20 Office of the Governor, and the Appropriations Committees of
21 the Senate and the House of Representatives. Conference
22 principals shall discuss and agree to all conventions,
23 including rounding conventions, and methods of computation to
24 be used to calculate Florida Education Finance Program and
25 categorical entitlements of the districts for the fiscal year
26 for which the appropriations are made. These conventions and
27 calculation methods shall remain in effect until further
28 agreements are reached in subsequent allocation conferences
29 called by the commissioner for that purpose. The commissioner
30 shall also, prior to each recalculation of Florida Education
31 Finance Program and categorical allocations of the districts,

1 provide conference principals with all data necessary to
2 replicate those allocations precisely. This data shall include
3 a matrix by district by program of all full-time equivalent
4 changes made by the department as part of its administration
5 of state full-time equivalent caps.

6 Section 655. Section 1011.66, Florida Statutes, is
7 created to read:

8 1011.66 Distribution of funds in first quarter.--Upon
9 the request of any school district whose net state FEFP
10 funding is less than 60 percent of its gross state and local
11 FEFP funding, the Department of Education shall distribute to
12 that school district in the first quarter of the fiscal year
13 an amount from the funds appropriated for the FEFP in the
14 General Appropriations Act up to a maximum of 15 percent of
15 that school district's gross state and local FEFP funding or
16 that school district's net state FEFP funding, whichever is
17 less.

18 Section 656. Section 1011.67, Florida Statutes, is
19 created to read:

20 1011.67 Funds for instructional materials.--The
21 department is authorized to allocate and distribute to each
22 district an amount as prescribed annually by the Legislature
23 for instructional materials for student membership in basic
24 and special programs in grades K-12, which will provide for
25 growth and maintenance needs. For purposes of this section,
26 unweighted full-time equivalent students enrolled in the lab
27 schools in state universities are to be included as school
28 district students and reported as such to the department. The
29 annual allocation shall be determined as follows:

30 (1) The growth allocation for each school district
31 shall be calculated as follows:

1 (a) Subtract from that district's projected full-time
2 equivalent membership of students in basic and special
3 programs in grades K-12 used in determining the initial
4 allocation of the Florida Education Finance Program, the prior
5 year's full-time equivalent membership of students in basic
6 and special programs in grades K-12 for that district.

7 (b) Multiply any such increase in full-time equivalent
8 student membership by the allocation for a set of
9 instructional materials, as determined by the department, or
10 as provided for in the General Appropriations Act.

11 (c) The amount thus determined shall be that
12 district's initial allocation for growth for the school year.
13 However, the department shall recompute and adjust the initial
14 allocation based on actual full-time equivalent student
15 membership data for that year.

16 (2) The maintenance of the instructional materials
17 allocation for each school district shall be calculated by
18 multiplying each district's prior year full-time equivalent
19 membership of students in basic and special programs in grades
20 K-12 by the allocation for maintenance of a set of
21 instructional materials as provided for in the General
22 Appropriations Act. The amount thus determined shall be that
23 district's initial allocation for maintenance for the school
24 year; however, the department shall recompute and adjust the
25 initial allocation based on such actual full-time equivalent
26 student membership data for that year.

27 (3) In the event the funds appropriated are not
28 sufficient for the purpose of implementing this section in
29 full, the department shall prorate the funds available for
30 instructional materials after first funding in full each
31 district's growth allocation.

1 Section 657. Section 1011.68, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1011.68 Funds for student transportation.--The annual
4 allocation to each district for transportation to public
5 school programs, including charter schools as provided in s.
6 1002.33(18)(b), of students in membership in kindergarten
7 through grade 12 and in migrant and exceptional student
8 programs below kindergarten shall be determined as follows:

9 (1) Subject to the rules of the State Board of
10 Education, each district shall determine the membership of
11 students who are transported:

12 (a) By reason of living 2 miles or more from school.

13 (b) By reason of being students with disabilities or
14 enrolled in a teenage parent program, regardless of distance
15 to school.

16 (c) By reason of being in a state prekindergarten
17 program, regardless of distance from school.

18 (d) By reason of being career and technical, dual
19 enrollment, or students with disabilities transported from one
20 school center to another to participate in an instructional
21 program or service; or students with disabilities, transported
22 from one designation to another in the state, provided one
23 designation is a school center and provided the student's
24 individual educational plan (IEP) identifies the need for the
25 instructional program or service and transportation to be
26 provided by the school district. A "school center" is defined
27 as a public school center, community college, state
28 university, or other facility rented, leased, or owned and
29 operated by the school district or another public agency. A
30 "dual enrollment student" is defined as a public school
31 student in membership in both a public secondary school

1 program and a community college or a state university program
2 under a written agreement to partially fulfill ss. 1003.435
3 and 1007.23 and earning full-time equivalent membership under
4 s. 1011.62(1)(i).

5 (e) With respect to elementary school students whose
6 grade level does not exceed grade 6, by reason of being
7 subjected to hazardous walking conditions en route to or from
8 school as provided in s. 1006.23. Such rules shall, when
9 appropriate, provide for the determination of membership under
10 this paragraph for less than 1 year to accommodate the needs
11 of students who require transportation only until such
12 hazardous conditions are corrected.

13 (f) By reason of being a pregnant student or student
14 parent, and the child of a student parent as provided in s.
15 1003.54, regardless of distance from school.

16 (2) The allocation for each district shall be
17 calculated annually in accordance with the following formula:

18
19 T = B + EX. The elements of this formula are defined as
20 follows: T is the total dollar allocation for transportation.
21 B is the base transportation dollar allocation prorated by an
22 adjusted student membership count. The adjusted membership
23 count shall be derived from a multiplicative index function in
24 which the base student membership is adjusted by multiplying
25 it by index numbers that individually account for the impact
26 of the price level index, average bus occupancy, and the
27 extent of rural population in the district. EX is the base
28 transportation dollar allocation for disabled students
29 prorated by an adjusted disabled student membership count.
30 The base transportation dollar allocation for disabled
31 students is the total state base disabled student membership

1 count weighted for increased costs associated with
2 transporting disabled students and multiplying it by the prior
3 year's average per student cost for transportation. The
4 adjusted disabled student membership count shall be derived
5 from a multiplicative index function in which the weighted
6 base disabled student membership is adjusted by multiplying it
7 by index numbers that individually account for the impact of
8 the price level index, average bus occupancy, and the extent
9 of rural population in the district. Each adjustment factor
10 shall be designed to affect the base allocation by no more or
11 less than 10 percent.

12 (3) The total allocation to each district for
13 transportation of students shall be the sum of the amounts
14 determined in subsection (2). If the funds appropriated for
15 the purpose of implementing this section are not sufficient to
16 pay the base transportation allocation and the base
17 transportation allocation for disabled students, the
18 Department of Education shall prorate the available funds on a
19 percentage basis. If the funds appropriated for the purpose
20 of implementing this section exceed the sum of the base
21 transportation allocation and the base transportation
22 allocation for disabled students, the base transportation
23 allocation for disabled students shall be limited to the
24 amount calculated in subsection (2), and the remaining balance
25 shall be added to the base transportation allocation.

26 (4) No district shall use funds to purchase
27 transportation equipment and supplies at prices which exceed
28 those determined by the department to be the lowest which can
29 be obtained, as prescribed in s. 1006.27(1).

30 (5) Funds allocated or apportioned for the payment of
31 student transportation services may be used to pay for

1 transportation of students to and from school on local general
2 purpose transportation systems. Student transportation funds
3 may also be used to pay for transportation of students to and
4 from school in private passenger cars and boats when the
5 transportation is for isolated students, or students with
6 disabilities as defined by rule. Subject to the rules of the
7 State Board of Education, each school district shall determine
8 and report the number of assigned students using general
9 purpose transportation private passenger cars and boats. The
10 allocation per student must be equal to the allocation per
11 student riding a school bus.

12 (6) Notwithstanding other provisions of this section,
13 in no case shall any student or students be counted for
14 transportation funding more than once per day. This provision
15 includes counting students for funding pursuant to trips in
16 school buses, passenger cars, or boats or general purpose
17 transportation.

18 (7) Any funds received by a school district under this
19 section that are not required to transport students may, at
20 the discretion of the district school board, be transferred to
21 the district's Florida Education Finance Program.

22 Section 658. Section 1011.69, Florida Statutes, is
23 created to read:

24 1011.69 Equity in School-Level Funding Act.--

25 (1) This section may be cited as the "Equity in
26 School-Level Funding Act."

27 (2)(a) Beginning in the 2000-2001 fiscal year,
28 district school boards shall allocate to each school within
29 the district at least 50 percent of the funds generated by
30 that school based upon the Florida Education Finance Program
31 as provided in s. 1011.62 and the General Appropriations Act,

1 including gross state and local funds, discretionary lottery
2 funds, and funds from the school district's current operating
3 discretionary millage levy.

4 (b) Beginning in the 2001-2002 fiscal year, district
5 school boards shall allocate to each school within the
6 district at least 65 percent of the funds generated by that
7 school based upon the Florida Education Finance Program as
8 provided in s. 1011.62 and the General Appropriations Act,
9 including gross state and local funds, discretionary lottery
10 funds, and funds from the school district's current operating
11 discretionary millage levy.

12 (c) Beginning in the 2002-2003 fiscal year, district
13 school boards shall allocate to each school within the
14 district at least 80 percent of the funds generated by that
15 school based upon the Florida Education Finance Program as
16 provided in s. 1011.62 and the General Appropriations Act,
17 including gross state and local funds, discretionary lottery
18 funds, and funds from the school district's current operating
19 discretionary millage levy.

20 (d) Beginning in the 2003-2004 fiscal year, district
21 school boards shall allocate to each school within the
22 district at least 90 percent of the funds generated by that
23 school based upon the Florida Education Finance Program as
24 provided in s. 1011.62 and the General Appropriations Act,
25 including gross state and local funds, discretionary lottery
26 funds, and funds from the school district's current operating
27 discretionary millage levy.

28
29 Total funding for each school shall be recalculated during the
30 year to reflect the revised calculations under the Florida
31 Education Finance Program by the state and the actual weighted

1 full-time equivalent students reported by the school during
2 the full-time equivalent student survey periods designated by
3 the Commissioner of Education. If the district school board is
4 providing programs or services to students funded by federal
5 funds, any eligible students enrolled in the schools in the
6 district shall be provided federal funds. Only those districts
7 that initially applied for charter school district status,
8 pursuant to s. 1003.62, and have been approved by the State
9 Board of Education are exempt from the provisions of this
10 section.

11 (3) Funds allocated to a school pursuant to this
12 section that are unused at the end of the fiscal year shall
13 not revert to the district, but shall remain with the school.
14 These carryforward funds may be used for any purpose provided
15 by law at the discretion of the principal of the school.

16 (4) Recommendations made by the Governor's Equity in
17 Educational Opportunity Task Force shall be reviewed to
18 identify potential categorical funds to be included in the
19 district allocation methodology required in subsection (2).

20 (5) Funds appropriated in the General Appropriations
21 Act for supplemental academic instruction to be used for the
22 purposes described in s. 1011.62(1)(f) are excluded from the
23 school-level allocation under this section.

24 Section 659. Section 1011.70, Florida Statutes, is
25 created to read:

26 1011.70 Medicaid certified school funding
27 maximization.--

28 (1) Each school district, subject to the provisions of
29 ss. 409.9071 and 409.908(21) and this section, is authorized
30 to certify funds provided for a category of required Medicaid
31 services termed "school-based services," which are

1 reimbursable under the federal Medicaid program. Such services
2 shall include, but not be limited to, physical, occupational,
3 and speech therapy services, behavioral health services,
4 mental health services, transportation services, Early
5 Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT)
6 administrative outreach for the purpose of determining
7 eligibility for exceptional student education, and any other
8 such services, for the purpose of receiving federal Medicaid
9 financial participation. Certified school funding shall not be
10 available for the following services:

11 (a) Family planning.

12 (b) Immunizations.

13 (c) Prenatal care.

14 (2) The Department of Education shall monitor
15 compliance of each participating school district with the
16 Medicaid provider agreements. In addition, the department
17 shall develop standardized recordkeeping procedures for the
18 school districts that meet Medicaid requirements for audit
19 purposes.

20 (3) Each school district's continued participation in
21 certifying funds to be reimbursed for Medicaid expenditures is
22 contingent upon the district providing to the department an
23 annual accounting of how the federal Medicaid reimbursements
24 are utilized.

25 (4) Funds generated pursuant to this section may be
26 used for autism therapy services allowed by federal law.

27 (5) Developmental research schools, as authorized
28 under s. 1002.32, shall be authorized to participate in the
29 Medicaid certified school match program subject to the
30 provisions of subsections (1)-(4) and ss. 409.9071 and
31 409.908(21).

1 Section 660. Section 1011.71, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1011.71 District school tax.--

4 (1) If the district school tax is not provided in the
5 General Appropriations Act or the substantive bill
6 implementing the General Appropriations Act, each district
7 school board desiring to participate in the state allocation
8 of funds for current operation as prescribed by s. 1011.62(9)
9 shall levy on the taxable value for school purposes of the
10 district, exclusive of millage voted under the provisions of
11 s. 9(b) or s. 12, Art. VII of the State Constitution, a
12 millage rate not to exceed the amount certified by the
13 commissioner as the minimum millage rate necessary to provide
14 the district required local effort for the current year,
15 pursuant to s. 1011.62(4)(a)1. In addition to the required
16 local effort millage levy, each district school board may levy
17 a nonvoted current operating discretionary millage. The
18 Legislature shall prescribe annually in the appropriations act
19 the maximum amount of millage a district may levy. The millage
20 rate prescribed shall exceed zero mills but shall not exceed
21 the lesser of 1.6 mills or 25 percent of the millage which is
22 required pursuant to s. 1011.62(4), exclusive of millage
23 levied pursuant to subsection (2).

24 (2) In addition to the maximum millage levy as
25 provided in subsection (1), each school board may levy not
26 more than 2 mills against the taxable value for school
27 purposes to fund:

28 (a) New construction and remodeling projects, as set
29 forth in s. 1013.64(3)(b) and (6)(b) and included in the
30 district's educational plant survey pursuant to s. 1013.31,
31 without regard to prioritization, sites and site improvement

1 or expansion to new sites, existing sites, auxiliary
2 facilities, athletic facilities, or ancillary facilities.
3 (b) Maintenance, renovation, and repair of existing
4 school plants or of leased facilities to correct deficiencies
5 pursuant to s. 1013.15(2).
6 (c) The purchase, lease-purchase, or lease of school
7 buses; drivers' education vehicles; motor vehicles used for
8 the maintenance or operation of plants and equipment; security
9 vehicles; or vehicles used in storing or distributing
10 materials and equipment.
11 (d) The purchase, lease-purchase, or lease of new and
12 replacement equipment.
13 (e) Payments for educational facilities and sites due
14 under a lease-purchase agreement entered into by a district
15 school board pursuant to s. 1003.02(1)(f) or s. 1013.15(2),
16 not exceeding, in the aggregate, an amount equal to
17 three-fourths of the proceeds from the millage levied by a
18 district school board pursuant to this subsection.
19 (f) Payment of loans approved pursuant to ss. 1011.14
20 and 1011.15.
21 (g) Payment of costs directly related to complying
22 with state and federal environmental statutes, rules, and
23 regulations governing school facilities.
24 (h) Payment of costs of leasing relocatable
25 educational facilities, of renting or leasing educational
26 facilities and sites pursuant to s. 1013.15(2), or of renting
27 or leasing buildings or space within existing buildings
28 pursuant to s. 1013.15(4).
29
30 Violations of these expenditure provisions shall result in an
31 equal dollar reduction in the Florida Education Finance

1 Program (FEFP) funds for the violating district in the fiscal
2 year following the audit citation.

3 (3) These taxes shall be certified, assessed, and
4 collected as prescribed in s. 1011.04 and shall be expended as
5 provided by law.

6 (4) Nothing in s. 1011.62(4)(a)1. shall in any way be
7 construed to increase the maximum school millage levies as
8 provided for in subsection (1).

9 (5)(a) It is the intent of the Legislature that, by
10 July 1, 2003, revenue generated by the millage levy authorized
11 by subsection (2) should be used only for the costs of
12 construction, renovation, remodeling, maintenance, and repair
13 of the educational plant; for the purchase, lease, or
14 lease-purchase of equipment, educational plants, and
15 construction materials directly related to the delivery of
16 student instruction; for the rental or lease of existing
17 buildings, or space within existing buildings, originally
18 constructed or used for purposes other than education, for
19 conversion to use as educational facilities; for the opening
20 day collection for the library media center of a new school;
21 for the purchase, lease-purchase, or lease of school buses;
22 and for servicing of payments related to certificates of
23 participation issued for any purpose prior to the effective
24 date of this act. Costs associated with the lease-purchase of
25 equipment, educational plants, and school buses may include
26 the issuance of certificates of participation on or after the
27 effective date of this act and the servicing of payments
28 related to certificates so issued. For purposes of this
29 section, "maintenance and repair" is defined in s. 1013.01.

30 (b) For purposes not delineated in paragraph (a) for
31 which proceeds received from millage levied under subsection

1 (2) may be legally expended, a district school board may spend
2 no more than the following percentages of the amount the
3 district spent for these purposes in fiscal year 1995-1996:
4 1. In fiscal year 2000-2001, 40 percent.
5 2. In fiscal year 2001-2002, 25 percent.
6 3. In fiscal year 2002-2003, 10 percent.
7 (c) Beginning July 1, 2003, revenue generated by the
8 millage levy authorized by subsection (2) must be used only
9 for the purposes delineated in paragraph (a).
10 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this
11 subsection, if through its adopted facilities work program a
12 district has clearly identified the need for an ancillary
13 plant, has provided opportunity for public input as to the
14 relative value of the ancillary plant versus an educational
15 plant, and has obtained public approval, the district may use
16 revenue generated by the millage levy authorized by subsection
17 (2) for the construction, renovation, remodeling, maintenance,
18 or repair of an ancillary plant.
19
20 A district that violates these expenditure restrictions shall
21 have an equal dollar reduction in funds appropriated to the
22 district under s. 1011.62 in the fiscal year following the
23 audit citation. The expenditure restrictions do not apply to
24 any school district that certifies to the Commissioner of
25 Education that all of the district's instructional space needs
26 for the next 5 years can be met from capital outlay sources
27 that the district reasonably expects to receive during the
28 next 5 years or from alternative scheduling or construction,
29 leasing, rezoning, or technological methodologies that exhibit
30 sound management.
31

1 (6) In addition to the maximum millage levied under
2 this section and the General Appropriations Act, a school
3 district may levy, by local referendum or in a general
4 election, additional millage for school operational purposes
5 up to an amount that, when combined with nonvoted millage
6 levied under this section, does not exceed the 10-mill limit
7 established in s. 9(b), Art. VII of the State Constitution.
8 Any such levy shall be for a maximum of 4 years and shall be
9 counted as part of the 10-mill limit established in s. 9(b),
10 Art. VII of the State Constitution. Millage elections
11 conducted under the authority granted pursuant to this section
12 are subject to s. 1011.73. Funds generated by such additional
13 millage do not become a part of the calculation of the Florida
14 Education Finance Program total potential funds in 2001-2002
15 or any subsequent year and must not be incorporated in the
16 calculation of any hold-harmless or other component of the
17 Florida Education Finance Program formula in any year. If an
18 increase in required local effort, when added to existing
19 millage levied under the 10-mill limit, would result in a
20 combined millage in excess of the 10-mill limit, any millage
21 levied pursuant to this subsection shall be considered to be
22 required local effort to the extent that the district millage
23 would otherwise exceed the 10-mill limit.

24 Section 661. Section 1011.715, Florida Statutes, is
25 created to read:

26 1011.715 Resolution regarding school capital outlay
27 surcharge.--The resolution of a district school board
28 providing for the imposition of the school capital outlay
29 surtax authorized in s. 212.055(6) may include a covenant by
30 the district school board to decrease the capital local school
31 property tax levied pursuant to s. 1011.71(2) and to maintain

1 that tax at the reduced millage as long as the surtax is in
2 effect. The resolution may also provide that the surtax shall
3 sunset on December 31 of any year in which the district school
4 board levies the capital property tax under s. 1011.71(2) at a
5 millage rate in excess of the reduced millage rate promised in
6 the resolution. Finally, if the surtax revenues are pledged
7 to service bonded indebtedness, the district school board may
8 covenant not to levy the capital property tax under s.
9 1011.71(2) at a millage rate in excess of the reduced millage
10 rate promised in the resolution.

11 Section 662. Section 1011.72, Florida Statutes, is
12 created to read:

13 1011.72 Levy based on interim assessment roll;
14 reimbursement to state for additional taxes collected upon
15 reconciliation of roll.--In any year in which the base student
16 allocation has been guaranteed to school districts through the
17 use of state funds, a school district which levied taxes based
18 on an interim assessment roll shall be required to reimburse
19 the state in an amount equal to the additional taxes collected
20 upon reconciliation of that roll. Beginning with the
21 distribution following the delinquency date of the
22 supplemental bills, the state shall withhold all funds
23 otherwise available to that school district from the
24 appropriation to the Florida Education Finance Program until
25 such time as the state is completely reimbursed.

26 Section 663. Section 1011.73, Florida Statutes, is
27 created to read:

28 1011.73 District millage elections.--

29 (1) MILLAGE AUTHORIZED NOT TO EXCEED TWO YEARS.--The
30 district school board, pursuant to resolution adopted at a
31 regular meeting, shall direct the county commissioners to call

1 an election at which the electors within the school districts
2 may approve an ad valorem tax millage as authorized in s. 9,
3 Art. VII of the State Constitution. Such election may be held
4 at any time, except that not more than one such election shall
5 be held during any 12-month period. Any millage so authorized
6 shall be levied for a period not in excess of 2 years or until
7 changed by another millage election, whichever is the earlier.
8 In the event any such election is invalidated by a court of
9 competent jurisdiction, such invalidated election shall be
10 considered not to have been held.

11 (2) MILLAGE AUTHORIZED NOT TO EXCEED FOUR YEARS.--The
12 district school board, pursuant to resolution adopted at a
13 regular meeting, shall direct the county commissioners to call
14 an election at which the electors within the school district
15 may approve an ad valorem tax millage as authorized under s.
16 1011.71(6). Such election may be held at any time, except that
17 not more than one such election shall be held during any
18 12-month period. Any millage so authorized shall be levied for
19 a period not in excess of 4 years or until changed by another
20 millage election, whichever is earlier. If any such election
21 is invalidated by a court of competent jurisdiction, such
22 invalidated election shall be considered not to have been
23 held.

24 (3) HOLDING ELECTIONS.--All school district millage
25 elections shall be held and conducted in the manner prescribed
26 by law for holding general elections, except as provided in
27 this chapter.

28 (4) FORM OF BALLOT.--

29 (a) The district school board may propose a single
30 millage or two millages, with one for operating expenses and
31 another for a local capital improvement reserve fund. When two

1 millage figures are proposed, each millage must be voted on
2 separately.

3 (b) The district school board shall provide the
4 wording of the substance of the measure and the ballot title
5 in the resolution calling for the election. The wording of the
6 ballot must conform to the provisions of s. 101.161.

7 (5) QUALIFICATION OF ELECTORS.--All qualified electors
8 of the school district are entitled to vote in the election to
9 set the school tax district millage levy.

10 (6) RESULTS OF ELECTION.--When the district school
11 board proposes one tax levy for operating expenses and another
12 for the local capital improvement reserve fund, the results
13 shall be considered separately. The tax levy shall be levied
14 only in case a majority of the electors participating in the
15 election vote in favor of the proposed special millage.

16 (7) EXPENSES OF ELECTION.--The cost of the publication
17 of the notice of the election and all expenses of the election
18 in the school district shall be paid by the district school
19 board.

20 Section 664. Section 1011.74, Florida Statutes, is
21 created to read:

22 1011.74 Source and use of district capital improvement
23 fund.--The district capital improvement fund shall consist of
24 funds derived from the sale of school district bonds
25 authorized in s. 17, Art. XII of the State Constitution of
26 1885 as amended, together with any other funds directed to be
27 placed therein by rules of the State Board of Education, and
28 other similar funds which are to be used for capital outlay
29 purposes within the district.

30 Section 665. Section 1011.75, Florida Statutes, is
31 created to read:

1 1011.75 Gifted education exemplary program grants.--
2 (1) This section shall be known and may be cited as
3 the "Challenge Grant Program for the Gifted."
4 (2) There is hereby created a grant program for
5 education for the gifted which shall be administered by the
6 Commissioner of Education in cooperation and consultation with
7 appropriate organizations and associations concerned with
8 education for the gifted and pursuant to rules adopted by the
9 State Board of Education. The program may be implemented in
10 any public school.
11 (3) Pursuant to policies and rules to be adopted by
12 the State Board of Education, each district school board, two
13 or more district school boards in cooperation, or a public
14 school principal through the district school board may submit
15 to the commissioner a proposed program designed to effectuate
16 an exemplary program for education for the gifted in a school,
17 district, or group of districts. Consideration for funding
18 shall be given to proposed programs of district school boards
19 that are developed with the cooperation of a community college
20 or public or private college or university for the purpose of
21 providing advanced accelerated instruction for public school
22 students pursuant to s. 1003.435. In order to be approved, a
23 program proposal must include:
24 (a) Clearly stated goals and objectives expressed, to
25 the maximum extent possible, in measurable terms.
26 (b) Information concerning the number of students,
27 teachers, and other personnel to be involved in the program.
28 (c) The estimated cost of the program and the number
29 of years for which it is to be funded.
30 (d) Provisions for evaluation of the program and for
31 its integration into the general curriculum and financial

1 program of the school district or districts at the end of the
2 funded period.

3 (e) Such other information and provisions as the
4 commissioner requires.

5 (4) The commissioner shall review and approve,
6 disapprove, or resubmit for modification all proposed programs
7 for education for the gifted submitted. For those programs
8 approved, the commissioner shall authorize distribution of
9 funds equal to the cost of the program from funds appropriated
10 to the Department of Education for exemplary program grants
11 for education for the gifted as provided for by this section.
12 These funds shall be in addition to any funds for education
13 for the gifted provided pursuant to s. 1011.62.

14 Section 666. Section 1011.76, Florida Statutes, is
15 created to read:

16 1011.76 Small School District Stabilization Program.--

17 (1) There is created the Small School District
18 Stabilization Program to assist school districts in rural
19 communities that document economic conditions or other
20 significant community influences that negatively impact the
21 school district. The purpose of the program is to provide
22 technical assistance and financial support to maintain the
23 stability of the educational program in the school district. A
24 rural community means a county with a population of 75,000 or
25 less; or a county with a population of 100,000 or less that is
26 contiguous to a county with a population of 75,000 or less.

27 (2) In order to participate in this program, a school
28 district must be located in a rural area of critical economic
29 concern designated by the Executive Office of the Governor,
30 and the district school board must submit a resolution to the
31 Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development requesting

1 participation in the program. A rural area of critical
2 economic concern must be a rural community, or a region
3 composed of such, that has been adversely affected by an
4 extraordinary economic event or a natural disaster or that
5 presents a unique economic development concern or opportunity
6 of regional impact. The resolution must be accompanied with
7 documentation of the economic conditions in the community,
8 provide information indicating the negative impact of these
9 conditions on the school district's financial stability, and
10 the school district must participate in a best financial
11 management practices review to determine potential
12 efficiencies that could be implemented to reduce program costs
13 in the district.

14 (3) The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic
15 Development, in consultation with the Department of Education,
16 shall review the resolution and other information required by
17 subsection (2) and determine whether the school district is
18 eligible to participate in the program. Factors influencing
19 the office's determination may include, but are not limited
20 to, reductions in the county tax roll resulting from business
21 closures or other causes, or a reduction in student enrollment
22 due to business closures or impacts in the local economy.

23 (4) Effective July 1, 2000, and thereafter, when the
24 Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development authorizes
25 a school district to participate in the program, the
26 Legislature may give priority to that district for a best
27 financial management practices review in the school district,
28 subject to approval pursuant to s. 1008.35(7), to the extent
29 that funding is provided annually for such purpose in the
30 General Appropriations Act. The scope of the review shall be
31 as set forth in s. 1008.35.

1 (5) Effective July 1, 2000, and thereafter, the
2 Department of Education may award the school district a
3 stabilization grant intended to protect the district from
4 continued financial reductions. The amount of the grant will
5 be determined by the Department of Education and may be
6 equivalent to the amount of the decline in revenues projected
7 for the next fiscal year. In addition, the Office of Tourism,
8 Trade, and Economic Development may implement a rural economic
9 development initiative to identify the economic factors that
10 are negatively impacting the community and may consult with
11 Enterprise Florida, Inc., in developing a plan to assist the
12 county with its economic transition. The grant will be
13 available to the school district for a period of up to 5 years
14 to the extent that funding is provided for such purpose in the
15 General Appropriations Act.

16 (6) Based on the availability of funds, the Office of
17 Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development or the Department of
18 Education may enter into contracts or issue grants necessary
19 to implement the program.

20 Section 667. Section 1011.765, Florida Statutes, is
21 created to read:

22 1011.765 Florida Academic Improvement Trust Fund
23 matching grants.--

24 (1) MATCHING GRANTS.--The Florida Academic Improvement
25 Trust Fund shall be utilized to provide matching grants to the
26 Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind Endowment Fund and
27 to any public school district education foundation that meets
28 the requirements of this section and is recognized by the
29 local school district as its designated K-12 education
30 foundation.

31

1 (a) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules for
2 the administration, submission, documentation, evaluation, and
3 approval of requests for matching funds and for maintaining
4 accountability for endowments and the proceeds of endowments.

5 (b) Donations, state matching funds, or proceeds from
6 endowments established pursuant to this section shall be used
7 at the discretion of the public school district education
8 foundation or the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind
9 for academic achievement within the school district or school,
10 and shall not be expended for the construction of facilities
11 or for the support of interscholastic athletics. No public
12 school district education foundation or the Florida School for
13 the Deaf and the Blind shall accept or purchase facilities for
14 which the state will be asked for operating funds unless the
15 Legislature has granted prior approval for such acquisition.

16 (2) ALLOCATION OF THE TRUST FUND.--Funds appropriated
17 to the Florida Academic Improvement Trust Fund shall be
18 allocated by the Department of Education in the following
19 manner:

20 (a) For every year in which there is a legislative
21 appropriation to the trust fund, an equal amount of the annual
22 appropriation, to be determined by dividing the total
23 legislative appropriation by the number of local education
24 foundations as well as the Florida School for the Deaf and the
25 Blind, must be reserved for each public school district
26 education foundation and the Florida School for the Deaf and
27 the Blind Endowment Fund to provide each foundation and the
28 Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind with an opportunity
29 to receive and match appropriated funds. Trust funds that
30 remain unmatched by contribution on April 1 of any year shall
31 be made available for matching by any public school district

1 education foundation and by the Florida School for the Deaf
2 and the Blind which shall have an opportunity to apply for
3 excess trust funds prior to the award of such funds.

4 (b) Matching grants shall be proportionately allocated
5 from the trust fund on the basis of matching each \$4 of state
6 funds with \$6 of private funds. To be eligible for matching, a
7 minimum of \$4,500 must be raised from private sources.

8 (c) Funds sufficient to provide the match shall be
9 transferred from the state trust fund to the public school
10 education foundation or to the Florida School for the Deaf and
11 the Blind Endowment Fund upon notification that a
12 proportionate amount has been received and deposited by the
13 foundation or school into its own trust fund.

14 (d) If the total of the amounts to be distributed in
15 any quarter pursuant to this subsection exceeds the amount of
16 funds remaining from specific appropriations made for the
17 implementation of this section, all grants shall be
18 proportionately reduced so that the total of matching grants
19 distributed does not exceed available appropriations.

20 (3) GRANT ADMINISTRATION.--

21 (a) Each public school district education foundation
22 and the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind
23 participating in the Florida Academic Improvement Trust Fund
24 shall separately account for all funds received pursuant to
25 this section, and may establish its own academic improvement
26 trust fund as a depository for the private contributions,
27 state matching funds, and earnings on investments of such
28 funds. State matching funds shall be transferred to the public
29 school district education foundation or to the Florida School
30 for the Deaf and the Blind Endowment Fund upon notification
31 that the foundation or school has received and deposited

1 private contributions that meet the criteria for matching as
2 provided in this section. The public school district education
3 foundations and the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind
4 are responsible for the maintenance, investment, and
5 administration of their academic improvement trust funds.

6 (b) The public school district education foundations
7 and the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind shall be
8 responsible for soliciting and receiving contributions to be
9 deposited and matched with grants for establishing endowments
10 for academic achievement within the school district or school.

11 (c) Each public school district education foundation
12 and the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind shall be
13 responsible for proper expenditure of the funds received
14 pursuant to this section.

15 Section 668. Section 1011.77, Florida Statutes, is
16 created to read:

17 1011.77 Special laws and general laws of local
18 application prohibited.--

19 (1) Pursuant to s. 11(a)(21), Art. III of the State
20 Constitution, the Legislature hereby prohibits special laws
21 and general laws of local application pertaining to:

22 (a) The assessment or collection of taxes for school
23 purposes insofar as it may affect the distribution of state
24 funds, including the determination of millages therefor, the
25 extension of time therefor, relief of tax officers from due
26 performance of their duties, and relief of their sureties from
27 liability.

28 (b) The Florida Education Finance Program as enacted
29 in 1973 or as subsequently amended.

30 (2) The department shall determine whether any
31 district has received additional funds subsequent to June 30,

1 1973, as a result of any special law or general law of local
2 application described in subsection (1) and shall deduct an
3 amount equal to any such additional funds from allocations to
4 that district.

5 Section 669. Part III of chapter 1011, Florida
6 Statutes, shall be entitled "Funding for Workforce Education"
7 and shall consist of ss. 1011.80-1011.801.

8 Section 670. Section 1011.80, Florida Statutes, is
9 created to read:

10 1011.80 Funds for operation of adult technical
11 education programs.--

12 (1) As used in this section, the terms "workforce
13 development education" and "workforce development program"
14 include:

15 (a) Adult general education programs designed to
16 improve the employability skills of the state's workforce as
17 defined in s. 1004.02(5).

18 (b) Career and technical certificate programs, as
19 defined in s. 1004.02(23).

20 (c) Applied technology diploma programs.

21 (d) Continuing workforce education courses.

22 (e) Degree technical education programs.

23 (f) Apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs as
24 defined in s. 446.021.

25 (2) Any workforce development education program may be
26 conducted by a community college or a school district, except
27 that college credit in an associate in applied science or an
28 associate in science degree may be awarded only by a community
29 college. However, if an associate in applied science or an
30 associate in science degree program contains within it an
31 occupational completion point that confers a certificate or an

1 applied technology diploma, that portion of the program may be
2 conducted by a school district technical center. Any
3 instruction designed to articulate to a degree program is
4 subject to guidelines and standards adopted by the State Board
5 of Education pursuant to s. 1007.25.

6 (3) If a program for disabled adults pursuant to s.
7 1004.93 is a workforce development program as defined in law,
8 it must be funded as provided in this section.

9 (4) The Florida Workforce Development Education Fund
10 is created to provide performance-based funding for all
11 workforce development programs, whether the programs are
12 offered by a school district or a community college. Funding
13 for all workforce development education programs must be from
14 the Workforce Development Education Fund and must be based on
15 cost categories, performance output measures, and performance
16 outcome measures.

17 (a) The cost categories must be calculated to identify
18 high-cost programs, medium-cost programs, and low-cost
19 programs. The cost analysis used to calculate and assign a
20 program of study to a cost category must include at least both
21 direct and indirect instructional costs, consumable supplies,
22 equipment, and standard program length.

23 (b)1. The performance output measure for career and
24 technical education programs of study is student completion of
25 a career and technical program of study that leads to an
26 occupational completion point associated with a certificate;
27 an apprenticeship program; or a program that leads to an
28 applied technology diploma or an associate in applied science
29 or associate in science degree. Performance output measures
30 for registered apprenticeship programs shall be based on
31

1 program lengths that coincide with lengths established
2 pursuant to the requirements of chapter 446.

3 2. The performance output measure for an adult general
4 education course of study is measurable improvement in student
5 skills. This measure shall include improvement in literacy
6 skills, grade level improvement as measured by an approved
7 test, or attainment of a State of Florida diploma or an adult
8 high school diploma.

9 (c) The performance outcome measures for programs
10 funded through the Workforce Development Education Fund are
11 associated with placement and retention of students after
12 reaching a completion point or completing a program of study.
13 These measures include placement or retention in employment
14 that is related to the program of study; placement into or
15 retention in employment in an occupation on the Workforce
16 Estimating Conference list of high-wage, high-skill
17 occupations with sufficient openings, or other High Wage/High
18 Skill Program occupations as determined by Workforce Florida,
19 Inc.; and placement and retention of participants or former
20 participants in the welfare transition program in employment.
21 Continuing postsecondary education at a level that will
22 further enhance employment is a performance outcome for adult
23 general education programs. Placement and retention must be
24 reported pursuant to ss. 1008.39 and 1008.43.

25 (5) State funding and student fees for workforce
26 development instruction funded through the Workforce
27 Development Education Fund shall be established as follows:

28 (a) For a continuing workforce education course, state
29 funding shall equal 50 percent of the cost of instruction,
30 with student fees, business support, quick-response training
31 funds, or other means making up the remaining 50 percent.

1 (b) For all other workforce development education
2 funded through the Workforce Development Education Fund, state
3 funding shall equal 75 percent of the average cost of
4 instruction with the remaining 25 percent made up from student
5 fees. Fees for courses within a program shall not vary
6 according to the cost of the individual program, but instead
7 shall be based on a uniform fee calculated and set at the
8 state level, as adopted by the State Board of Education,
9 unless otherwise specified in the General Appropriations Act.

10 (c) For fee-exempt students pursuant to s. 1009.25,
11 unless otherwise provided for in law, state funding shall
12 equal 100 percent of the average cost of instruction.

13 (6)(a) A school district or a community college that
14 provides workforce development education funded through the
15 Workforce Development Education Fund shall receive funds in
16 accordance with distributions for base and performance funding
17 established by the Legislature in the General Appropriations
18 Act, pursuant to the following conditions:

19 1. Base funding shall not exceed 85 percent of the
20 current fiscal year total Workforce Development Education Fund
21 allocation, which shall be distributed by the Legislature in
22 the General Appropriations Act based on a maximum of 85
23 percent of the institution's prior year total allocation from
24 base and performance funds.

25 2. Performance funding shall be at least 15 percent of
26 the current fiscal year total Workforce Development Education
27 Fund allocation, which shall be distributed by the Legislature
28 in the General Appropriations Act based on the previous fiscal
29 year's achievement of output and outcomes in accordance with
30 formulas adopted pursuant to subsection (9). Performance
31 funding must incorporate payments for at least three levels of

1 placements that reflect wages and workforce demand. Payments
2 for completions must not exceed 60 percent of the payments for
3 placement. School districts and community colleges shall be
4 awarded funds pursuant to this paragraph based on performance
5 output data and performance outcome data available in that
6 year.

7 3. If a local educational agency achieves a level of
8 performance sufficient to generate a full allocation as
9 authorized by the workforce development funding formula, the
10 agency may earn performance incentive funds as appropriated
11 for that purpose in a General Appropriations Act. If
12 performance incentive funds are funded and awarded, these
13 funds must be added to the local educational agency's prior
14 year total allocation from the Workforce Development Education
15 Fund and shall be used to calculate the following year's base
16 funding.

17 (b) A program is established to assist school
18 districts and community colleges in responding to the needs of
19 new and expanding businesses and thereby strengthening the
20 state's workforce and economy. The program may be funded in
21 the General Appropriations Act. A school district or community
22 college may expend funds under the program without regard to
23 performance criteria set forth in subparagraph (a)2. The
24 district or community college shall use the program to provide
25 customized training for businesses which satisfies the
26 requirements of s. 288.047. Business firms whose employees
27 receive the customized training must provide 50 percent of the
28 cost of the training. Balances remaining in the program at the
29 end of the fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund,
30 but shall be carried over for 1 additional year and used for
31 the purpose of serving incumbent worker training needs of area

1 businesses with fewer than 100 employees. Priority shall be
2 given to businesses that must increase or upgrade their use of
3 technology to remain competitive.

4 (7) A school district or community college that earns
5 performance funding must use the money to benefit the
6 postsecondary adult and technical education programs it
7 provides. The money may be used for equipment upgrades,
8 program expansions, or any other use that would result in
9 workforce development program improvement. The district school
10 board or community college board of trustees may not withhold
11 any portion of the performance funding for indirect costs.
12 Notwithstanding s. 216.351, funds awarded pursuant to this
13 section may be carried across fiscal years and shall not
14 revert to any other fund maintained by the district school
15 board or community college board of trustees.

16 (8) The State Board of Education and Workforce
17 Florida, Inc., shall provide the Legislature with recommended
18 formulas, criteria, timeframes, and mechanisms for
19 distributing performance funds. The commissioner shall
20 consolidate the recommendations and develop a consensus
21 proposal for funding. The Legislature shall adopt a formula
22 and distribute the performance funds to the State Board of
23 Education for community colleges and school districts through
24 the General Appropriations Act. These recommendations shall be
25 based on formulas that would discourage low-performing or
26 low-demand programs and encourage through performance-funding
27 awards:

28 (a) Programs that prepare people to enter high-wage
29 occupations identified by the Workforce Estimating Conference
30 created by s. 216.136 and other programs as approved by
31 Workforce Florida, Inc. At a minimum, performance incentives

1 shall be calculated for adults who reach completion points or
2 complete programs that lead to specified high-wage employment
3 and to their placement in that employment.

4 (b) Programs that successfully prepare adults who are
5 eligible for public assistance, economically disadvantaged,
6 disabled, not proficient in English, or dislocated workers for
7 high-wage occupations. At a minimum, performance incentives
8 shall be calculated at an enhanced value for the completion of
9 adults identified in this paragraph and job placement of such
10 adults upon completion. In addition, adjustments may be made
11 in payments for job placements for areas of high unemployment.

12 (c) Programs that are specifically designed to be
13 consistent with the workforce needs of private enterprise and
14 regional economic development strategies, as defined in
15 guidelines set by Workforce Florida, Inc. Workforce Florida,
16 Inc., shall develop guidelines to identify such needs and
17 strategies based on localized research of private employers
18 and economic development practitioners.

19 (d) Programs identified by Workforce Florida, Inc., as
20 increasing the effectiveness and cost efficiency of education.

21 (9) A high school student dually enrolled under s.
22 1007.271 in a workforce development program funded through the
23 Workforce Development Education Fund and operated by a
24 community college or school district technical center
25 generates the amount calculated by the Workforce Development
26 Education Fund, including any payment of performance funding,
27 and the proportional share of full-time equivalent enrollment
28 generated through the Florida Education Finance Program for
29 the student's enrollment in a high school. If a high school
30 student is dually enrolled in a community college program,
31 including a program conducted at a high school, the community

1 college earns the funds generated through the Workforce
2 Development Education Fund and the school district earns the
3 proportional share of full-time equivalent funding from the
4 Florida Education Finance Program. If a student is dually
5 enrolled in a technical center operated by the same district
6 as the district in which the student attends high school, that
7 district earns the funds generated through the Workforce
8 Development Education Fund and also earns the proportional
9 share of full-time equivalent funding from the Florida
10 Education Finance Program. If a student is dually enrolled in
11 a workforce development program provided by a technical center
12 operated by a different school district, the funds must be
13 divided between the two school districts proportionally from
14 the two funding sources. A student may not be reported for
15 funding in a dual enrollment workforce development program
16 unless the student has completed the basic skills assessment
17 pursuant to s. 1004.91.

18 (10) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to
19 administer this section.

20 Section 671. Section 1011.801, Florida Statutes, is
21 created to read:

22 1011.801 Workforce Development Capitalization
23 Incentive Grant Program.--The Legislature recognizes that the
24 need for school districts and community colleges to be able to
25 respond to emerging local or statewide economic development
26 needs is critical to the workforce development system. The
27 Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program
28 is created to provide grants to school districts and community
29 colleges on a competitive basis to fund some or all of the
30 costs associated with the creation or expansion of workforce
31

1 development programs that serve specific employment workforce
2 needs.

3 (1) Funds awarded for a workforce development
4 capitalization incentive grant may be used for instructional
5 equipment, laboratory equipment, supplies, personnel, student
6 services, or other expenses associated with the creation or
7 expansion of a workforce development program. Expansion of a
8 program may include either the expansion of enrollments in a
9 program or expansion into new areas of specialization within a
10 program. No grant funds may be used for recurring
11 instructional costs or for institutions' indirect costs.

12 (2) The State Board of Education shall accept
13 applications from school districts or community colleges for
14 workforce development capitalization incentive grants.
15 Applications from school districts or community colleges shall
16 contain projected enrollments and projected costs for the new
17 or expanded workforce development program. The State Board of
18 Education, in consultation with the Workforce Florida, Inc.,
19 shall review and rank each application for a grant according
20 to subsection (3) and shall submit to the Legislature a list
21 in priority order of applications recommended for a grant
22 award.

23 (3) The State Board of Education shall give highest
24 priority to programs that train people to enter high-skill,
25 high-wage occupations identified by the Workforce Estimating
26 Conference and other programs approved by Workforce Florida,
27 Inc.; programs that train people to enter occupations under
28 the welfare transition program; or programs that train for the
29 workforce adults who are eligible for public assistance,
30 economically disadvantaged, disabled, not proficient in
31 English, or dislocated workers. The State Board of Education

1 shall consider the statewide geographic dispersion of grant
2 funds in ranking the applications and shall give priority to
3 applications from education agencies that are making maximum
4 use of their workforce development funding by offering
5 high-performing, high-demand programs.

6 Section 672. Part IV of chapter 1011, Florida
7 Statutes, shall be entitled "Funding for Community Colleges"
8 and shall consist of ss. 1011.81-1011.86.

9 Section 673. Section 1011.81, Florida Statutes, is
10 created to read:

11 1011.81 Community College Program Fund.--There is
12 established a Community College Program Fund. This fund shall
13 comprise all appropriations made by the Legislature for the
14 support of the current operating program and shall be
15 apportioned and distributed to the community college districts
16 of the state on the basis of procedures established by law and
17 rules of the State Board of Education. The annual
18 apportionment for each community college district shall be
19 distributed monthly in payments as nearly equal as possible.

20 Section 674. Section 1011.82, Florida Statutes, is
21 created to read:

22 1011.82 Requirements for participation in Community
23 College Program Fund.--Each community college district which
24 participates in the state appropriations for the Community
25 College Program Fund shall provide evidence of its effort to
26 maintain an adequate community college program which shall:

27 (1) Meet the minimum standards prescribed by the State
28 Board of Education in accordance with s. 1001.02(9).

29 (2) Effectively fulfill the mission of the community
30 colleges in accordance with s. 1004.65.

31

1 Section 675. Section 1011.83, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1011.83 Financial support of community colleges.--Each
4 community college that has been approved by the Department of
5 Education and meets the requirements of law and rules of the
6 State Board of Education shall participate in the community
7 college program fund. However, funds to support workforce
8 development programs conducted by community colleges shall be
9 provided by the Workforce Development Education Fund pursuant
10 to s. 1011.80.

11 Section 676. Section 1011.84, Florida Statutes, is
12 created to read:

13 1011.84 Procedure for determining state financial
14 support and annual apportionment of state funds to each
15 community college district.--The procedure for determining
16 state financial support and the annual apportionment to each
17 community college district authorized to operate a community
18 college under the provisions of s. 1001.61 shall be as
19 follows:

20 (1) DETERMINING THE AMOUNT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE
21 COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROGRAM FUND FOR THE CURRENT OPERATING
22 PROGRAM.--

23 (a) The Department of Education shall determine
24 annually from an analysis of operating costs, prepared in the
25 manner prescribed by rules of the State Board of Education,
26 the costs per full-time equivalent student served in courses
27 and fields of study offered in community colleges. This
28 information and current college operating budgets shall be
29 submitted to the Executive Office of the Governor with the
30 legislative budget request prior to each regular session of
31 the Legislature.

1 (b) The allocation of funds for community colleges
2 shall be based on advanced and professional disciplines,
3 college-preparatory programs, and other programs for adults
4 funded pursuant to s. 1011.80.

5 (c) The category of lifelong learning is for students
6 enrolled pursuant to s. 1004.93. A student shall also be
7 reported as a lifelong learning student for his or her
8 enrollment in any course that he or she has previously taken,
9 unless it is a credit course in which the student earned a
10 grade of D or F.

11 (d) If an adult student has been determined to be a
12 disabled student eligible for an approved educational program
13 for disabled adults provided pursuant to s. 1004.93 and rules
14 of the State Board of Education and is enrolled in a class
15 with curriculum frameworks developed for the program, state
16 funding for that student shall be provided at a level double
17 that of a student enrolled in a special adult general
18 education program provided by a community college.

19 (e) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to
20 implement s. 9(d)(8)f., Art. XII of the State Constitution.
21 These rules shall provide for the use of the funds available
22 under s. 9(d)(8)f., Art. XII by an individual community
23 college for operating expense in any fiscal year during which
24 the State Board of Education has determined that all major
25 capital outlay needs have been met. Highest priority for the
26 use of these funds for purposes other than financing approved
27 capital outlay projects shall be for the proper maintenance
28 and repair of existing facilities for projects approved by the
29 State Board of Education. However, in any fiscal year in which
30 funds from this source are authorized for operating expense
31 other than approved maintenance and repair projects, the

1 allocation of community college program funds shall be reduced
2 by an amount equal to the sum used for such operating expense
3 for that community college that year, and that amount shall
4 not be released or allocated among the other community
5 colleges that year.

6 (2) DETERMINING THE AMOUNT TO BE INCLUDED FOR CAPITAL
7 OUTLAY AND DEBT SERVICE.--The amount included for capital
8 outlay and debt service shall be as determined and provided in
9 s. 18, Art. XII of the State Constitution of 1885, as adopted
10 by s. 9(d), Art. XII of the 1968 revised State Constitution
11 and State Board of Education rules.

12 (3) DETERMINING THE APPORTIONMENT FROM STATE FUNDS.--

13 (a) By December 15 of each year, the Department of
14 Education shall estimate the annual enrollment of each
15 community college for the current fiscal year and for the 6
16 subsequent fiscal years. These estimates shall be based upon
17 prior years' enrollments, upon the initial fall term
18 enrollments for the current fiscal year for each college, and
19 upon each college's estimated current enrollment and
20 demographic changes in the respective community college
21 districts.

22 (b) The apportionment to each community college from
23 the Community College Program Fund shall be determined
24 annually in the General Appropriations Act. In determining
25 each college's apportionment, the Legislature shall consider
26 the following components:

27 1. Base budget, which includes the state appropriation
28 to the Community College Program Fund in the current year plus
29 the related student tuition and out-of-state fees assigned in
30 the current General Appropriations Act.

31

1 2. The cost-to-continue allocation, which consists of
2 incremental changes to the base budget, including salaries,
3 price levels, and other related costs.

4 3. Enrollment workload adjustment, which shall be
5 determined as follows:

6 a. The actual full-time equivalent enrollment for the
7 prior year, as accepted or modified by the Legislature, shall
8 be the assigned enrollment and the basis for allocating
9 appropriated funds for enrollment workload. If the enrollment
10 workload allocation to a college is determined to be less than
11 zero, the reduction in allocation shall be implemented over a
12 2-year period.

13 b. The systemwide average direct instructional cost
14 level of each program of study shall be used to calculate the
15 enrollment workload adjustment. This amount, multiplied by a
16 factor of 1.3, for support services shall be multiplied by the
17 change in enrollment as determined in sub-subparagraph a. From
18 this amount, student matriculation and tuition fees generated
19 by the change in assigned enrollment shall be deducted and the
20 remaining amount shall be the state allocation to each college
21 for enrollment workload.

22 c. Students enrolled in a recreation and leisure
23 program and students enrolled in a lifelong learning program
24 may not be counted as full-time equivalent enrollments for
25 purposes of enrollment workload adjustments.

26 4. Operating costs of new facilities adjustments,
27 which shall be provided, from funds available, for each new
28 facility that is owned by the college and is recommended in
29 accordance with s. 1013.31.

30 5. New and improved program enhancements, which shall
31 be determined by the Legislature.

1
2 Student fees in the base budget plus student fee revenues
3 generated by increases in fee rates shall be deducted from the
4 sum of the components determined in subparagraphs 1.-5. The
5 amount remaining shall be the net annual state apportionment
6 to each college.

7 (c) No community college shall commit funds for the
8 employment of personnel or resources in excess of those
9 required to continue the same level of support for either the
10 previously approved enrollment or the revised enrollment,
11 whichever is lower.

12 (d) The apportionment to each community college
13 district for capital outlay and debt service shall be the
14 amount determined in accordance with subsection (2). This
15 amount, less any amount determined as necessary for
16 administrative expense by the State Board of Education and any
17 amount necessary for debt service on bonds issued by the State
18 Board of Education, shall be transmitted to the community
19 college board of trustees to be expended in a manner
20 prescribed by rules of the State Board of Education.

21 (e) If at any time the unencumbered balance in the
22 general fund of the community college board of trustees
23 approved operating budget goes below 5 percent, the president
24 shall provide written notification to the State Board of
25 Education.

26 (f) Expenditures for apprenticeship programs shall be
27 reported separately.

28 (4) EXPENDITURE OF ALLOCATED FUNDS.--Any funds
29 allocated herein to any community college shall be expended
30 only for the purpose of supporting that community college.
31

1 (5) REPORT OF REMEDIAL EDUCATION.--Each community
2 college board of trustees shall report the volume and cost of
3 remedial education activities as a separate item in its annual
4 cost accounting system.

5 Section 677. Section 1011.85, Florida Statutes, is
6 created to read:

7 1011.85 Dr. Philip Benjamin Matching Grant Program for
8 Community Colleges.--

9 (1) There is created the Dr. Philip Benjamin Matching
10 Grant Program for Community Colleges as a single matching
11 gifts program that encompasses the goals originally set out in
12 the Academic Improvement Program, the Scholarship Matching
13 Program, and the Health Care Education Quality Enhancement
14 Challenge Grant. The program shall be administered according
15 to rules of the State Board of Education and used to encourage
16 private support in enhancing community colleges by providing
17 the community college system with the opportunity to receive
18 and match challenge grants. Funds received prior to the
19 effective date of this act for each of the three programs
20 shall be retained in the separate account for which it was
21 designated.

22 (2) Each community college board of trustees receiving
23 state appropriations under this program shall approve each
24 gift to ensure alignment with the unique mission of the
25 community college. The board of trustees must link all
26 requests for a state match to the goals and mission statement.
27 The Florida Community College Foundation Board receiving state
28 appropriations under this program shall approve each gift to
29 ensure alignment with its goals and mission statement.

30 (3) Upon approval by the community college board of
31 trustees and the State Board of Education, the ordering of

1 donations for priority listing of unmatched gifts should be
2 determined by the submitting community college.

3 (4) Each year, eligible contributions received by a
4 community college's foundation or the State Board of Education
5 by February 1 shall be eligible for state matching funds.

6 (a) Each community college board of trustees and, when
7 applicable, the Florida Community College Foundation Board,
8 receiving state appropriations under this program shall also
9 certify in an annual report to the State Board of Education
10 the receipt of eligible cash contributions that were
11 previously unmatched by the state. The State Board of
12 Education shall adopt rules providing all community colleges
13 with an opportunity to apply for excess funds before the
14 awarding of such funds.

15 (b) Community colleges must submit to the State Board
16 of Education an annual expenditure report tracking the use of
17 all matching funds.

18 (c) The audit of each foundation receiving state funds
19 from this program must include a certification of accuracy in
20 the amount reported for matching funds.

21 (5) The matching ratio for donations that are
22 specifically designated to support scholarships, student
23 loans, or need-based grants shall be \$1 of state funds to \$1
24 of local private funds.

25 (6) Otherwise, funds shall be proportionately
26 allocated to the community colleges on the basis of matching
27 each \$6 of local or private funds with \$4 of state funds. To
28 be eligible, a minimum of \$4,500 must be raised from private
29 sources.

30 (7) The community college board of trustees, in
31 conjunction with the donor, shall make the determination of

1 whether scholarships established pursuant to this program are
2 endowed.

3 (8)(a) Funds sufficient to provide the match shall be
4 transferred from the state appropriations to the local
5 community college foundation or the statewide community
6 college foundation upon notification that a proportionate
7 amount has been received and deposited by a community college
8 in its own trust fund.

9 (b) If state funds appropriated for the program are
10 insufficient to match contributions, the amount allocated
11 shall be reduced in proportion to its share of the total
12 eligible contributions. However, in making proportional
13 reductions, every community college shall receive a minimum of
14 \$75,000 in state matching funds if its eligible contributions
15 would have generated an amount at least equal to \$75,000. All
16 unmet contributions shall be eligible for state matching funds
17 in subsequent fiscal years.

18 (9) Each community college entity shall establish its
19 own matching grant program fund as a depository for the
20 private contributions and matching state funds provided under
21 this section. Community college foundations are responsible
22 for the maintenance, investment, and administration of their
23 matching grant program funds.

24 (10) The State Board of Education may receive
25 submissions of requests for matching funds and documentation
26 relating to those requests, may approve requests for matching
27 funds, and may allocate such funds to the community colleges.

28 (11) The board of trustees of the community college
29 and the State Board of Education are responsible for
30 determining the uses for the proceeds of their respective
31

1 trust funds. Such use of the proceeds shall include, but not
2 be limited to, expenditure of the funds for:
3 (a) Scientific and technical equipment.
4 (b) Scholarships, loans, or need-based grants.
5 (c) Other activities that will benefit future students
6 as well as students currently enrolled at the community
7 college, will improve the quality of education at the
8 community college, or will enhance economic development in the
9 community.

10 Section 678. Section 1011.86, Florida Statutes, is
11 created to read:

12 1011.86 Educational leadership enhancement grants.--

13 (1) State universities and community colleges may
14 submit proposals for educational leadership enhancement grants
15 to the Commissioner of Education. Proposals shall be funded
16 competitively.

17 (2) To be eligible for funding, proposals must create
18 programs designed to strengthen the academic and professional
19 coursework or executive management preparation of women and
20 minorities.

21 (3) Each proposal must include specific measurable
22 goals and objectives.

23 (4) The State Board of Education may adopt any rules
24 necessary to implement the provisions of this grant program.

25 (5) The grant program shall be implemented to the
26 extent funded in the General Appropriations Act.

27 Section 679. Part V of chapter 1011, Florida Statutes,
28 shall be entitled "Funding for Universities" and shall consist
29 of ss. 1011.90-1011.94.

30 Section 680. Section 1011.90, Florida Statutes, is
31 created to read:

1 1011.90 State university funding.--
2 (1) Planned enrollments for each university as
3 accepted or modified by the Legislature and program cost
4 categories shall be the basis for the allocation of
5 appropriated funds to the universities.
6 (2) In addition to enrollment-based appropriations,
7 categorical programs shall be established in universities
8 which are not directly related to planned student enrollment.
9 Such programs shall be based upon the assigned missions of the
10 institutions and shall include, but not be limited to,
11 research and public service programs and authority to spend
12 fee revenues collected pursuant to subsection (5) and s.
13 1009.24. Appropriations by the Legislature and allocations to
14 universities shall be based upon full costs, as determined
15 pursuant to subsection (1), and priorities established by the
16 Legislature.
17 (3) The Legislature by line item in an appropriations
18 act may identify programs of extraordinary quality for the
19 utilization of state funds to be matched by nonstate and
20 nonfederal sources.
21 (4) The State Board of Education shall establish and
22 validate a cost-estimating system consistent with the
23 requirements of subsection (1) and shall report as part of its
24 legislative budget request the actual expenditures for the
25 fiscal year ending the previous June 30. Expenditure analysis,
26 operating budgets, and annual financial statements of each
27 university must be prepared using the standard financial
28 reporting procedures and formats prescribed by the State Board
29 of Education. These formats shall be the same as used for the
30 2000-2001 fiscal year reports. Any revisions to these
31 financial and reporting procedures and formats must be

1 approved by the Executive Office of the Governor and the
2 appropriations committees of the Legislature jointly under the
3 provisions of s. 216.023(3). The State Board of Education
4 shall continue to collect and maintain at a minimum the
5 management information databases existing on June 30, 2002.
6 The expenditure analysis report shall include total
7 expenditures from all sources for the general operation of the
8 university and shall be in such detail as needed to support
9 the legislative budget request.

10 (5) If the actual enrollment for any university is
11 less than planned enrollment by more than 5 percent for any 2
12 consecutive fiscal years, the university enrollment plan for
13 the next year shall be reduced. If actual enrollment exceeds
14 planned enrollment by more than 5 percent, an explanation of
15 the excess shall be provided with the next year's enrollment
16 plan. The analysis of enrollment conducted for implementing
17 this subsection shall be based on the categories of enrollment
18 used in the education and general appropriation.

19 Section 681. Section 1011.91, Florida Statutes, is
20 created to read:

21 1011.91 Additional appropriation.--

22 (1) All moneys received by universities, other than
23 from state and federal sources, from student building and
24 capital improvement fees, and from vending machine
25 collections, are hereby appropriated to the use of the
26 respective universities collecting same, to be expended as the
27 university board of trustees may direct; however, the funds
28 shall not be expended except in pursuance of detailed budgets
29 filed with the State Board of Education and shall not be
30 expended for the construction or reconstruction of buildings
31 except as provided under s. 1013.74.

1 (2) All moneys received from vending machine
2 collections by universities shall be expended only as set
3 forth in detailed budgets approved by the State Board of
4 Education.

5 (3)(a) All moneys received by universities for the
6 Auxiliary Enterprises and Contracts, Grants and Donations
7 budget entities, and the self-insurance program authorized in
8 s. 1004.24, shall be exempt from the requirements of s.
9 216.023.

10 (b) No new state appropriation shall be obligated as a
11 source of matching funds for potential federal or private
12 contracts or grants. Upon the termination of any federal or
13 private contracts or grants, the state shall not be obligated
14 to provide continued funding for personnel or project costs
15 related to such contracts or grants.

16 Section 682. Section 1011.93, Florida Statutes, is
17 created to read:

18 1011.93 Pari-mutuel wagering funded research and
19 development programs.--Each fiscal year, the first \$250,000 of
20 the funds credited to the Pari-mutuel Wagering Trust Fund
21 shall be used to fund the establishment and implementation of
22 research and development programs at the University of
23 Florida. The University of Florida shall administer the
24 distribution of the funds. These programs must include, but
25 are not limited to:

26 (1) Research related to the breeding, health, feeding,
27 or training of dogs and horses.

28 (2) Development of continuing education programs for
29 individuals involved in the care and treatment of dogs and
30 horses at pari-mutuel facilities.

31

1 (3) Establishment of a postmortem evaluation program
2 for break-down injuries of dogs and horses.

3 (4) Research and development of helmet safety and the
4 improvement of jai alai equipment.

5 Section 683. Section 1011.94, Florida Statutes, is
6 created to read:

7 1011.94 Trust Fund for University Major Gifts.--

8 (1) There is established a Trust Fund for University
9 Major Gifts. The purpose of the trust fund is to enable each
10 university and New College to provide donors with an incentive
11 in the form of matching grants for donations for the
12 establishment of permanent endowments, which must be invested,
13 with the proceeds of the investment used to support libraries
14 and instruction and research programs, as defined by procedure
15 of the State Board of Education. All funds appropriated for
16 the challenge grants, new donors, major gifts, or eminent
17 scholars program must be deposited into the trust fund and
18 invested pursuant to s. 18.125 until the State Board of
19 Education allocates the funds to universities to match private
20 donations. Notwithstanding s. 216.301 and pursuant to s.
21 216.351, any undisbursed balance remaining in the trust fund
22 and interest income accruing to the portion of the trust fund
23 which is not matched and distributed to universities must
24 remain in the trust fund and be used to increase the total
25 funds available for challenge grants. The State Board of
26 Education may authorize any university to encumber the state
27 matching portion of a challenge grant from funds available
28 under s. 1011.45.

29 (2) The State Board of Education shall specify the
30 process for submission, documentation, and approval of
31 requests for matching funds, accountability for endowments and

1 proceeds of endowments, allocations to universities,
2 restrictions on the use of the proceeds from endowments, and
3 criteria used in determining the value of donations.

4 (3)(a) The State Board of Education shall allocate the
5 amount appropriated to the trust fund to each university and
6 New College based on the amount of the donation and the
7 restrictions applied to the donation.

8 (b) Donations for a specific purpose must be matched
9 in the following manner:

10 1. Each university that raises at least \$100,000 but
11 no more than \$599,999 from a private source must receive a
12 matching grant equal to 50 percent of the private
13 contribution.

14 2. Each university that raises a contribution of at
15 least \$600,000 but no more than \$1 million from a private
16 source must receive a matching grant equal to 70 percent of
17 the private contribution.

18 3. Each university that raises a contribution in
19 excess of \$1 million but no more than \$1.5 million from a
20 private source must receive a matching grant equal to 75
21 percent of the private contribution.

22 4. Each university that raises a contribution in
23 excess of \$1.5 million but no more than \$2 million from a
24 private source must receive a matching grant equal to 80
25 percent of the private contribution.

26 5. Each university that raises a contribution in
27 excess of \$2 million from a private source must receive a
28 matching grant equal to 100 percent of the private
29 contribution.

30 (c) The State Board of Education shall encumber state
31 matching funds for any pledged contributions, pro rata, based

1 on the requirements for state matching funds as specified for
2 the particular challenge grant and the amount of the private
3 donations actually received by the university for the
4 respective challenge grant.

5 (4) Matching funds may be provided for contributions
6 encumbered or pledged under the Eminent Scholars Act prior to
7 July 1, 1994, and for donations or pledges of any amount equal
8 to or in excess of the prescribed minimums which are pledged
9 for the purpose of this section.

10 (5)(a) Each university foundation and New College
11 Foundation shall establish a challenge grant account for each
12 challenge grant as a depository for private contributions and
13 state matching funds to be administered on behalf of the State
14 Board of Education, the university, or New College. State
15 matching funds must be transferred to a university foundation
16 or New College Foundation upon notification that the
17 university or New College has received and deposited the
18 amount specified in this section in a foundation challenge
19 grant account.

20 (b) The foundation serving a university and New
21 College Foundation each has the responsibility for the
22 maintenance and investment of its challenge grant account and
23 for the administration of the program on behalf of the
24 university or New College, pursuant to procedures specified by
25 the State Board of Education. Each foundation shall include in
26 its annual report to the State Board of Education information
27 concerning collection and investment of matching gifts and
28 donations and investment of the account.

29 (c) A donation of at least \$600,000 and associated
30 state matching funds may be used to designate an Eminent
31

1 Scholar Endowed Chair pursuant to procedures specified by the
2 State Board of Education.

3 (6) The donations, state matching funds, or proceeds
4 from endowments established under this section may not be
5 expended for the construction, renovation, or maintenance of
6 facilities or for the support of intercollegiate athletics.

7 Section 684. Chapter 1012, Florida Statutes, shall be
8 entitled "Personnel" and shall consist of ss.
9 1012.01-1012.992.

10 Section 685. Part I of chapter 1012, Florida Statutes,
11 shall be entitled "General Provisions" and shall consist of s.
12 1012.01.

13 Section 686. Section 1012.01, Florida Statutes, is
14 created to read:

15 1012.01 K-12 definitions.--Specific definitions shall
16 be as follows, and wherever such defined words or terms are
17 used in the Florida K-20 Education Code, they shall be used as
18 follows:

19 (1) SCHOOL OFFICERS.--The officers of the state system
20 of public education shall be the Commissioner of Education and
21 the members of the State Board of Education; and, for each
22 district school system, the officers shall be the district
23 school superintendent and members of the district school
24 board.

25 (2) INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL.--"Instructional
26 personnel" means any staff member whose function includes the
27 provision of direct instructional services to students.
28 Instructional personnel also includes personnel whose
29 functions provide direct support in the learning process of
30 students. Included in the classification of instructional
31 personnel are:

1 (a) Classroom teachers.--Classroom teachers are staff
2 members assigned the professional activity of instructing
3 students in courses in classroom situations, including basic
4 instruction, exceptional student education, career and
5 technical education, and adult education, including substitute
6 teachers.

7 (b) Student personnel services.--Student personnel
8 services include staff members responsible for: advising
9 students with regard to their abilities and aptitudes,
10 educational and occupational opportunities, and personal and
11 social adjustments; providing placement services; performing
12 educational evaluations; and similar functions. Included in
13 this classification are guidance counselors, social workers,
14 occupational/placement specialists, and school psychologists.

15 (c) Librarians/media specialists.--Librarians/media
16 specialists are staff members responsible for providing school
17 library media services. These employees are responsible for
18 evaluating, selecting, organizing, and managing media and
19 technology resources, equipment, and related systems;
20 facilitating access to information resources beyond the
21 school; working with teachers to make resources available in
22 the instructional programs; assisting teachers and students in
23 media productions; and instructing students in the location
24 and use of information resources.

25 (d) Other instructional staff.--Other instructional
26 staff are staff members who are part of the instructional
27 staff but are not classified in one of the categories
28 specified in paragraphs (a)-(c). Included in this
29 classification are primary specialists, learning resource
30 specialists, instructional trainers, adjunct educators
31 certified pursuant to s. 1012.57, and similar positions.

1 (e) Education paraprofessionals.--Education
2 paraprofessionals are individuals who are under the direct
3 supervision of an instructional staff member, aiding the
4 instructional process. Included in this classification are
5 classroom paraprofessionals in regular instruction,
6 exceptional education paraprofessionals, career education
7 paraprofessionals, adult education paraprofessionals, library
8 paraprofessionals, physical education and playground
9 paraprofessionals, and other school-level paraprofessionals.

10 (3) ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL.--"Administrative
11 personnel" includes personnel who perform management
12 activities such as developing broad policies for the school
13 district and executing those policies through the direction of
14 personnel at all levels within the district. Administrative
15 personnel are generally high-level, responsible personnel who
16 have been assigned the responsibilities of systemwide or
17 schoolwide functions, such as district school superintendents,
18 assistant superintendents, deputy superintendents, school
19 principals, assistant principals, technical center directors,
20 and others who perform management activities. Broad
21 classifications of administrative personnel are as follows:

22 (a) District-based instructional
23 administrators.--Included in this classification are persons
24 with district-level administrative or policymaking duties who
25 have broad authority for management policies and general
26 school district operations related to the instructional
27 program. Such personnel often report directly to the district
28 school superintendent and supervise other administrative
29 employees. This classification includes assistant, associate,
30 or deputy superintendents and directors of major instructional
31 areas, such as curriculum, federal programs such as Title I,

1 specialized instructional program areas such as exceptional
2 student education, career and technical education, and similar
3 areas.

4 (b) District-based noninstructional
5 administrators.--Included in this classification are persons
6 with district-level administrative or policymaking duties who
7 have broad authority for management policies and general
8 school district operations related to the noninstructional
9 program. Such personnel often report directly to the district
10 school superintendent and supervise other administrative
11 employees. This classification includes assistant, associate,
12 or deputy superintendents and directors of major
13 noninstructional areas, such as personnel, construction,
14 facilities, transportation, data processing, and finance.

15 (c) School administrators.--Included in this
16 classification are:

17 1. School principals or school directors who are staff
18 members performing the assigned activities as the
19 administrative head of a school and to whom have been
20 delegated responsibility for the coordination and
21 administrative direction of the instructional and
22 noninstructional activities of the school. This classification
23 also includes technical center directors.

24 2. Assistant principals who are staff members
25 assisting the administrative head of the school. This
26 classification also includes assistant principals for
27 curriculum and administration.

28 (4) YEAR OF SERVICE.--The minimum time which may be
29 recognized in administering the state program of education,
30 not including retirement, as a year of service by a school
31 employee shall be full-time actual service; and, beginning

1 July 1963, such service shall also include sick leave and
2 holidays for which compensation was received but shall exclude
3 all other types of leave and holidays for a total of more than
4 one-half of the number of days required for the normal
5 contractual period of service for the position held, which
6 shall be 196 days or longer, or the minimum required for the
7 district to participate in the Florida Education Finance
8 Program in the year service was rendered, or the equivalent
9 for service performed on a daily or hourly basis; provided,
10 further, that absence from duty after the date of beginning
11 service shall be covered by leave duly authorized and granted;
12 further, the school board shall have authority to establish a
13 different minimum for local district school purposes.

14 (5) SCHOOL VOLUNTEER.--A school volunteer is any
15 nonpaid person who may be appointed by a district school board
16 or its designee. School volunteers may include, but may not be
17 limited to, parents, senior citizens, students, and others who
18 assist the teacher or other members of the school staff.

19 (6) EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT EMPLOYEES.--"Educational
20 support employees" means employees whose job functions are
21 neither administrative nor instructional, yet whose work
22 supports the educational process.

23 (a) Other professional staff or
24 nonadministrative/noninstructional employees are staff members
25 who perform professional job functions which are
26 nonadministrative/noninstructional in nature and who are not
27 otherwise classified in this section. Included in this
28 classification are employees such as doctors, nurses,
29 attorneys, certified public accountants, and others
30 appropriate to the classification.

31

1 (b) Technicians are individuals whose occupations
2 require a combination of knowledge and manual skill which can
3 be obtained through about 2 years of post-high school
4 education, such as is offered in many technical institutes and
5 community colleges, or through equivalent on-the-job training.

6 (c) Clerical/secretarial workers are individuals whose
7 job requires skills and training in clerical-type work,
8 including activities such as preparing, transcribing,
9 systematizing, or preserving written communications and
10 reports or operating equipment performing those functions.
11 Included in this classification are secretaries, bookkeepers,
12 messengers, and office machine operators.

13 (d) Skilled crafts workers are individuals who perform
14 jobs which require special manual skill and a thorough and
15 comprehensive knowledge of the processes involved in the work
16 which is acquired through on-the-job training and experience
17 or through apprenticeship or other formal training programs.
18 Lead workers for the various skilled crafts areas shall be
19 included in this classification.

20 (e) Service workers are staff members performing a
21 service for which there are no formal qualifications,
22 including those responsible for: cleaning the buildings,
23 school plants, or supporting facilities; maintenance and
24 operation of such equipment as heating and ventilation
25 systems; preserving the security of school property; and
26 keeping the school plant safe for occupancy and use. Lead
27 workers in the various service areas shall be included in this
28 broad classification.

29 (7) MANAGERS.--"Managers" includes those staff members
30 who perform managerial and supervisory functions while usually
31 also performing general operations functions. Managers may be

1 either instructional or noninstructional in their
2 responsibility. They may direct employees' work, plan the work
3 schedule, control the flow and distribution of work or
4 materials, train employees, handle complaints, authorize
5 payments, and appraise productivity and efficiency of
6 employees. This classification includes coordinators and
7 supervisors working under the general direction of those staff
8 identified as district-based instructional or noninstructional
9 administrators.

10 Section 687. Part II of chapter 1012, Florida
11 Statutes, shall be entitled "K-20 Personnel Issues" and shall
12 consist of ss. 1012.05-1012.07.

13 Section 688. Section 1012.05, Florida Statutes, is
14 created to read:

15 1012.05 Teacher recruitment and retention.--

16 (1) The Department of Education, in cooperation with
17 teacher organizations, district personnel offices, and
18 schools, colleges, and departments of education in public and
19 nonpublic postsecondary educational institutions, shall
20 concentrate on the recruitment of qualified teachers.

21 (2) The Department of Education shall:

22 (a) Develop and implement a system for posting
23 teaching vacancies and establish a database of teacher
24 applicants that is accessible within and outside the state.

25 (b) Advertise in major newspapers, national
26 professional publications, and other professional publications
27 and in schools of education.

28 (c) Utilize state and nationwide toll-free numbers.

29 (d) Conduct periodic communications with district
30 personnel directors regarding applicants.

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- 1 (e) Provide district access to the applicant database
2 by computer or telephone.
- 3 (f) Develop and distribute promotional materials
4 related to teaching as a career.
- 5 (g) Publish and distribute information pertaining to
6 employment opportunities, application procedures, teacher
7 certification, and teacher salaries.
- 8 (h) Provide information related to certification
9 procedures.
- 10 (i) Develop and sponsor the Florida Future Educator of
11 America Program throughout the state.
- 12 (j) Develop, in consultation with school district
13 staff including, but not limited to, district school
14 superintendents, district school board members, and district
15 human resources personnel, a long-range plan for educator
16 recruitment and retention.
- 17 (k) Identify best practices for retaining high-quality
18 teachers.
- 19 (l) Develop, in consultation with Workforce Florida,
20 Inc., and the Agency for Workforce Innovation, created
21 pursuant to ss. 445.004 and 20.50, respectively, a plan for
22 accessing and identifying available resources in the state's
23 workforce system for the purpose of enhancing teacher
24 recruitment and retention.
- 25 (3) The Department of Education, in cooperation with
26 district personnel offices, shall sponsor a job fair in a
27 central part of the state to match in-state educators and
28 out-of-state educators with teaching opportunities in this
29 state.
- 30 Section 689. Section 1012.06, Florida Statutes, is
31 created to read:

1 1012.06 Temporary assignment of professional staff
2 among K-20 system.--To facilitate economical and effective use
3 of professional staff, school districts, public postsecondary
4 educational institutions, and the Department of Education may
5 enter into written agreements assigning employees among
6 themselves. The purpose of the temporary assignment is to
7 bring staff together within the state system of education,
8 notwithstanding their current places of assignment or agencies
9 of employment, who possess specific or unique knowledge or
10 experience especially suited to solving specific problems,
11 developing new programs, or providing technical assistance on
12 specific tasks or programs.

13 (1) A person may be temporarily assigned for whatever
14 period of time is required for a specific task; however, no
15 assignment may be for a period of more than 2 years.

16 (2) A person on temporary assignment shall be
17 considered on temporary assignment duty to regular work
18 assignments of the sending agency; shall be entitled to all
19 benefits to which the person would otherwise be entitled,
20 including compensation for injury or disability; shall receive
21 the same salary and benefits as at the person's regular
22 assignment; and shall remain an employee of the permanent
23 employer for all purposes, except that the person shall be
24 supervised by the agency to which assigned. Payment of such
25 salary and benefits may be made by either agency as provided
26 in the assignment agreement.

27 (3) Travel and per diem expenses incurred while a
28 person is on temporary assignment shall be paid by the agency
29 to which the person is assigned. Round-trip travel and moving
30 expenses from the person's permanent location to the temporary
31 assignment may be paid by either agency, as provided in the

1 assignment agreement, for any assignment in excess of 3
2 months. Notwithstanding s. 112.061 to the contrary, a person
3 may be paid per diem expenses for any temporary assignment of
4 3 months or less.

5 Section 690. Section 1012.07, Florida Statutes, is
6 created to read:

7 1012.07 Identification of critical teacher shortage
8 areas.--

9 (1) As used in ss. 1009.57, 1009.58, and 1009.59, the
10 term "critical teacher shortage area" applies to mathematics,
11 science, career education, and high priority location areas.
12 The State Board of Education may identify career education
13 programs having critical teacher shortages. The State Board of
14 Education shall adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and
15 120.54, necessary to annually identify other critical teacher
16 shortage areas and high priority location areas. The state
17 board shall also consider teacher characteristics such as
18 ethnic background, race, and sex in determining critical
19 teacher shortage areas. School grade levels may also be
20 designated critical teacher shortage areas. Individual
21 district school boards may identify other critical teacher
22 shortage areas. Such shortages must be certified to and
23 approved by the State Board of Education. High priority
24 location areas shall be in high-density, low-economic urban
25 schools and low-density, low-economic rural schools and shall
26 include schools which meet criteria which include, but are not
27 limited to, the percentage of free lunches, the percentage of
28 students under Chapter I of the Education Consolidation and
29 Improvement Act of 1981, and the faculty attrition rate.
30 (2) This section shall be implemented only to the
31 extent as specifically funded and authorized by law.

1 Section 691. Part III of chapter 1012, Florida
2 Statutes, shall be entitled "Public Schools; Personnel" and
3 shall consist of ss. 1012.21-1012.798.

4 Section 692. Part III.a. of chapter 1012, Florida
5 Statutes, shall be entitled "Department of Education, District
6 School Board, District School Superintendent, and School
7 Principal Duties; Public School Personnel" and shall consist
8 of ss. 1012.21-1012.28.

9 Section 693. Section 1012.21, Florida Statutes, is
10 created to read:

11 1012.21 Department of Education duties; K-12
12 personnel.--

13 (1) PERIODIC CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECKS.--In
14 cooperation with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement,
15 the Department of Education may periodically perform criminal
16 history record checks on individuals who hold a certificate
17 pursuant to s. 1012.56 or s. 1012.57.

18 (2) COMPUTER DATABASE OF CERTAIN PERSONS WHOSE
19 EMPLOYMENT WAS TERMINATED.--

20 (a) The Department of Education shall establish a
21 computer database containing the names of persons whose
22 employment is terminated under s. 1012.33(1)(a) or (4)(c),
23 which information shall be available to the district school
24 superintendents and their designees.

25 (b) Each district school superintendent shall report
26 to the Department of Education the name of any person
27 terminated under s. 1012.33(1)(a) or (4)(c) within 10 working
28 days after the date of final action by the district school
29 board on the termination, and the department shall immediately
30 enter the information in the computer records.

31

1 (3) SUSPENSION OR DENIAL OF TEACHING CERTIFICATE DUE
2 TO CHILD SUPPORT DELINQUENCY.--The Department of Education
3 shall allow applicants for new or renewal certificates and
4 renewal certificateholders to be screened by the Title IV-D
5 child support agency pursuant to s. 409.2598 to assure
6 compliance with an obligation for support, as defined in s.
7 409.2554. The purpose of this section is to promote the
8 public policy of this state as established in s. 409.2551.
9 The department shall, when directed by the court, deny the
10 application of any applicant found to have a delinquent
11 support obligation. The department shall issue or reinstate
12 the certificate without additional charge to the
13 certificateholder when notified by the court that the
14 certificateholder has complied with the terms of the court
15 order. The department shall not be held liable for any
16 certificate denial or suspension resulting from the discharge
17 of its duties under this section.

18 (4) CONFERENCES OF PUBLIC SCHOOL PERSONNEL.--As a
19 means of stimulating the professional improvement of personnel
20 in service, the Department of Education may call conferences
21 of personnel of the public schools on matters relating solely
22 to education, which conferences, if held on a school day
23 within the period of time covered by a contract, shall be
24 attended with pay by all who may be designated in the call of
25 the Department of Education, provided that the call of the
26 Department of Education may indicate that attendance is
27 optional, and that in any case of those absent from their
28 usual duties during the time of the conference, only those
29 actually in attendance at the conference shall be entitled to
30 pay for time covered by the conference.

31

1 (5) SCHOOL-RELATED EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR PROGRAM.--The
2 Department of Education shall, by rule, provide for a
3 School-Related Employee of the Year Program. In addition to
4 any other provision, the department shall include in such
5 rules that:

6 (a) The program shall apply to school-related
7 employees.

8 (b) The program shall be modeled after the Teacher of
9 the Year Program.

10 (c) One school-related employee of the year shall be
11 nominated by each district school board in the state.

12 (d) A selection process shall be instituted to select
13 the school-related employee of the year so that the top five
14 finalists receive awards under the program.

15 Section 694. Effective upon this act becoming a law,
16 section 1012.22, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

17 1012.22 Public school personnel; powers and duties of
18 the district school board.--The district school board shall:

19 (1) Designate positions to be filled, prescribe
20 qualifications for those positions, and provide for the
21 appointment, compensation, promotion, suspension, and
22 dismissal of employees as follows, subject to the requirements
23 of this chapter:

24 (a) Positions, qualifications, and appointments.--

25 1. The district school board shall act upon written
26 recommendations submitted by the district school
27 superintendent for positions to be filled, for minimum
28 qualifications for personnel for the various positions, and
29 for the persons nominated to fill such positions.

30 2. The district school board may reject for good cause
31 any employee nominated.

1 3. If the third nomination by the district school
2 superintendent for any position is rejected for good cause, if
3 the district school superintendent fails to submit a
4 nomination for initial employment within a reasonable time as
5 prescribed by the district school board, or if the district
6 school superintendent fails to submit a nomination for
7 reemployment within the time prescribed by law, the district
8 school board may proceed on its own motion to fill such
9 position.

10 4. The district school board's decision to reject a
11 person's nomination does not give that person a right of
12 action to sue over the rejection and may not be used as a
13 cause of action by the nominated employee.

14 (b) Time to act on nominations.--The district school
15 board shall act not later than 3 weeks after the end of the
16 regular legislative session or May 31, whichever is later, on
17 the district school superintendent's nominations of
18 supervisors, principals, and members of the instructional
19 staff.

20 (c) Compensation and salary schedules.--

21 1. The district school board shall adopt a salary
22 schedule or salary schedules designed to furnish incentives
23 for improvement in training and for continued efficient
24 service to be used as a basis for paying all school employees
25 and fix and authorize the compensation of school employees on
26 the basis thereof.

27 2. A district school board, in determining the salary
28 schedule for instructional personnel, must base a portion of
29 each employee's compensation on performance demonstrated under
30 s. 1012.34, must consider the prior teaching experience of a
31 person who has been designated state teacher of the year by

1 any state in the United States, and must consider prior
2 professional experience in the field of education gained in
3 positions in addition to district level instructional and
4 administrative positions.

5 3. In developing the salary schedule, the district
6 school board shall seek input from parents, teachers, and
7 representatives of the business community.

8 4. By June 30, 2002, the adopted district school board
9 budget must include a reserve to fully fund an additional 5
10 percent supplement for school administrators and instructional
11 personnel. The district's performance-pay policy is subject to
12 negotiation as provided in chapter 447; however, the adopted
13 salary schedule must allow school administrators and
14 instructional personnel who demonstrate outstanding
15 performance, as measured under s. 1012.34, to earn a 5 percent
16 supplement in addition to their individual, negotiated salary.
17 The supplements shall be funded from the reserve funds adopted
18 in the salary schedule. The Commissioner of Education shall
19 determine whether the district school board's adopted salary
20 schedule complies with the requirement for performance-based
21 pay. If the district school board fails to comply with this
22 section, the commissioner shall withhold disbursements from
23 the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund to the district until
24 compliance is verified.

25 (d) Contracts and terms of service.--The district
26 school board shall provide written contracts for all regular
27 members of the instructional staff.

28 (e) Transfer and promotion.--The district school board
29 shall act on recommendations of the district school
30 superintendent regarding transfer and promotion of any
31 employee.

1 (f) Suspension, dismissal, and return to annual
2 contract status.--The district school board shall suspend,
3 dismiss, or return to annual contract members of the
4 instructional staff and other school employees; however, no
5 administrative assistant, supervisor, principal, teacher, or
6 other member of the instructional staff may be discharged,
7 removed, or returned to annual contract except as provided in
8 this chapter.

9 (g) Awards and incentives.--The district school board
10 shall provide for recognition of district employees, students,
11 school volunteers, and advisory committee members who have
12 contributed outstanding and meritorious service in their
13 fields or service areas. After considering recommendations of
14 the district school superintendent, the district school board
15 shall adopt rules establishing and regulating the meritorious
16 service awards necessary for the efficient operation of the
17 program. An award or incentive granted under this paragraph
18 may not be considered in determining the salary schedules
19 required by paragraph (c). Monetary awards shall be limited to
20 persons who propose procedures or ideas adopted by the board
21 which will result in eliminating or reducing district school
22 board expenditures or improving district or school center
23 operations. Nonmonetary awards shall include, but are not
24 limited to, certificates, plaques, medals, ribbons, and
25 photographs. The district school board may expend funds for
26 such recognition and awards. No award granted under this
27 paragraph shall exceed \$2,000 or 10 percent of the first
28 year's gross savings, whichever is greater.

29 (h) Planning and training time for teachers.--The
30 district school board may adopt rules to make provisions for
31 teachers to have time for lunch and some planning and training

1 time when they will not be directly responsible for the
2 children, provided that some adult supervision shall be
3 furnished for the students during such periods.

4 (i) Comprehensive program of staff development.--The
5 district school board shall establish a comprehensive program
6 of staff development.

7 (2) Adopt policies relating to personnel leave as
8 follows:

9 (a) Annual leave.--The district school board may adopt
10 rules that provide for the earning of annual leave by
11 employees, including educational support employees, who are
12 employed for 12 calendar months a year.

13 (b) Sick leave.--The district school board may adopt
14 rules relating to sick leave, in accordance with the
15 provisions of this chapter.

16 (c) Illness-in-line-of-duty leave.--The district
17 school board may adopt rules relating to
18 illness-in-the-line-of-duty leave, in accordance with the
19 provisions of this chapter.

20 (d) Sabbatical leave.--The district school board may
21 adopt rules relating to sabbatical leave, in accordance with
22 the provisions of this chapter.

23 Section 695. Section 1012.23, Florida Statutes, is
24 created to read:

25 1012.23 School district personnel policies.--Except as
26 otherwise provided by law or the State Constitution, district
27 school boards may adopt rules governing personnel matters,
28 including the assignment of duties and responsibilities for
29 all district employees.

30 Section 696. Section 1012.24, Florida Statutes, is
31 created to read:

1 1012.24 Employment and compensation of instructional
2 personnel during specific emergencies.--In the event of an
3 epidemic, strike, mass walkout, substantial numbers of teacher
4 resignations, or other urgent condition, a district school
5 board upon recommendation of the district school
6 superintendent may find and declare that an emergency exists
7 because there is not a sufficient number of certified teachers
8 to continue the normal operation of the schools within the
9 district. In said event the district school board may upon
10 recommendation of the district school superintendent employ,
11 contract with, and compensate for instructional services
12 rendered any person who shall be deemed qualified by
13 regulations of the district school board. In such event, a
14 state certificate to teach shall not be required for such
15 employment, contract, or compensation.

16 Section 697. Section 1012.25, Florida Statutes, is
17 created to read:

18 1012.25 School officers to turn over money and
19 property to successors.--Every school officer shall turn over
20 to his or her successor or successors in office, on retiring,
21 all books, papers, documents, records, funds, money, and
22 property of whatever kind which the officer may have acquired,
23 received, and held by virtue of his or her office and shall
24 take full receipt for them from his or her successor and shall
25 make in correct form all reports required by the state. No
26 school officer who receives any salary or compensation for his
27 or her services shall be entitled to be paid or compensated
28 for the last month served until the provisions of this section
29 have been fully observed. Any person violating the provisions
30 of this section shall forfeit his or her compensation for the
31

1 last month served and commits a misdemeanor of the second
2 degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.
3 Section 698. Section 1012.26, Florida Statutes, is
4 created to read:
5 1012.26 Legal services for employees; reimbursement
6 for judgments in civil actions.--Each district school board
7 may provide legal services for officers and employees of the
8 school board who are charged with civil or criminal actions
9 arising out of and in the course of the performance of
10 assigned duties and responsibilities. The district school
11 board shall provide for reimbursement of reasonable expenses
12 for legal services for officers and employees of school boards
13 who are charged with civil or criminal actions arising out of
14 and in the course of the performance of assigned duties and
15 responsibilities upon successful defense by the employee or
16 officer. However, in any case in which the officer or employee
17 pleads guilty or nolo contendere or is found guilty of any
18 such action, the officer or employee shall reimburse the
19 district school board for any legal services which the school
20 board may have supplied pursuant to this section. A district
21 school board may also reimburse an officer or employee of the
22 school board for any judgment which may be entered against him
23 or her in a civil action arising out of and in the course of
24 the performance of his or her assigned duties and
25 responsibilities. Each expenditure by a district school board
26 for legal defense of an officer or employee, or for
27 reimbursement pursuant to this section, shall be made at a
28 public meeting with notice pursuant to s. 120.525(1). The
29 provision of such legal services or reimbursement under the
30 conditions described above is declared to be a district school
31 purpose for which district school funds may be expended.

1 Section 699. Section 1012.27, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1012.27 Public school personnel; powers and duties of
4 district school superintendent.--The district school
5 superintendent shall be responsible, as required herein, for
6 directing the work of the personnel, subject to the
7 requirements of this chapter, and in addition the district
8 school superintendent shall have the following duties:

9 (1) POSITIONS, QUALIFICATIONS, AND NOMINATIONS.--

10 (a) Recommend to the district school board duties and
11 responsibilities which need to be performed and positions
12 which need to be filled to make possible the development of an
13 adequate school program in the district.

14 (b) Recommend minimum qualifications of personnel for
15 these various positions, and nominate in writing persons to
16 fill such positions.

17
18 The district school superintendent's recommendations for
19 filling instructional positions at the school level must
20 consider nominations received from school principals of the
21 respective schools. Before transferring a teacher who holds a
22 professional teaching certificate from one school to another,
23 the district school superintendent shall consult with the
24 principal of the receiving school and allow the principal to
25 review the teacher's records and interview the teacher. If, in
26 the judgment of the principal, students would not benefit from
27 the placement, an alternative placement may be sought.

28 (2) COMPENSATION AND SALARY SCHEDULES.--Prepare and
29 recommend to the district school board for adoption a salary
30 schedule or salary schedules. The district school
31 superintendent must recommend a salary schedule for

1 instructional personnel which bases a portion of each
2 employee's compensation on performance demonstrated under s.
3 1012.34. In developing the recommended salary schedule, the
4 district school superintendent shall include input from
5 parents, teachers, and representatives of the business
6 community.

7 (3) CONTRACTS AND TERMS OF SERVICE.--Recommend to the
8 district school board terms for contracting with employees and
9 prepare such contracts as are approved.

10 (4) TRANSFER AND PROMOTIONS.--Recommend employees for
11 transfer and transfer any employee during any emergency and
12 report the transfer to the district school board at its next
13 regular meeting.

14 (5) SUSPENSION AND DISMISSAL.--Suspend members of the
15 instructional staff and other school employees during
16 emergencies for a period extending to and including the day of
17 the next regular or special meeting of the district school
18 board and notify the district school board immediately of such
19 suspension. When authorized to do so, serve notice on the
20 suspended member of the instructional staff of charges made
21 against him or her and of the date of hearing. Recommend
22 employees for dismissal under the terms prescribed herein.

23 (6) DIRECT WORK OF EMPLOYEES AND SUPERVISE
24 INSTRUCTION.--Direct or arrange for the proper direction and
25 improvement, under rules of the district school board, of the
26 work of all members of the instructional staff and other
27 employees of the district school system, supervise or arrange
28 under rules of the district school board for the supervision
29 of instruction in the district, and take such steps as are
30 necessary to bring about continuous improvement.

31

1 Section 700. Section 1012.28, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1012.28 Public school personnel; duties of school
4 principals.--

5 (1) Public school principals shall supervise public
6 school personnel as the district school board determines
7 necessary.

8 (2) The school principal is responsible for
9 recommending to the district school superintendent the
10 employment of instructional personnel to be assigned to the
11 school to which the principal is assigned.

12 (3) Each school principal is responsible for the
13 performance of all personnel employed by the district school
14 board and assigned to the school to which the principal is
15 assigned. The school principal shall faithfully and
16 effectively apply the personnel assessment system approved by
17 the district school board pursuant to s. 1012.34.

18 (4) Each school principal shall assist the teachers
19 within the school to use student assessment data, as measured
20 by student learning gains pursuant to s. 1008.22, for
21 self-evaluation.

22 (5) Each school principal shall perform such duties as
23 may be assigned by the district school superintendent,
24 pursuant to the rules of the district school board. Such rules
25 shall include, but are not limited to, rules relating to
26 administrative responsibility, instructional leadership in
27 implementing the Sunshine State Standards and the overall
28 educational program of the school to which the school
29 principal is assigned, submission of personnel recommendations
30 to the district school superintendent, administrative
31

1 responsibility for records and reports, administration of
2 corporal punishment, and student suspension.

3 (6) A school principal who fails to comply with this
4 section shall be ineligible for any portion the performance
5 pay policy incentive under s. 1012.22(1)(c).

6 Section 701. Part III.b. of chapter 1012, Florida
7 Statutes, shall be entitled "Personnel Files, Qualifications,
8 Contracts, Assessments for Public Schools" and shall consist
9 of ss. 1012.31-1012.34.

10 Section 702. Section 1012.31, Florida Statutes, is
11 created to read:

12 1012.31 Personnel files.--Public school system
13 employee personnel files shall be maintained according to the
14 following provisions:

15 (1)(a) Except for materials pertaining to work
16 performance or such other matters that may be cause for
17 discipline, suspension, or dismissal under laws of this state,
18 no derogatory materials relating to an employee's conduct,
19 service, character, or personality shall be placed in the
20 personnel file of such employee.

21 (b) No anonymous letter or anonymous materials shall
22 be placed in the personnel file.

23 (2)(a) Materials relating to work performance,
24 discipline, suspension, or dismissal must be reduced to
25 writing and signed by a person competent to know the facts or
26 make the judgment.

27 (b)1. No such materials may be placed in a personnel
28 file unless they have been reduced to writing within 45 days,
29 exclusive of the summer vacation period, of the school system
30 administration becoming aware of the facts reflected in the
31 materials.

1 2. Additional information related to such written
2 materials previously placed in the file may be appended to
3 such materials to clarify or amplify them as needed.

4 (c) A copy of such materials to be added to an
5 employee's personnel file shall be provided to the employee
6 either:

7 1. By certified mail, return receipt requested, to his
8 or her address of record; or

9 2. By personal delivery. The employee's signature on a
10 copy of the materials to be filed shall be proof that such
11 materials were given to the employee, with the understanding
12 that such signature merely signifies receipt and does not
13 necessarily indicate agreement with its contents.

14 (d) An employee has the right to answer in writing any
15 such materials in a personnel file on July 1, 1983, as well as
16 any such materials filed thereafter, and the answer shall be
17 attached to the file copy. An employee has the right to
18 request that the district school superintendent or the
19 superintendent's designee make an informal inquiry regarding
20 material in the employee's personnel file which the employee
21 believes to be false. The official who makes the inquiry shall
22 append to the material a written report of his or her
23 findings.

24 (e) Upon request, an employee, or any person
25 designated in writing by the employee, shall be permitted to
26 examine the personnel file of such employee. The employee
27 shall be permitted conveniently to reproduce any materials in
28 the file, at a cost no greater than the fees prescribed in s.
29 119.07(1).

30
31

1 (f) The custodian of the record shall maintain a
2 record in the file of those persons reviewing the file each
3 time it is reviewed.

4 (3)(a) Public school system employee personnel files
5 are subject to the provisions of s. 119.07(1), except as
6 follows:

7 1. Any complaint and any material relating to the
8 investigation of a complaint against an employee shall be
9 confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1)
10 until the conclusion of the preliminary investigation or until
11 such time as the preliminary investigation ceases to be
12 active. If the preliminary investigation is concluded with
13 the finding that there is no probable cause to proceed further
14 and with no disciplinary action taken or charges filed, a
15 statement to that effect signed by the responsible
16 investigating official shall be attached to the complaint, and
17 the complaint and all such materials shall be open thereafter
18 to inspection pursuant to s. 119.07(1). If the preliminary
19 investigation is concluded with the finding that there is
20 probable cause to proceed further or with disciplinary action
21 taken or charges filed, the complaint and all such materials
22 shall be open thereafter to inspection pursuant to s.
23 119.07(1). If the preliminary investigation ceases to be
24 active, the complaint and all such materials shall be open
25 thereafter to inspection pursuant to s. 119.07(1). For the
26 purpose of this subsection, a preliminary investigation shall
27 be considered active as long as it is continuing with a
28 reasonable, good faith anticipation that an administrative
29 finding will be made in the foreseeable future. An
30 investigation shall be presumed to be inactive if no finding
31

1 relating to probable cause is made within 60 days after the
2 complaint is made.

3 2. An employee evaluation prepared pursuant to s.
4 1012.56, s. 1012.34, or s. 1012.33 or rules adopted by the
5 State Board of Education or district school board under the
6 authority of those sections shall be confidential and exempt
7 from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) until the end of the
8 school year immediately following the school year in which the
9 evaluation was made. No evaluation prepared before July 1,
10 1983, shall be made public pursuant to this section.

11 3. No material derogatory to an employee shall be open
12 to inspection until 10 days after the employee has been
13 notified pursuant to paragraph (2)(c).

14 4. The payroll deduction records of an employee shall
15 be confidential and exempt from the provisions of s.
16 119.07(1).

17 5. Employee medical records, including psychiatric and
18 psychological records, shall be confidential and exempt from
19 the provisions of s. 119.07(1); however, at any hearing
20 relative to the competency or performance of an employee, the
21 administrative law judge, hearing officer, or panel shall have
22 access to such records.

23 (b) Notwithstanding other provisions of this
24 subsection, all aspects of the personnel file of each employee
25 shall be open to inspection at all times by district school
26 board members, the district school superintendent, and the
27 principal, or their respective designees, in the exercise of
28 their respective duties.

29 (c) Notwithstanding other provisions of this
30 subsection, all aspects of the personnel file of each employee
31

1 shall be made available to law enforcement personnel in the
2 conduct of a lawful criminal investigation.

3 (4) The term "personnel file," as used in this
4 section, means all records, information, data, or materials
5 maintained by a public school system, in any form or retrieval
6 system whatsoever, with respect to any of its employees, which
7 is uniquely applicable to that employee whether maintained in
8 one or more locations.

9 Section 703. Section 1012.32, Florida Statutes, is
10 created to read:

11 1012.32 Qualifications of personnel.--

12 (1) To be eligible for appointment in any position in
13 any district school system, a person shall be of good moral
14 character; shall have attained the age of 18 years, if he or
15 she is to be employed in an instructional capacity; and shall,
16 when required by law, hold a certificate or license issued
17 under rules of the State Board of Education or the Department
18 of Children and Family Services, except when employed pursuant
19 to s. 1012.55 or under the emergency provisions of s. 1012.24.
20 Previous residence in this state shall not be required in any
21 school of the state as a prerequisite for any person holding a
22 valid Florida certificate or license to serve in an
23 instructional capacity.

24 (2)(a) Instructional and noninstructional personnel
25 who are hired to fill positions requiring direct contact with
26 students in any district school system or university lab
27 school shall, upon employment, file a complete set of
28 fingerprints taken by an authorized law enforcement officer or
29 an employee of the school or district who is trained to take
30 fingerprints. These fingerprints shall be submitted to the
31 Department of Law Enforcement for state processing and to the

1 Federal Bureau of Investigation for federal processing. The
2 new employees shall be on probationary status pending
3 fingerprint processing and determination of compliance with
4 standards of good moral character. Employees found through
5 fingerprint processing to have been convicted of a crime
6 involving moral turpitude shall not be employed in any
7 position requiring direct contact with students. Probationary
8 employees terminated because of their criminal record shall
9 have the right to appeal such decisions. The cost of the
10 fingerprint processing may be borne by the district school
11 board or the employee.

12 (b) Personnel who have been fingerprinted or screened
13 pursuant to this subsection and who have not been unemployed
14 for more than 90 days shall not be required to be
15 refingerprinted or rescreened in order to comply with the
16 requirements of this subsection.

17 Section 704. Section 1012.33, Florida Statutes, is
18 created to read:

19 1012.33 Contracts with instructional staff,
20 supervisors, and school principals.--

21 (1)(a) Each person employed as a member of the
22 instructional staff in any district school system shall be
23 properly certified pursuant to s. 1012.56 or s. 1012.57 or
24 employed pursuant to s. 1012.39 and shall be entitled to and
25 shall receive a written contract as specified in chapter 230.
26 All such contracts, except continuing contracts as specified
27 in subsection (4), shall contain provisions for dismissal
28 during the term of the contract only for just cause. Just
29 cause includes, but is not limited to, the following
30 instances, as defined by rule of the State Board of Education:
31 misconduct in office, incompetency, gross insubordination,

1 willful neglect of duty, or conviction of a crime involving
2 moral turpitude.

3 (b) A supervisor or school principal shall be properly
4 certified and shall receive a written contract as specified in
5 chapter 1001. Such contract may be for an initial period not
6 to exceed 3 years, subject to annual review and renewal. The
7 first 97 days of an initial contract is a probationary period.
8 During the probationary period, the employee may be dismissed
9 without cause or may resign from the contractual position
10 without breach of contract. After the first 3 years, the
11 contract may be renewed for a period not to exceed 3 years and
12 shall contain provisions for dismissal during the term of the
13 contract only for just cause, in addition to such other
14 provisions as are prescribed by the district school board.

15 (2) Any person so employed on the basis of a written
16 offer of a specific position by a duly authorized agent of the
17 district school board for a stated term of service at a
18 specified salary, and who accepted such offer by telegram or
19 letter or by signing the regular contract form, who violates
20 the terms of such contract or agreement by leaving his or her
21 position without first being released from his or her contract
22 or agreement by the district school board of the district in
23 which the person is employed shall be subject to the
24 jurisdiction of the Education Practices Commission. The
25 district school board shall take official action on such
26 violation and shall furnish a copy of its official minutes to
27 the Commissioner of Education.

28 (3)(a) Each district school board shall provide a
29 professional service contract as prescribed herein. Each
30 member of the instructional staff who completed the following
31 requirements prior to July 1, 1984, shall be entitled to and

1 shall be issued a continuing contract in the form prescribed
2 by rules of the state board pursuant to s. 231.36, Florida
3 Statutes (1981). Each member of the instructional staff who
4 completes the following requirements on or after July 1, 1984,
5 shall be entitled to and shall be issued a professional
6 service contract in the form prescribed by rules of the state
7 board as provided herein:

8 1. The member must hold a professional certificate as
9 prescribed by s. 1012.56 and rules of the State Board of
10 Education.

11 2. The member must have completed 3 years of
12 probationary service in the district during a period not in
13 excess of 5 successive years, except for leave duly authorized
14 and granted.

15 3. The member must have been recommended by the
16 district school superintendent for such contract and
17 reappointed by the district school board based on successful
18 performance of duties and demonstration of professional
19 competence.

20 4. For any person newly employed as a member of the
21 instructional staff after June 30, 1997, the initial annual
22 contract shall include a 97-day probationary period during
23 which time the employee's contract may be terminated without
24 cause or the employee may resign without breach of contract.

25 (b) The professional service contract shall be
26 effective at the beginning of the school fiscal year following
27 the completion of all requirements therefor.

28 (c) The period of service provided herein may be
29 extended to 4 years when prescribed by the district school
30 board and agreed to in writing by the employee at the time of
31 reappointment.

1 (d) A district school board may issue a continuing
2 contract prior to July 1, 1984, and may issue a professional
3 service contract subsequent to July 1, 1984, to any employee
4 who has previously held a professional service contract or
5 continuing contract in the same or another district within
6 this state. Any employee who holds a continuing contract may,
7 but is not required to, exchange such continuing contract for
8 a professional service contract in the same district.

9 (e) A professional service contract shall be renewed
10 each year unless the district school superintendent, after
11 receiving the recommendations required by s. 1012.34, charges
12 the employee with unsatisfactory performance and notifies the
13 employee of performance deficiencies as required by s.
14 1012.34. An employee who holds a professional service contract
15 on July 1, 1997, is subject to the procedures set forth in
16 paragraph (f) during the term of the existing professional
17 service contract. The employee is subject to the procedures
18 set forth in s. 1012.34(3)(d) upon the next renewal of the
19 professional service contract; however, if the employee is
20 notified of performance deficiencies before the next contract
21 renewal date, the procedures of s. 1012.34(3)(d) do not apply
22 until the procedures set forth in paragraph (f) have been
23 exhausted and the professional service contract is
24 subsequently renewed.

25 (f) The district school superintendent shall notify an
26 employee who holds a professional service contract on July 1,
27 1997, in writing, no later than 6 weeks prior to the end of
28 the postschool conference period, of performance deficiencies
29 which may result in termination of employment, if not
30 corrected during the subsequent year of employment (which
31 shall be granted for an additional year in accordance with the

1 provisions in subsection (1)). Except as otherwise hereinafter
2 provided, this action shall not be subject to the provisions
3 of chapter 120, but the following procedures shall apply:
4 1. On receiving notice of unsatisfactory performance,
5 the employee, on request, shall be accorded an opportunity to
6 meet with the district school superintendent, or his or her
7 designee, for an informal review of the determination of
8 unsatisfactory performance.
9 2. An employee notified of unsatisfactory performance
10 may request an opportunity to be considered for a transfer to
11 another appropriate position, with a different supervising
12 administrator, for the subsequent year of employment. If the
13 request for the transfer is granted, the district school
14 superintendent shall annually report to the department the
15 total number of employees transferred pursuant to this
16 subparagraph, where they were transferred, and what, if any,
17 remediation was implemented to remediate the unsatisfactory
18 performance.
19 3. During the subsequent year, the employee shall be
20 provided assistance and inservice training opportunities to
21 help correct the noted performance deficiencies. The employee
22 shall also be evaluated periodically so that he or she will be
23 kept apprised of progress achieved.
24 4. Not later than 6 weeks prior to the close of the
25 postschool conference period of the subsequent year, the
26 district school superintendent, after receiving and reviewing
27 the recommendation required by s. 1012.34, shall notify the
28 employee, in writing, whether the performance deficiencies
29 have been corrected. If so, a new professional service
30 contract shall be issued to the employee. If the performance
31 deficiencies have not been corrected, the district school

1 superintendent may notify the district school board and the
2 employee, in writing, that the employee shall not be issued a
3 new professional service contract; however, if the
4 recommendation of the district school superintendent is not to
5 issue a new professional service contract, and if the employee
6 wishes to contest such recommendation, the employee will have
7 15 days from receipt of the district school superintendent's
8 recommendation to demand, in writing, a hearing. In such
9 hearing, the employee may raise as an issue, among other
10 things, the sufficiency of the district school
11 superintendent's charges of unsatisfactory performance. Such
12 hearing shall be conducted at the district school board's
13 election in accordance with one of the following procedures:
14 a. A direct hearing conducted by the district school
15 board within 60 days of receipt of the written appeal. The
16 hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions
17 of ss. 120.569 and 120.57. A majority vote of the membership
18 of the district school board shall be required to sustain the
19 district school superintendent's recommendation. The
20 determination of the district school board shall be final as
21 to the sufficiency or insufficiency of the grounds for
22 termination of employment; or
23 b. A hearing conducted by an administrative law judge
24 assigned by the Division of Administrative Hearings of the
25 Department of Management Services. The hearing shall be
26 conducted within 60 days of receipt of the written appeal in
27 accordance with chapter 120. The recommendation of the
28 administrative law judge shall be made to the district school
29 board. A majority vote of the membership of the district
30 school board shall be required to sustain or change the
31 administrative law judge's recommendation. The determination

1 of the district school board shall be final as to the
2 sufficiency or insufficiency of the grounds for termination of
3 employment.

4 (g) Beginning July 1, 2001, for each employee who
5 enters into a written contract, pursuant to this section, in a
6 school district in which the employee was not employed as of
7 June 30, 2001, for purposes of pay, a district school board
8 must recognize and accept each year of full-time public school
9 and charter school teaching service earned in the State of
10 Florida or outside the state and for which the employee
11 received a satisfactory performance evaluation. Instructional
12 personnel employed pursuant to s. 121.091(9)(b)3. are exempt
13 from the provisions of this paragraph.

14 (4)(a) An employee who had continuing contract status
15 prior to July 1, 1984, shall be entitled to retain such
16 contract and all rights arising therefrom as prescribed by
17 rules of the State Board of Education adopted pursuant to s.
18 231.36, Florida Statutes (1981), unless the employee
19 voluntarily relinquishes his or her continuing contract.

20 (b) Any member of the district administrative or
21 supervisory staff and any member of the instructional staff,
22 including any school principal, who is under continuing
23 contract may be dismissed or may be returned to annual
24 contract status for another 3 years in the discretion of the
25 district school board, at the end of the school year, when a
26 recommendation to that effect is submitted in writing to the
27 district school board on or before April 1 of any school year,
28 giving good and sufficient reasons therefor, by the district
29 school superintendent, by the school principal if his or her
30 contract is not under consideration, or by a majority of the
31 district school board. The employee whose contract is under

1 consideration shall be duly notified in writing by the party
2 or parties preferring the charges at least 5 days prior to the
3 filing of the written recommendation with the district school
4 board, and such notice shall include a copy of the charges and
5 the recommendation to the district school board. The district
6 school board shall proceed to take appropriate action. Any
7 decision adverse to the employee shall be made by a majority
8 vote of the full membership of the district school board. Any
9 such decision adverse to the employee may be appealed by the
10 employee pursuant to s. 120.68.

11 (c) Any member of the district administrative or
12 supervisory staff and any member of the instructional staff,
13 including any school principal, who is under continuing
14 contract may be suspended or dismissed at any time during the
15 school year; however, the charges against him or her must be
16 based on immorality, misconduct in office, incompetency, gross
17 insubordination, willful neglect of duty, drunkenness, or
18 conviction of a crime involving moral turpitude, as these
19 terms are defined by rule of the State Board of Education.
20 Whenever such charges are made against any such employee of
21 the district school board, the district school board may
22 suspend such person without pay; but, if the charges are not
23 sustained, he or she shall be immediately reinstated, and his
24 or her back salary shall be paid. In cases of suspension by
25 the district school board or by the district school
26 superintendent, the district school board shall determine upon
27 the evidence submitted whether the charges have been sustained
28 and, if the charges are sustained, shall determine either to
29 dismiss the employee or fix the terms under which he or she
30 may be reinstated. If such charges are sustained by a majority
31 vote of the full membership of the district school board and

1 such employee is discharged, his or her contract of employment
2 shall be thereby canceled. Any such decision adverse to the
3 employee may be appealed by the employee pursuant to s.
4 120.68, provided such appeal is filed within 30 days after the
5 decision of the district school board.

6 (5) Should a district school board have to choose from
7 among its personnel who are on continuing contracts or
8 professional service contracts as to which should be retained,
9 such decisions shall be made pursuant to the terms of a
10 collectively bargained agreement, when one exists. If no such
11 agreement exists, the district school board shall prescribe
12 rules to handle reductions in workforce.

13 (6)(a) Any member of the instructional staff,
14 excluding an employee specified in subsection (4), may be
15 suspended or dismissed at any time during the term of the
16 contract for just cause as provided in paragraph (1)(a). The
17 district school board must notify the employee in writing
18 whenever charges are made against the employee and may suspend
19 such person without pay; but, if the charges are not
20 sustained, the employee shall be immediately reinstated, and
21 his or her back salary shall be paid. If the employee wishes
22 to contest the charges, the employee must, within 15 days
23 after receipt of the written notice, submit a written request
24 for a hearing. Such hearing shall be conducted at the district
25 school board's election in accordance with one of the
26 following procedures:

27 1. A direct hearing conducted by the district school
28 board within 60 days after receipt of the written appeal. The
29 hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions
30 of ss. 120.569 and 120.57. A majority vote of the membership
31 of the district school board shall be required to sustain the

1 district school superintendent's recommendation. The
2 determination of the district school board shall be final as
3 to the sufficiency or insufficiency of the grounds for
4 termination of employment; or
5 2. A hearing conducted by an administrative law judge
6 assigned by the Division of Administrative Hearings of the
7 Department of Management Services. The hearing shall be
8 conducted within 60 days after receipt of the written appeal
9 in accordance with chapter 120. The recommendation of the
10 administrative law judge shall be made to the district school
11 board. A majority vote of the membership of the district
12 school board shall be required to sustain or change the
13 administrative law judge's recommendation. The determination
14 of the district school board shall be final as to the
15 sufficiency or insufficiency of the grounds for termination of
16 employment.
17
18 Any such decision adverse to the employee may be appealed by
19 the employee pursuant to s. 120.68, provided such appeal is
20 filed within 30 days after the decision of the district school
21 board.
22 (b) Any member of the district administrative or
23 supervisory staff, including any principal but excluding an
24 employee specified in subsection (4), may be suspended or
25 dismissed at any time during the term of the contract;
26 however, the charges against him or her must be based on
27 immorality, misconduct in office, incompetency, gross
28 insubordination, willful neglect of duty, drunkenness, or
29 conviction of any crime involving moral turpitude, as these
30 terms are defined by rule of the State Board of Education.
31 Whenever such charges are made against any such employee of

1 the district school board, the district school board may
2 suspend the employee without pay; but, if the charges are not
3 sustained, he or she shall be immediately reinstated, and his
4 or her back salary shall be paid. In cases of suspension by
5 the district school board or by the district school
6 superintendent, the district school board shall determine upon
7 the evidence submitted whether the charges have been sustained
8 and, if the charges are sustained, shall determine either to
9 dismiss the employee or fix the terms under which he or she
10 may be reinstated. If such charges are sustained by a
11 majority vote of the full membership of the district school
12 board and such employee is discharged, his or her contract of
13 employment shall be thereby canceled. Any such decision
14 adverse to the employee may be appealed by him or her pursuant
15 to s. 120.68, provided such appeal is filed within 30 days
16 after the decision of the district school board.

17 (7) The district school board of any given district
18 shall grant continuing service credit for time spent
19 performing duties as a member of the Legislature to any
20 district employee who possesses a professional service
21 contract, multiyear contract, or continuing contract.

22 (8) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any
23 member who has retired may interrupt retirement and be
24 reemployed in any public school. Any member so reemployed by
25 the same district from which he or she retired may be employed
26 on a probationary contractual basis as provided in subsection
27 (1); however, no regular retirement employee shall be eligible
28 to renew membership under a retirement system created by
29 chapter 121 or chapter 238.

30 Section 705. Section 1012.34, Florida Statutes, is
31 created to read:

1 1012.34 Assessment procedures and criteria.--
2 (1) For the purpose of improving the quality of
3 instructional, administrative, and supervisory services in the
4 public schools of the state, the district school
5 superintendent shall establish procedures for assessing the
6 performance of duties and responsibilities of all
7 instructional, administrative, and supervisory personnel
8 employed by the school district. The Department of Education
9 must approve each district's instructional personnel
10 assessment system.
11 (2) The following conditions must be considered in the
12 design of the district's instructional personnel assessment
13 system:
14 (a) The system must be designed to support district
15 and school level improvement plans.
16 (b) The system must provide appropriate instruments,
17 procedures, and criteria for continuous quality improvement of
18 the professional skills of instructional personnel.
19 (c) The system must include a mechanism to give
20 parents an opportunity to provide input into employee
21 performance assessments when appropriate.
22 (d) In addition to addressing generic teaching
23 competencies, districts must determine those teaching fields
24 for which special procedures and criteria will be developed.
25 (e) Each district school board may establish a peer
26 assistance process. The plan may provide a mechanism for
27 assistance of persons who are placed on performance probation
28 as well as offer assistance to other employees who request it.
29 (f) The district school board shall provide training
30 programs that are based upon guidelines provided by the
31 Department of Education to ensure that all individuals with

1 evaluation responsibilities understand the proper use of the
2 assessment criteria and procedures.

3 (3) The assessment procedure for instructional
4 personnel and school administrators must be primarily based on
5 the performance of students assigned to their classrooms or
6 schools, as appropriate. The procedures must comply with, but
7 are not limited to, the following requirements:

8 (a) An assessment must be conducted for each employee
9 at least once a year. The assessment must be based upon sound
10 educational principles and contemporary research in effective
11 educational practices. The assessment must primarily use data
12 and indicators of improvement in student performance assessed
13 annually as specified in s. 1008.22 and may consider results
14 of peer reviews in evaluating the employee's performance.
15 Student performance must be measured by state assessments
16 required under s. 1008.22 and by local assessments for
17 subjects and grade levels not measured by the state assessment
18 program. The assessment criteria must include, but are not
19 limited to, indicators that relate to the following:

- 20 1. Performance of students.
- 21 2. Ability to maintain appropriate discipline.
- 22 3. Knowledge of subject matter. The district school
23 board shall make special provisions for evaluating teachers
24 who are assigned to teach out-of-field.
- 25 4. Ability to plan and deliver instruction, including
26 the use of technology in the classroom.
- 27 5. Ability to evaluate instructional needs.
- 28 6. Ability to establish and maintain a positive
29 collaborative relationship with students' families to increase
30 student achievement.

31

1 7. Other professional competencies, responsibilities,
2 and requirements as established by rules of the State Board of
3 Education and policies of the district school board.

4 (b) All personnel must be fully informed of the
5 criteria and procedures associated with the assessment process
6 before the assessment takes place.

7 (c) The individual responsible for supervising the
8 employee must assess the employee's performance. The evaluator
9 must submit a written report of the assessment to the district
10 school superintendent for the purpose of reviewing the
11 employee's contract. The evaluator must submit the written
12 report to the employee no later than 10 days after the
13 assessment takes place. The evaluator must discuss the written
14 report of assessment with the employee. The employee shall
15 have the right to initiate a written response to the
16 assessment, and the response shall become a permanent
17 attachment to his or her personnel file.

18 (d) If an employee is not performing his or her duties
19 in a satisfactory manner, the evaluator shall notify the
20 employee in writing of such determination. The notice must
21 describe such unsatisfactory performance and include notice of
22 the following procedural requirements:

23 1. Upon delivery of a notice of unsatisfactory
24 performance, the evaluator must confer with the employee, make
25 recommendations with respect to specific areas of
26 unsatisfactory performance, and provide assistance in helping
27 to correct deficiencies within a prescribed period of time.

28 2.a. If the employee holds a professional service
29 contract as provided in s. 1012.33, the employee shall be
30 placed on performance probation and governed by the provisions
31 of this section for 90 calendar days following the receipt of

1 the notice of unsatisfactory performance to demonstrate
2 corrective action. School holidays and school vacation periods
3 are not counted when calculating the 90-calendar-day period.
4 During the 90 calendar days, the employee who holds a
5 professional service contract must be evaluated periodically
6 and apprised of progress achieved and must be provided
7 assistance and inservice training opportunities to help
8 correct the noted performance deficiencies. At any time during
9 the 90 calendar days, the employee who holds a professional
10 service contract may request a transfer to another appropriate
11 position with a different supervising administrator; however,
12 a transfer does not extend the period for correcting
13 performance deficiencies.

14 b. Within 14 days after the close of the 90 calendar
15 days, the evaluator must assess whether the performance
16 deficiencies have been corrected and forward a recommendation
17 to the district school superintendent. Within 14 days after
18 receiving the evaluator's recommendation, the district school
19 superintendent must notify the employee who holds a
20 professional service contract in writing whether the
21 performance deficiencies have been satisfactorily corrected
22 and whether the district school superintendent will recommend
23 that the district school board continue or terminate his or
24 her employment contract. If the employee wishes to contest the
25 district school superintendent's recommendation, the employee
26 must, within 15 days after receipt of the district school
27 superintendent's recommendation, submit a written request for
28 a hearing. The hearing shall be conducted at the district
29 school board's election in accordance with one of the
30 following procedures:

31

1 (I) A direct hearing conducted by the district school
2 board within 60 days after receipt of the written appeal. The
3 hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions
4 of ss. 120.569 and 120.57. A majority vote of the membership
5 of the district school board shall be required to sustain the
6 district school superintendent's recommendation. The
7 determination of the district school board shall be final as
8 to the sufficiency or insufficiency of the grounds for
9 termination of employment; or

10 (II) A hearing conducted by an administrative law
11 judge assigned by the Division of Administrative Hearings of
12 the Department of Management Services. The hearing shall be
13 conducted within 60 days after receipt of the written appeal
14 in accordance with chapter 120. The recommendation of the
15 administrative law judge shall be made to the district school
16 board. A majority vote of the membership of the district
17 school board shall be required to sustain or change the
18 administrative law judge's recommendation. The determination
19 of the district school board shall be final as to the
20 sufficiency or insufficiency of the grounds for termination of
21 employment.

22 (4) The district school superintendent shall notify
23 the department of any instructional personnel who receive two
24 consecutive unsatisfactory evaluations and who have been given
25 written notice by the district that their employment is being
26 terminated or is not being renewed or that the district school
27 board intends to terminate, or not renew, their employment.
28 The department shall conduct an investigation to determine
29 whether action shall be taken against the certificateholder
30 pursuant to s. 1012.795(1)(b).

31

1 (5) The district school superintendent shall develop a
2 mechanism for evaluating the effective use of assessment
3 criteria and evaluation procedures by administrators who are
4 assigned responsibility for evaluating the performance of
5 instructional personnel. The use of the assessment and
6 evaluation procedures shall be considered as part of the
7 annual assessment of the administrator's performance. The
8 system must include a mechanism to give parents and teachers
9 an opportunity to provide input into the administrator's
10 performance assessment, when appropriate.

11 (6) Nothing in this section shall be construed to
12 grant a probationary employee a right to continued employment
13 beyond the term of his or her contract.

14 (7) The district school board shall establish a
15 procedure annually reviewing instructional personnel
16 assessment systems to determine compliance with this section.
17 All substantial revisions to an approved system must be
18 reviewed and approved by the district school board before
19 being used to assess instructional personnel. Upon request by
20 a school district, the department shall provide assistance in
21 developing, improving, or reviewing an assessment system.

22 (8) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
23 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54, that establish uniform
24 guidelines for the submission, review, and approval of
25 district procedures for the annual assessment of instructional
26 personnel and that include criteria for evaluating
27 professional performance.

28 Section 706. Part III.c. of chapter 1012, Florida
29 Statutes, shall be entitled "Personnel, Instructional and
30 Noninstructional; Authorization; Requirements" and shall
31 consist of ss. 1012.35-1012.46.

1 Section 707. Section 1012.35, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1012.35 Substitute teachers.--Each district school
4 board shall adopt rules prescribing the compensation of, and
5 the procedure for employment of, substitute teachers. Such
6 procedure for employment shall include, but is not limited to,
7 the filing of a complete set of fingerprints as required in s.
8 1012.32.

9 Section 708. Section 1012.36, Florida Statutes, is
10 created to read:

11 1012.36 Part-time teachers.--

12 (1) District school boards may hire certified and
13 qualified personnel as provided in ss. 1012.39 and 1012.57 to
14 teach a specified number of periods, which may be less than a
15 full school day or less than a full school year.

16 (2) Assigned additional school duties and salaries
17 shall be given in direct ratio to the number of periods
18 taught. Other benefits shall be provided by district school
19 board rule or, if applicable, pursuant to chapter 447.

20 Section 709. Section 1012.37, Florida Statutes, is
21 created to read:

22 1012.37 Education paraprofessionals.--A district
23 school board may appoint education paraprofessionals to assist
24 members of the instructional staff in carrying out their
25 duties and responsibilities. An education paraprofessional
26 shall not be required to hold a teaching certificate. An
27 education paraprofessional, while rendering services under the
28 supervision of a certified teacher, shall be accorded the same
29 protection of laws as that accorded the certified teacher.
30 Paid education paraprofessionals employed by a district school
31

1 board shall be entitled to the same rights as those accorded
2 noninstructional employees of the district school board.

3 Section 710. Section 1012.38, Florida Statutes, is
4 created to read:

5 1012.38 Education paraprofessional career
6 development.--

7 (1)(a) Each school district may adopt a program for
8 the career development of education paraprofessionals. The
9 purpose of the program is to provide to education
10 paraprofessionals a system of career development which is
11 based upon education and training advancement, and to furnish
12 economic incentives to encourage excellence among education
13 paraprofessionals.

14 (b) The adoption of each program is subject to chapter
15 447, and the implementation of a program is contingent upon
16 the agreement and ratification of the program by both the
17 employer and employees under s. 447.309.

18 (2) A district education paraprofessional career
19 development program must include voluntary participation by
20 paraprofessionals in five career development levels. The
21 district school board shall adopt a procedure for verifying
22 the competency levels of all persons who participate in the
23 career development program and a procedure to determine the
24 outcomes and results of the program and impact on student
25 performance.

26 (3)(a) Level I.--To qualify for Level I, the person
27 must meet:

28 1. The health requirement established for certified
29 personnel.

30 2. The age requirements for certified personnel.
31

- 1 3. The local school district requirements for
2 employment.
- 3 (b) Level II.--To qualify for Level II, the person
4 must:
- 5 1. Have earned a high school diploma or the
6 equivalent.
- 7 2. Possess a clear understanding of state and district
8 rules and policies relevant to paraprofessionals.
- 9 3. Possess knowledge of all state and district
10 instructional practices and policies relevant to
11 paraprofessionals.
- 12 4. Have maintained satisfactory job performance of
13 appropriate skills and competencies for 1 year.
- 14 (c) Level III.--To qualify for Level III, the person
15 must:
- 16 1. Have completed 30 college semester hours or the
17 equivalent inservice hours.
- 18 2. Possess a clear understanding of state and district
19 rules and policies relevant to paraprofessionals.
- 20 3. Possess knowledge of all state and district
21 instructional practices and policies relevant to
22 paraprofessionals.
- 23 4. Have maintained satisfactory job performance of
24 appropriate skills and competencies for 2 years.
- 25 (d) Level IV.--To qualify for Level IV, the person
26 must:
- 27 1. Have completed 60 college semester hours or the
28 equivalent inservice hours.
- 29 2. Possess a clear understanding of state and district
30 rules and policies relevant to paraprofessionals.
- 31

- 1 3. Possess knowledge of all state and district
2 instructional practices and policies relevant to
3 paraprofessionals.
- 4 4. Have maintained satisfactory job performance of
5 appropriate skills and competencies for 2 years.
- 6 (e) Level V.--To qualify for Level V, the person must:
- 7 1. Have completed coursework to earn a bachelor of
8 arts or bachelor of science degree from an accredited
9 institution pursuant to s. 1012.56(2)(c).
- 10 2. Possess a clear understanding of state and district
11 rules and policies relevant to paraprofessionals.
- 12 3. Possess knowledge of all state and district
13 instructional practices and policies relevant to
14 paraprofessionals.
- 15 4. Have maintained satisfactory job performance of
16 appropriate skills and competencies for 2 years.
- 17 (4) Paraprofessionals may not:
- 18 (a) Establish instructional objectives;
- 19 (b) Make decisions regarding the relevancy of certain
20 activities or procedures to the attainment of instructional
21 objectives;
- 22 (c) Make decisions regarding the appropriateness of
23 certain teaching materials for accomplishing instructional
24 objectives; or
- 25 (d) Make judgments regarding the attainment of
26 instructional objectives unless these judgments are based upon
27 clear and objective criteria, such as specific achievement
28 standards on a true-false test.
- 29 Section 711. Section 1012.39, Florida Statutes, is
30 created to read:
31

1 1012.39 Employment of substitute teachers, teachers of
2 adult education, nondegreed teachers of career education, and
3 career specialists; students performing clinical field
4 experience.--

5 (1) Notwithstanding ss. 1012.32, 1012.55, 1012.56, and
6 1012.57, or any other provision of law or rule to the
7 contrary, each district school board shall establish the
8 minimal qualifications for:

9 (a) Substitute teachers to be employed pursuant to s.
10 1012.35. The qualifications shall require the filing of a
11 complete set of fingerprints in the same manner as required by
12 s. 1012.32.

13 (b) Part-time and full-time teachers in adult
14 education programs. The qualifications shall require the
15 filing of a complete set of fingerprints in the same manner as
16 required by s. 1012.32. Faculty employed solely to conduct
17 postsecondary instruction may be exempted from this
18 requirement.

19 (c) Part-time and full-time nondegreed teachers of
20 career and technical programs. Qualifications shall be
21 established for agriculture, business, health occupations,
22 family and consumer sciences, industrial, marketing, career
23 specialist, and public service education teachers, based
24 primarily on successful occupational experience rather than
25 academic training. The qualifications for such teachers shall
26 require:

27 1. The filing of a complete set of fingerprints in the
28 same manner as required by s. 1012.32. Faculty employed solely
29 to conduct postsecondary instruction may be exempted from this
30 requirement.

31

1 2. Documentation of education and successful
2 occupational experience including documentation of:
3 a. A high school diploma or the equivalent.
4 b. Completion of 6 years of full-time successful
5 occupational experience or the equivalent of part-time
6 experience in the teaching specialization area. Alternate
7 means of determining successful occupational experience may be
8 established by the district school board.
9 c. Completion of career education training conducted
10 through the local school district inservice master plan.
11 d. For full-time teachers, completion of professional
12 education training in teaching methods, course construction,
13 lesson planning and evaluation, and teaching special needs
14 students. This training may be completed through coursework
15 from an accredited or approved institution or an approved
16 district teacher education program.
17 e. Demonstration of successful teaching performance.
18 (2) Substitute, adult education, and nondegreed career
19 education teachers who are employed pursuant to this section
20 shall have the same rights and protection of laws as certified
21 teachers.
22 (3) A student who is enrolled in a state-approved
23 teacher preparation program in a postsecondary educational
24 institution that is approved by rules of the State Board of
25 Education and who is jointly assigned by the postsecondary
26 educational institution and a district school board to perform
27 a clinical field experience under the direction of a regularly
28 employed and certified educator shall, while serving such
29 supervised clinical field experience, be accorded the same
30 protection of law as that accorded to the certified educator
31

1 except for the right to bargain collectively as an employee of
2 the district school board.

3 Section 712. Section 1012.40, Florida Statutes, is
4 created to read:

5 1012.40 Educational support employees.--

6 (1) As used in this section:

7 (a) "Educational support employee" means any person
8 employed by a district school system who is employed as a
9 teacher assistant, an education paraprofessional, a member of
10 the transportation department, a member of the operations
11 department, a member of the maintenance department, a member
12 of food service, a secretary, or a clerical employee, or any
13 other person who by virtue of his or her position of
14 employment is not required to be certified by the Department
15 of Education or district school board pursuant to s. 1012.39.
16 This section does not apply to persons employed in
17 confidential or management positions. This section applies to
18 all employees who are not temporary or casual and whose duties
19 require 20 or more hours in each normal working week.

20 (b) "Employee" means any person employed as an
21 educational support employee.

22 (2)(a) Each educational support employee shall be
23 employed on probationary status for a period to be determined
24 through the appropriate collective bargaining agreement or by
25 district school board rule in cases where a collective
26 bargaining agreement does not exist.

27 (b) Upon successful completion of the probationary
28 period by the employee, the employee's status shall continue
29 from year to year unless the district school superintendent
30 terminates the employee for reasons stated in the collective
31 bargaining agreement, or in district school board rule in

1 cases where a collective bargaining agreement does not exist,
2 or reduces the number of employees on a districtwide basis for
3 financial reasons.

4 (c) In the event a district school superintendent
5 seeks termination of an employee, the district school board
6 may suspend the employee with or without pay. The employee
7 shall receive written notice and shall have the opportunity to
8 formally appeal the termination. The appeals process shall be
9 determined by the appropriate collective bargaining process or
10 by district school board rule in the event there is no
11 collective bargaining agreement.

12 Section 713. Section 1012.41, Florida Statutes, is
13 created to read:

14 1012.41 Employment of directors of career and
15 technical education.--In order to receive state funding, each
16 district school board that employs at least 15 full-time
17 equivalent career and technical teachers must employ a
18 director of career and technical education who meets the
19 certification requirements established by the State Board of
20 Education. The directors shall be directly accountable to the
21 district school superintendent, or his or her designee, for
22 the planning and implementation of career and technical
23 programs. Two or more district school boards may employ a
24 single director.

25 Section 714. Section 1012.42, Florida Statutes, is
26 created to read:

27 1012.42 Teacher teaching out-of-field.--

28 (1) ASSISTANCE.--Each district school board shall
29 adopt and implement a plan to assist any teacher teaching
30 out-of-field, and priority consideration in professional
31 development activities shall be given to teachers who are

1 teaching out-of-field. The district school board shall require
2 that such teachers participate in a certification or staff
3 development program designed to provide the teacher with the
4 competencies required for the assigned duties. The
5 board-approved assistance plan must include duties of
6 administrative personnel and other instructional personnel to
7 provide students with instructional services. Each district
8 school board shall contact its regional workforce board,
9 created pursuant to s. 445.007, to identify resources that may
10 assist teachers who are teaching out-of-field and who are
11 pursuing certification.

12 (2) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.--When a teacher in a
13 district school system is assigned teaching duties in a class
14 dealing with subject matter that is outside the field in which
15 the teacher is certified, outside the field that was the
16 applicant's minor field of study, or outside the field in
17 which the applicant has demonstrated sufficient subject area
18 expertise, as determined by district school board policy in
19 the subject area to be taught, the parents of all students in
20 the class shall be notified in writing of such assignment.

21 Section 715. Section 1012.43, Florida Statutes, is
22 created to read:

23 1012.43 Career and technical teachers.--

24 (1) Career and technical teachers and other teachers
25 who qualify for certificates on the basis of nonacademic
26 preparation shall be entitled to all the contractual rights
27 and privileges now granted to other instructional personnel
28 holding equivalent certificates.

29 (2) A holder of a certificate based on nonacademic
30 preparation which entitled him or her to employment to teach
31 classes in career and technical or adult education shall not

1 be assigned to teach in a regular academic field of the
2 kindergarten through grade 12 school program.

3 Section 716. Section 1012.44, Florida Statutes, is
4 created to read:

5 1012.44 Qualifications for certain persons providing
6 speech-language services.--The State Board of Education shall
7 adopt rules for speech-language services to school districts
8 that qualify for the sparsity supplement as described in s.
9 1011.62(6). These services may be provided by baccalaureate
10 degree level persons for a period of 3 years. The rules shall
11 authorize the delivery of speech-language services by
12 baccalaureate degree level persons under the direction of a
13 certified speech-language pathologist with a master's degree
14 or higher. By October 1, 2003, these rules shall be reviewed
15 by the State Board of Education.

16 Section 717. Section 1012.45, Florida Statutes, is
17 created to read:

18 1012.45 School bus drivers; requirements and duties.--
19 (1) Each school bus driver must be of good moral
20 character, of good vision and hearing, able-bodied, free from
21 communicable disease, mentally alert, and sufficiently strong
22 physically to handle the bus with ease, and he or she must
23 possess other qualifications prescribed by the Commissioner of
24 Education, including those qualifications described in 49
25 C.F.R. s. 391, relating to physical qualifications and
26 examinations and 49 C.F.R. part 40 and part 382, relating to
27 controlled substance and alcohol use and testing, and he or
28 she must hold a valid commercial driver's license with a
29 passenger endorsement.

30
31

1 (2) Each school bus driver has the authority and
2 responsibility to control students during the time students
3 are on the school bus pursuant to s. 1006.10.

4 (3) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
5 outlining requirements that school bus drivers must meet
6 before they are employed by district school boards.

7 (4) Each district school board may provide a school
8 bus driver training program and may make this program
9 available to private school bus drivers by contract.

10 Section 718. Section 1012.46, Florida Statutes, is
11 created to read:

12 1012.46 Athletic trainers.--

13 (1) School districts may establish and implement an
14 athletic injuries prevention and treatment program. Central to
15 this program should be the employment and availability of
16 persons trained in the prevention and treatment of physical
17 injuries which may occur during athletic activities. The
18 program should reflect opportunities for progressive
19 advancement and compensation in employment as provided in
20 subsection (2) and meet certain other minimum standards
21 developed by the Department of Education. The goal of the
22 Legislature is to have school districts employ and have
23 available a full-time teacher athletic trainer in each high
24 school in the state.

25 (2) To the extent practicable, a school district
26 program should include the following employment classification
27 and advancement scheme:

28 (a) First responder.--To qualify as a first responder,
29 a person must possess a professional, temporary, part-time,
30 adjunct, or substitute certificate pursuant to s. 1012.56, be
31 certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, first aid, and

1 have 15 semester hours in courses such as care and prevention
2 of athletic injuries, anatomy, physiology, nutrition,
3 counseling, and other similar courses approved by the
4 Commissioner of Education. This person may only administer
5 first aid and similar care.

6 (b) Teacher athletic trainer.--To qualify as a teacher
7 athletic trainer, a person must possess a professional,
8 temporary, part-time, adjunct, or substitute certificate
9 pursuant to s. 1012.35, s. 1012.56 or s. 1012.57, and be
10 licensed as required by part XIII of chapter 468.

11 Section 719. Part III.d. of chapter 1012, Florida
12 Statutes, shall be entitled "Educator Certification for Public
13 Schools; Renewal; Duties" and shall consist of ss.
14 1012.51-1012.595.

15 Section 720. Section 1012.51, Florida Statutes, is
16 created to read:

17 1012.51 Legislative intent; declaration.--It is the
18 intent and purpose of the Legislature that the practice of
19 teaching in the public school system and its related services,
20 including administering and supervisory services, shall be
21 designated as professional services. Teaching is hereby
22 declared to be a profession in Florida, with similar rights,
23 responsibilities, and privileges accorded other legally
24 recognized professions.

25 Section 721. Section 1012.52, Florida Statutes, is
26 created to read:

27 1012.52 Teacher quality; legislative findings.--

28 (1) The Legislature intends to implement a
29 comprehensive approach to increase students' academic
30 achievement and improve teaching quality. The Legislature
31 recognizes that professional educators play an important role

1 in shaping the future of this state and the nation by
2 developing the knowledge and skills of our future workforce
3 and laying the foundation for good citizenship and full
4 participation in community and civic life. The Legislature
5 also recognizes its role in meeting the state's educational
6 priorities so as to provide opportunity for all students to
7 achieve at the levels set by the Sunshine State Standards.

8 (2) The Legislature further finds that effective
9 educators are able to do the following:

10 (a) Write and speak in a logical and understandable
11 style, using appropriate grammar and sentence structure, and
12 demonstrate a command of standard English, enunciation,
13 clarity of oral directions, and pace and precision in
14 speaking.

15 (b) Read, comprehend, and interpret professional and
16 other written material.

17 (c) Compute, think logically, and solve problems.

18 (d) Recognize signs of students' difficulty with the
19 reading and computational process and apply appropriate
20 measures to improve students' reading and computational
21 performance.

22 (e) Recognize patterns of physical, social, emotional,
23 and intellectual development in students, including
24 exceptional students in the regular classroom.

25 (f) Recognize and demonstrate awareness of the
26 educational needs of students who have limited proficiency in
27 English and employ appropriate teaching strategies.

28 (g) Use and integrate appropriate technology in
29 teaching and learning processes and in managing, evaluating,
30 and improving instruction.

31

1 (h) Use assessment and other diagnostic strategies to
2 assist the continuous development and acquisition of knowledge
3 and understanding of the learner.

4 (i) Use teaching and learning strategies that include
5 consideration of each student's learning styles, needs, and
6 background.

7 (j) Demonstrate the ability to maintain a positive,
8 collaborative relationship with students' families to increase
9 student achievement.

10 (k) Recognize signs of tendency toward violence and
11 severe emotional distress in students and apply techniques of
12 crisis intervention.

13 (l) Recognize signs of alcohol and drug abuse in
14 students and know how to appropriately work with such students
15 and seek assistance designed to prevent future abuse.

16 (m) Recognize the physical and behavioral indicators
17 of child abuse and neglect and know rights and
18 responsibilities regarding reporting.

19 (n) Demonstrate the ability to maintain a positive
20 environment in the classroom while achieving order and
21 discipline.

22 (o) Demonstrate the ability to grade student
23 performance effectively.

24 (p) Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the
25 value of, and strategies for, promoting parental involvement
26 in education.

27 Section 722. Section 1012.53, Florida Statutes, is
28 created to read:

29 1012.53 Duties of instructional personnel.--

30 (1) The primary duty of instructional personnel is to
31 work diligently and faithfully to help students meet or exceed

1 annual learning goals, to meet state and local achievement
2 requirements, and to master the skills required to graduate
3 from high school prepared for postsecondary education and
4 work. This duty applies to instructional personnel whether
5 they teach or function in a support role.

6 (2) Members of the instructional staff of the public
7 schools shall perform duties prescribed by rules of the
8 district school board. The rules shall include, but are not
9 limited to, rules relating to a teacher's duty to help
10 students master challenging standards and meet all state and
11 local requirements for achievement; teaching efficiently and
12 faithfully, using prescribed materials and methods, including
13 technology-based instruction; recordkeeping; and fulfilling
14 the terms of any contract, unless released from the contract
15 by the district school board.

16 Section 723. Section 1012.54, Florida Statutes, is
17 created to read:

18 1012.54 Purpose of instructional personnel
19 certification.--It is the intent of the Legislature that
20 school personnel certified in this state possess the
21 credentials, knowledge, and skills necessary to allow the
22 opportunity for a high-quality education in the public
23 schools. The purpose of school personnel certification is to
24 protect the educational interests of students, parents, and
25 the public at large by assuring that teachers in this state
26 are professionally qualified. In fulfillment of its duty to
27 the citizens of this state, the Legislature has established
28 certification requirements to assure that educational
29 personnel in public schools possess appropriate skills in
30 reading, writing, and mathematics, and adequate pedagogical
31 knowledge, including the use of technology to enhance student

1 learning, and relevant subject matter competence so as to
2 demonstrate an acceptable level of professional performance.
3 Further, the Legislature has established a certificate renewal
4 process which promotes the continuing professional improvement
5 of school personnel, thereby enhancing public education in all
6 areas of the state.

7 Section 724. Section 1012.55, Florida Statutes, is
8 created to read:

9 1012.55 Positions for which certificates required.--

10 (1) The State Board of Education shall classify school
11 services, designate the certification subject areas, establish
12 competencies, including the use of technology to enhance
13 student learning, and certification requirements for all
14 school-based personnel, and adopt rules in accordance with
15 which the professional, temporary, and part-time certificates
16 shall be issued by the Department of Education to applicants
17 who meet the standards prescribed by such rules for their
18 class of service. Each person employed or occupying a position
19 as school supervisor, school principal, teacher, library media
20 specialist, school counselor, athletic coach, or other
21 position in which the employee serves in an instructional
22 capacity, in any public school of any district of this state
23 shall hold the certificate required by law and by rules of the
24 State Board of Education in fulfilling the requirements of the
25 law for the type of service rendered. However, the state board
26 shall adopt rules authorizing district school boards to employ
27 selected noncertificated personnel to provide instructional
28 services in the individuals' fields of specialty or to assist
29 instructional staff members as education paraprofessionals.

30 (2) Each person who is employed and renders service as
31 an athletic coach in any public school in any district of this

1 state shall hold a valid temporary or professional certificate
2 or an athletic coaching certificate. The athletic coaching
3 certificate may be used for either part-time or full-time
4 positions. The provisions of this subsection do not apply to
5 any athletic coach who voluntarily renders service and who is
6 not employed by any public school district of this state.

7 (3) Each person employed as a school nurse shall hold
8 a license to practice nursing in the state, and each person
9 employed as a school physician shall hold a license to
10 practice medicine in the state.

11 (4) A commissioned or noncommissioned military officer
12 who is an instructor of junior reserve officer training shall
13 be exempt from requirements for teacher certification, except
14 for the filing of fingerprints pursuant to s. 1012.32, if he
15 or she meets the following qualifications:

16 (a) Is retired from active military duty, pursuant to
17 chapter 102 of Title 10, U.S.C.

18 (b) Satisfies criteria established by the appropriate
19 military service for certification by the service as a junior
20 reserve officer training instructor.

21 (c) Has an exemplary military record.

22
23 If such instructor is assigned instructional duties other than
24 junior reserve officer training, he or she shall hold the
25 certificate required by law and rules of the state board for
26 the type of service rendered.

27 Section 725. Effective July 1, 2002, section 1012.56,
28 Florida Statutes, is created to read:

29 1012.56 Educator certification requirements.--

30 (1) APPLICATION.--Each person seeking certification
31 pursuant to this chapter shall submit a completed application

1 containing the applicant's social security number to the
2 Department of Education and remit the fee required pursuant to
3 s. 1012.59 and rules of the State Board of Education. Pursuant
4 to the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity
5 Reconciliation Act of 1996, each party is required to provide
6 his or her social security number in accordance with this
7 section. Disclosure of social security numbers obtained
8 through this requirement shall be limited to the purpose of
9 administration of the Title IV-D program of the Social
10 Security Act for child support enforcement. Pursuant to s.
11 120.60, the department shall issue within 90 calendar days
12 after the stamped receipted date of the completed application:

13 (a) A certificate covering the classification, level,
14 and area for which the applicant is deemed qualified; or

15 (b) An official statement of status of eligibility.

16 The statement of status of eligibility must advise the
17 applicant of any qualifications that must be completed to
18 qualify for certification. Each statement of status of
19 eligibility is valid for 2 years after its date of issuance,
20 except as provided in paragraph (2)(d). A statement of status
21 of eligibility may be reissued for one additional 2-year
22 period if application is made while the initial statement of
23 status of eligibility is valid or within 1 year after the
24 initial statement expires, and if the certification subject
25 area is authorized to be issued by the state board at the time
26 the application requesting a reissued statement of status of
27 eligibility is received.

28 (2) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.--To be eligible to seek
29 certification pursuant to this chapter, a person must:

30 (a) Be at least 18 years of age.
31

1 (b) File a written statement, under oath, that the
2 applicant subscribes to and will uphold the principles
3 incorporated in the Constitution of the United States and the
4 Constitution of the State of Florida.

5 (c) Document receipt of a bachelor's or higher degree
6 from an accredited institution of higher learning, or a
7 nonaccredited institution of higher learning that the
8 Department of Education has identified as having a quality
9 program resulting in a bachelor's degree, or higher. Each
10 applicant seeking initial certification must have attained at
11 least a 2.5 overall grade point average on a 4.0 scale in the
12 applicant's major field of study. The applicant may document
13 the required education by submitting official transcripts from
14 institutions of higher education or by authorizing the direct
15 submission of such official transcripts through established
16 electronic network systems. The bachelor's or higher degree
17 may not be required in areas approved in rule by the State
18 Board of Education as nondegreed areas.

19 (d) Submit to a fingerprint check from the Department
20 of Law Enforcement and the Federal Bureau of Investigation
21 pursuant to s. 1012.32. If the fingerprint reports indicate a
22 criminal history or if the applicant acknowledges a criminal
23 history, the applicant's records shall be referred to the
24 Bureau of Educator Standards for review and determination of
25 eligibility for certification. If the applicant fails to
26 provide the necessary documentation requested by the Bureau of
27 Educator Standards within 90 days after the date of the
28 receipt of the certified mail request, the statement of
29 eligibility and pending application shall become invalid.

30 (e) Be of good moral character.
31

- 1 (f) Be competent and capable of performing the duties,
2 functions, and responsibilities of an educator.
- 3 (g) Demonstrate mastery of general knowledge, pursuant
4 to subsection (3).
- 5 (h) Demonstrate mastery of subject area knowledge,
6 pursuant to subsection (4).
- 7 (i) Demonstrate mastery of professional preparation
8 and education competence, pursuant to subsection (5).
- 9 (3) MASTERY OF GENERAL KNOWLEDGE.--Acceptable means of
10 demonstrating mastery of general knowledge are:
- 11 (a) Achievement of passing scores on basic skills
12 examination required by state board rule;
- 13 (b) Achievement of passing scores on the College Level
14 Academic Skills Test earned prior to July 1, 2002;
- 15 (c) A valid standard teaching certificate issued by
16 another state that requires an examination of mastery of
17 general knowledge;
- 18 (d) A valid standard teaching certificate issued by
19 another state and valid certificate issued by the National
20 Board for Professional Teaching Standards; or
- 21 (e) A valid standard teaching certificate issued by
22 another state and documentation of 2 years of continuous
23 successful full-time teaching or administrative experience
24 during the 5-year period immediately preceding the date of
25 application for certification.
- 26 (4) MASTERY OF SUBJECT AREA KNOWLEDGE.--Acceptable
27 means of demonstrating mastery of subject area knowledge are:
- 28 (a) Achievement of passing scores on subject area
29 examinations required by state board rule;
- 30 (b) Completion of the subject area specialization
31 requirements specified in state board rule and verification of

1 the attainment of the essential subject matter competencies by
2 the district school superintendent of the employing school
3 district or chief administrative officer of the employing
4 state-supported or private school for a subject area for which
5 a subject area examination has not been developed and required
6 by state board rule;

7 (c) Completion of the graduate level subject area
8 specialization requirements specified in state board rule for
9 a subject coverage requiring a master's or higher degree and
10 achievement of a passing score on the subject area examination
11 specified in state board rule;

12 (d) A valid standard teaching certificate issued by
13 another state that requires an examination of mastery of
14 subject area knowledge;

15 (e) A valid standard teaching certificate issued by
16 another state and valid certificate issued by the National
17 Board for Professional Teaching Standards; or

18 (f) A valid standard teaching certificate issued by
19 another state and documentation of 2 years of continuous
20 successful full-time teaching or administrative experience
21 during the 5-year period immediately preceding the date of
22 application for certification.

23 (5) MASTERY OF PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION AND EDUCATION
24 COMPETENCE.--Acceptable means of demonstrating mastery of
25 professional preparation and education competence are:

26 (a) Completion of an approved teacher preparation
27 program at a postsecondary educational institution within this
28 state and achievement of a passing score on the professional
29 education competency examination required by state board rule;

30 (b) Completion of a teacher preparation program at a
31 postsecondary educational institution outside Florida and

1 achievement of a passing score on the professional education
2 competency examination required by state board rule;
3 (c) A valid standard teaching certificate issued by
4 another state that requires an examination of mastery of
5 professional education competence;
6 (d) A valid standard teaching certificate issued by
7 another state and valid certificate issued by the National
8 Board for Professional Teaching Standards;
9 (e) A valid standard teaching certificate issued by
10 another state and documentation of 2 years of continuous
11 successful full-time teaching or administrative experience
12 during the 5-year period immediately preceding the date of
13 application for certification;
14 (f) Completion of professional preparation courses as
15 specified in state board rule, successful completion of a
16 professional education competence demonstration program
17 pursuant to paragraph (7)(b), and achievement of a passing
18 score on the professional education competency examination
19 required by state board rule; or
20 (g) Successful completion of a professional
21 preparation alternative certification and education competency
22 program, outlined in paragraph (7)(a).
23 (6) TYPES AND TERMS OF CERTIFICATION.--
24 (a) The Department of Education shall issue a
25 professional certificate for a period not to exceed 5 years to
26 any applicant who meets all the requirements outlined in
27 subsection (2).
28 (b) The department shall issue a temporary certificate
29 to any applicant who completes the requirements outlined in
30 paragraphs (2)(a)-(f) and completes the subject area content
31 requirements specified in state board rule or demonstrates

1 mastery of subject area knowledge pursuant to subsection (4)
2 and holds an accredited degree or a degree approved by the
3 Department of Education at the level required for the subject
4 area specialization in state board rule.

5 (c) The department shall issue one nonrenewable 2-year
6 temporary certificate and one nonrenewable 5-year professional
7 certificate to a qualified applicant who holds a bachelor's
8 degree in the area of speech-language impairment to allow for
9 completion of a master's degree program in speech-language
10 impairment.

11
12 Each temporary certificate is valid for 3 school fiscal years
13 and is nonrenewable. However, the requirement in paragraph
14 (2)(g) must be met within 1 calendar year of the date of
15 employment under the temporary certificate. Individuals who
16 are employed under contract at the end of the 1 calendar year
17 time period may continue to be employed through the end of the
18 school year in which they have been contracted. A school
19 district shall not employ, or continue the employment of, an
20 individual in a position for which a temporary certificate is
21 required beyond this time period if the individual has not met
22 the requirement of paragraph (2)(g). The State Board of
23 Education shall adopt rules to allow the department to extend
24 the validity period of a temporary certificate for 2 years
25 when the requirements for the professional certificate, not
26 including the requirement in paragraph (2)(g), were not
27 completed due to the serious illness or injury of the
28 applicant or other extraordinary extenuating circumstances.
29 The department shall reissue the temporary certificate for 2
30 additional years upon approval by the Commissioner of
31 Education. A written request for reissuance of the certificate

1 shall be submitted by the district school superintendent, the
2 governing authority of a university lab school, the governing
3 authority of a state-supported school, or the governing
4 authority of a private school.

5 (7) PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION
6 AND EDUCATION COMPETENCY PROGRAM.--

7 (a) The Department of Education shall develop and each
8 school district must provide a cohesive competency-based
9 professional preparation alternative certification program by
10 which members of a school district's instructional staff may
11 satisfy the mastery of professional preparation and education
12 competence requirements specified in this subsection and rules
13 of the State Board of Education. Participants must hold a
14 state-issued temporary certificate. A school district shall
15 provide a competency-based alternative certification
16 preparation program developed by the Department of Education
17 or developed by the district and approved by the Department of
18 Education. The program shall include the following components:

19 1. A minimum period of initial preparation prior to
20 assuming duties as the teacher of record.

21 2. An option for collaboration between school
22 districts and other supporting agencies for implementation.

23 3. Experienced peer mentors.

24 4. An assessment that provides for:

25 a. An initial evaluation of each educator's
26 competencies to determine an appropriate individualized
27 professional development plan.

28 b. A postevaluation to assure successful completion of
29 the program.

30 5. Professional education preparation content
31 knowledge that includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- 1 a. Requirements specified in state board rule for
2 professional preparation.
- 3 b. The educator-accomplished practices approved by the
4 state board.
- 5 c. A variety of data indicators for student progress.
- 6 d. Methodologies, including technology-based
7 methodologies, for teaching subject content that supports the
8 Sunshine State Standards for students.
- 9 e. Techniques for effective classroom management.
- 10 f. Techniques and strategies for operationalizing the
11 role of the teacher in assuring a safe learning environment
12 for students.
- 13 g. Methodologies for assuring the ability of all
14 students to read, write, and compute.
- 15 6. Required achievement of passing scores on the
16 professional education competency examination required by
17 state board rule.
- 18 (b) Each school district must and a state supported
19 public school or a private school may develop and maintain a
20 system by which members of the instructional staff may
21 demonstrate mastery of professional education competence as
22 required by law. Each program must be based on classroom
23 application and instructional performance and must include a
24 performance evaluation plan for documenting the demonstration
25 of required professional education competence.
- 26 (8) EXAMINATIONS.--
- 27 (a) The Commissioner of Education, with the approval
28 of the State Board of Education, may contract for developing,
29 printing, administering, scoring, and appropriate analysis of
30 the written examinations required.
- 31

1 (b) The State Board of Education shall, by rule,
2 specify the examination scores that are required for the
3 issuance of a professional certificate and temporary
4 certificate. Such rules must define generic subject area
5 competencies and must establish uniform evaluation guidelines.

6 (c) The State Board of Education shall designate the
7 certification areas for subject area examinations. All
8 required examinations may be taken prior to graduation.

9 (d) If an applicant takes an examination developed by
10 this state and does not achieve the score necessary for
11 certification, the applicant may review his or her completed
12 examination and bring to the attention of the department any
13 errors that would result in a passing score.

14 (e) For any examination developed by this state, the
15 Department of Education and the State Board of Education shall
16 maintain confidentiality of the examination, developmental
17 materials, and workpapers, which are exempt from s. 119.07(1).

18 (f) The examinations used for demonstration of mastery
19 of general knowledge, professional education competence, and
20 subject area knowledge shall be aligned with student standards
21 approved by the state board. The delivery system for these
22 examinations shall provide for overall efficiency,
23 user-friendly application, reasonable accessibility to
24 prospective teachers, and prompt attainment of examination
25 results. The examination of competency for demonstration of
26 subject area knowledge shall be sufficiently comprehensive to
27 assess subject matter expertise for individuals who have
28 acquired subject knowledge either through college credit or by
29 other means.

30 (g) All examination instruments, including
31 developmental materials and workpapers directly related

1 thereto, which are prepared, prescribed, or administered
2 pursuant to this section shall be confidential and exempt from
3 the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and from s. 1001.52. Provisions
4 governing access to, maintenance of, and destruction of such
5 instruments and related materials shall be prescribed by rules
6 of the State Board of Education.

7 (9) NONCITIZENS.--

8 (a) The State Board of Education may adopt rules for
9 issuing certificates to noncitizens who are needed to teach
10 and who are legally admitted to the United States through the
11 United States Immigration and Naturalization Service. The
12 filing of a written oath to uphold the principles of the
13 Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the
14 State of Florida, required under paragraph (2)(b), does not
15 apply to individuals assigned to teach on an exchange basis.

16 (b) A certificate may not be issued to a citizen of a
17 nation controlled by forces that are antagonistic to
18 democratic forms of government, except to an individual who
19 has been legally admitted to the United States through the
20 United States Immigration and Naturalization Service.

21 (10) DENIAL OF CERTIFICATE.--

22 (a) The Department of Education may deny an applicant
23 a certificate if the department possesses evidence
24 satisfactory to it that the applicant has committed an act or
25 acts, or that a situation exists, for which the Education
26 Practices Commission would be authorized to revoke a teaching
27 certificate.

28 (b) The decision of the department is subject to
29 review by the Education Practices Commission upon the filing
30 of a written request from the applicant within 20 days after
31 receipt of the notice of denial.

1 (11) STATE BOARD RULES.--The State Board of Education
2 shall adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536 and 120.54, as
3 necessary to implement this section.

4 (12) PRIOR APPLICATION.--Persons who apply for
5 certification are governed by the law and rules in effect at
6 the time of application for issuance of the initial
7 certificate, provided that continuity of certificates is
8 maintained.

9 (13) PERSONNEL RECORDS.--The Department of Education
10 shall maintain a complete statement of the academic
11 preparation, professional training, and teaching experience of
12 each person to whom a certificate is issued. The applicant or
13 the district school superintendent shall furnish the
14 information using a format or forms provided by the
15 department.

16 (14) AUTHORITY OF COMMISSIONER.--The Commissioner of
17 Education may make decisions regarding an applicant's
18 certification under extenuating circumstances not otherwise
19 provided for in statute or by rule. However, an applicant for
20 certification approved by the commissioner must possess the
21 credentials, knowledge, and skills necessary to provide
22 quality education in the public schools.

23 (15) COMPARISON OF ROUTES TO A PROFESSIONAL
24 CERTIFICATE.--Beginning with the 2003-2004 school year, the
25 Department of Education shall conduct a longitudinal study to
26 compare performance of certificateholders who are employed in
27 Florida school districts. The study shall compare a sampling
28 of educators who have qualified for a professional certificate
29 since July 1, 2002, based on the following:

30 (a) Graduation from a state-approved teacher
31 preparation program.

1 (b) Completion of a state-approved professional
2 preparation and education competency program.

3 (c) A valid standard teaching certificate issued by a
4 state other than Florida.

5
6 The department comparisons shall be made to determine if there
7 is any significant difference in the performance of these
8 groups of teachers, as measured by their students' achievement
9 levels and learning gains as measured by s. 1008.22.

10 Section 726. Section 1012.565, Florida Statutes, is
11 created to read:

12 1012.565 Educator certification for blind and visually
13 impaired students.--As a part of the certification process,
14 teachers certified in the education of blind and visually
15 impaired students shall be required to demonstrate competence
16 in reading, writing, and teaching braille pursuant to
17 standards adopted by the Department of Education, comparable
18 to the braille reading and writing standards adopted by the
19 National Library Service for the Blind and Physically
20 Handicapped, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. The
21 department shall ensure that teachers of students with visual
22 impairments have access to inservice instruction for the
23 purpose of updating their braille skill competence.

24 Section 727. Section 1012.57, Florida Statutes, is
25 created to read:

26 1012.57 Certification of adjunct educators.--

27 (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of ss. 1012.32,
28 1012.55, and 1012.56, or any other provision of law or rule to
29 the contrary, district school boards may issue an adjunct
30 teaching certificate to any applicant who fulfills the
31 requirements of s. 1012.56(2)(a)-(f) and who has expertise in

1 the subject area to be taught. An applicant shall be
2 considered to have expertise in the subject area to be taught
3 if the applicant has at least a minor in the subject area or
4 demonstrates sufficient subject area mastery as determined by
5 district school board policy. The adjunct teaching certificate
6 shall be used for part-time teaching positions. The intent of
7 this provision is to allow school districts to tap the wealth
8 of talent and expertise represented in Florida's citizens who
9 may wish to teach part-time in a Florida public school by
10 permitting school districts to issue adjunct certificates.
11 Adjunct certificateholders should be used as a strategy to
12 reduce the teacher shortage; thus, adjunct certificateholders
13 should supplement a school's instructional staff, not supplant
14 it. Each school principal shall assign an experienced peer
15 mentor to assist the adjunct teaching certificateholder during
16 the certificateholder's first year of teaching, and an adjunct
17 certificateholder may participate in a district's new teacher
18 training program. District school boards shall provide the
19 adjunct teaching certificateholder an orientation in classroom
20 management prior to assigning the certificateholder to a
21 school. Each adjunct teaching certificate is valid for 5
22 school years and is renewable if:

23 (a) The applicant completes a minimum of 60 inservice
24 points or 3 semester hours of college credit. The earned
25 credits must include instruction in classroom management,
26 district school board procedures, school culture, and other
27 activities that enhance the professional teaching skills of
28 the certificateholder.

29 (b) The applicant has received satisfactory
30 performance evaluations during each year of teaching under
31 adjunct teaching certification.

1 (2) Individuals who are certified and employed
2 pursuant to this section shall have the same rights and
3 protection of laws as teachers certified pursuant to s.
4 1012.56.

5 Section 728. Section 1012.575, Florida Statutes, is
6 created to read:

7 1012.575 Alternative preparation programs for
8 certified teachers to add additional coverage.--A district
9 school board may design alternative teacher preparation
10 programs to enable persons already certificated to add an
11 additional coverage to their certificates. Each alternative
12 teacher preparation program shall be reviewed and approved by
13 the Department of Education to assure that persons who
14 complete the program are competent in the necessary areas of
15 subject matter specialization. Two or more school districts
16 may jointly participate in an alternative preparation program
17 for teachers.

18 Section 729. Section 1012.58, Florida Statutes, is
19 created to read:

20 1012.58 Transition to Teaching Program.--

21 (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.--The Transition to Teaching
22 Program is created to encourage and assist midcareer
23 professionals who want to become teachers.

24 (2) GRANTS; ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.--

25 (a) The Commissioner of Education shall design the
26 process for receiving and evaluating grant proposals in
27 accordance with state and federal appropriations guidelines.
28 Grants may be awarded only to the extent that funding is
29 provided.

30
31

1 (b) The Commissioner of Education shall request
2 proposals from eligible applicants to participate in the
3 program. Each application must:

4 1. Describe the target group of career-changing
5 professionals upon which the applicant will focus in carrying
6 out its program, including a description of the
7 characteristics of the target group that shows how the
8 knowledge and experience of its members are likely to improve
9 their ability to become effective teachers.

10 2. Describe how the applicant will identify and
11 recruit program participants.

12 3. Describe how the applicant will ensure that program
13 participants are placed and teach in eligible school districts
14 in this state.

15 4. Describe the teacher support services that program
16 participants will receive throughout at least their first year
17 of teaching.

18 5. Describe how the applicant will collaborate with
19 other institutions, agencies, or organizations to recruit,
20 train, place, and support program participants, including
21 evidence of the commitment of those institutions, agencies, or
22 organizations to the applicant's program.

23 (c) The Commissioner of Education must require an
24 evaluation process to measure the progress and effectiveness
25 of the program. This evaluation must include:

26 1. The program's goals and objectives.

27 2. The performance indicators that the applicant will
28 use to measure the program's progress.

29 3. The outcome measures that will be used to determine
30 the program's effectiveness.

31

1 4. An assurance that the applicant will provide the
2 commissioner with information the commissioner finds necessary
3 to determine the overall effectiveness of the programs.

4 (3) PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION; AUTHORIZED EXPENDITURES.--

5 (a) An applicant shall estimate the funds required for
6 the proposed program. All funds provided for a program must be
7 used as authorized in federal guidelines.

8 (b) Eligible applicants are encouraged to implement
9 the program using the following components:

10 1. Recruiting program participants, including
11 informing them of opportunities under the program and putting
12 them in contact with other institutions, agencies, or
13 organizations that will train, place, and support them in the
14 teaching profession.

15 2. Assisting providers of teacher training to tailor
16 their training to meet the particular needs of professionals
17 who are changing their careers to teaching.

18 3. Placement activities, including identifying
19 eligible local education agencies with a need for the skills
20 and characteristics of the newly trained program participants
21 and assisting those participants to obtain employment in those
22 school districts.

23 4. Post-placement support activities for program
24 participants.

25 (4) ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS; REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANT
26 REPAYMENT.--

27 (a) Each participant who receives a grant from the
28 program to pursue a teacher preparation program must agree to
29 teach in an eligible school district in this state for at
30 least 3 years after certification. To be eligible, a school
31

1 district must meet the requirements established in regulations
2 that implement the Omnibus Appropriations Bill of 2000.

3 (b) The commissioner shall establish conditions under
4 which a participant must repay all or a portion of the
5 training stipend if the participant fails to complete his or
6 her service obligation.

7 Section 730. Section 1012.585, Florida Statutes, is
8 created to read:

9 1012.585 Process for renewal of professional
10 certificates.--

11 (1)(a) District school boards in this state shall
12 renew state-issued professional certificates as follows:

13 1. Each district school board shall renew state-issued
14 professional certificates for individuals who hold a
15 professional certificate by this state and are employed by
16 that district pursuant to criteria established in subsections
17 (2), (3), and (4) and rules of the State Board of Education.

18 2. The employing school district may charge the
19 individual an application fee not to exceed the amount charged
20 by the Department of Education for such services, including
21 associated late renewal fees. Each district school board
22 shall transmit monthly to the department a fee in an amount
23 established by the State Board of Education for each renewed
24 certificate. The fee shall not exceed the actual cost for
25 maintenance and operation of the statewide certification
26 database and for the actual costs incurred in printing and
27 mailing such renewed certificates. As defined in current rules
28 of the state board, the department shall contribute a portion
29 of such fee for purposes of funding the Educator Recovery
30 Network established in s. 1012.798. The department shall

31

1 deposit all funds into the Educational Certification Trust
2 Fund for use as specified in s. 1012.59.

3 (b) The department shall renew state-issued
4 professional certificates for individuals who are not employed
5 by a district school board of this state pursuant to criteria
6 established in subsections (2), (3), and (4) and requirements
7 specified in rules of the state board.

8 (2)(a) All professional certificates, except a
9 nonrenewable professional certificate, shall be renewable for
10 successive periods not to exceed 5 years after the date of
11 submission of documentation of completion of the requirements
12 for renewal provided in subsection (3). Only one renewal may
13 be granted during each 5-year validity period of a
14 professional certificate.

15 (b) A teacher with national certification from the
16 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards is deemed
17 to meet state renewal requirements for the life of the
18 teacher's national certificate in the subject shown on the
19 national certificate.

20 (c) If the renewal application form is not received by
21 the department or by the employing school district before the
22 expiration of the professional certificate, the application
23 form, application fee, and a late fee must be submitted before
24 July 1 of the year following expiration of the certificate in
25 order to renew the professional certificate.

26 (d) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to
27 allow a 1-year extension of the validity period of a
28 professional certificate in the event of serious illness,
29 injury, or other extraordinary extenuating circumstances of
30 the applicant. The department shall grant such 1-year
31 extension upon written request by the applicant or by the

1 district school superintendent or the governing authority of a
2 university lab school, state-supported school, or private
3 school that employs the applicant.

4 (3) For the renewal of a professional certificate, the
5 following requirements must be met:

6 (a) The applicant must earn a minimum of 6 college
7 credits or 120 inservice points or a combination thereof. For
8 each area of specialization to be retained on a certificate,
9 the applicant must earn at least 3 of the required credit
10 hours or equivalent inservice points in the specialization
11 area. Education in "clinical educator" training pursuant to s.
12 1004.04(5)(b) and credits or points that provide training in
13 the area of exceptional student education, normal child
14 development, and the disorders of development may be applied
15 toward any specialization area. Credits or points that provide
16 training in the areas of drug abuse, child abuse and neglect,
17 strategies in teaching students having limited proficiency in
18 English, or dropout prevention, or training in areas
19 identified in the educational goals and performance standards
20 adopted pursuant to ss. 1000.03(5) and 1001.23 may be applied
21 toward any specialization area. Credits or points earned
22 through approved summer institutes may be applied toward the
23 fulfillment of these requirements. Inservice points may also
24 be earned by participation in professional growth components
25 approved by the State Board of Education and specified
26 pursuant to s. 1012.98 in the district's approved master plan
27 for inservice educational training, including, but not limited
28 to, serving as a trainer in an approved teacher training
29 activity, serving on an instructional materials committee or a
30 state board or commission that deals with educational issues,
31

1 or serving on an advisory council created pursuant to s.
2 229.58.

3 (b) In lieu of college course credit or inservice
4 points, the applicant may renew a specialization area by
5 passage of a state board approved subject area test.

6 (c) If an applicant wishes to retain more than two
7 specialization areas on the certificate, the applicant shall
8 be permitted two successive validity periods for renewal of
9 all specialization areas, but must earn no fewer than 6
10 college course credit hours or the equivalent in any one
11 validity period.

12 (d) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules for
13 the expanded use of training for renewal of the professional
14 certificate for educators who are required to complete
15 training in teaching students of limited English proficiency
16 as follows:

17 1. A teacher who holds a professional certificate may
18 use college credits or inservice points completed in
19 English-for-Speakers-of-Other-Languages training in excess of
20 6 semester hours during one certificate-validity period toward
21 renewal of the professional certificate during the subsequent
22 validity periods.

23 2. A teacher who holds a temporary certificate may use
24 college credits or inservice points completed in
25 English-for-Speakers-of-Other-Languages training toward
26 renewal of the teacher's first professional certificate. Such
27 training must not have been included within the degree
28 program, and the teacher's temporary and professional
29 certificates must be issued for consecutive school years.

30 (4) When any person who holds a valid temporary
31 certificate or professional certificate is called into or

1 volunteers for actual wartime service or required peacetime
2 military service training, the certificate shall be renewed
3 for a period of time equal to the time spent in military
4 service if the person makes proper application and presents
5 substantiating evidence to the department or the employing
6 school district regarding such military service.

7 (5) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to
8 allow the reinstatement of expired professional certificates.

9 The department may reinstate an expired professional
10 certificate if the certificateholder:

11 (a) Submits an application for reinstatement of the
12 expired certificate.

13 (b) Documents completion of 6 college credits during
14 the 5 years immediately preceding reinstatement of the expired
15 certificate, completion of 120 inservice points, or a
16 combination thereof, in an area specified in paragraph (3)(a).

17 (c) During the 5 years immediately preceding
18 reinstatement of the certificate, achieves a passing score on
19 the subject area test for each subject to be shown on the
20 reinstated certificate.

21
22 The requirements of this subsection may not be satisfied by
23 subject area tests or college credits completed for issuance
24 of the certificate that has expired.

25 Section 731. Section 1012.59, Florida Statutes, is
26 created to read:

27 1012.59 Certification fees.--

28 (1) The State Board of Education, by rule, shall
29 establish separate fees for applications, examinations,
30 certification, certification renewal, late renewal,
31 recordmaking, and recordkeeping, and may establish procedures

1 for scheduling and administering an examination upon an
2 applicant's request. Each fee shall be based on department
3 estimates of the revenue required to implement the provisions
4 of law with respect to certification of school personnel. The
5 application fee shall be nonrefundable. Each examination fee
6 shall be sufficient to cover the actual cost of developing and
7 administering the examination, but shall not exceed \$100 for
8 an examination.

9 (2) The proceeds from the collection of certification
10 fees, fines, penalties, and costs levied pursuant to this
11 chapter shall be remitted by the Department of Education to
12 the Treasurer for deposit into a separate fund to be known as
13 the "Educational Certification and Service Trust Fund" and
14 disbursed for the payment of expenses incurred by the
15 Educational Practices Commission and in the printing of forms
16 and bulletins and the issuing of certificates, upon vouchers
17 approved by the department.

18 Section 732. Section 1012.595, Florida Statutes, is
19 created to read:

20 1012.595 Saving clause.--Each applicant who was issued
21 a certificate by the Department of Education prior to June 25,
22 1986, shall be entitled to hold such certificate. Henceforth,
23 such certificate shall be renewed in accordance with the
24 provisions of chapter 86-156, Laws of Florida. No judicial or
25 administrative proceeding against a holder of a certificate
26 shall be abated as a result of this chapter.

27 Section 733. Part III.e. of chapter 1012, Florida
28 Statutes, shall be entitled "Leave, Retirement, Workers'
29 Compensation in Public Schools" and shall consist of ss.
30 1012.61-1012.695.

31

1 Section 734. Section 1012.61, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1012.61 Sick leave.--

4 (1) ELIGIBILITY.--Any member of the instructional
5 staff or any other employee of a district school system
6 employed on a full-time basis in the public schools of the
7 state who is unable to perform his or her duty in the school
8 on account of personal sickness, accident disability, or
9 extended personal illness, or because of illness or death of
10 father, mother, brother, sister, husband, wife, child, other
11 close relative, or member of his or her own household, and
12 consequently has to be absent from his or her work shall be
13 granted leave of absence for sickness by the district school
14 superintendent or by someone designated in writing by the
15 district school superintendent to do so.

16 (2) PROVISIONS GOVERNING SICK LEAVE.--The following
17 provisions shall govern sick leave:

18 (a) Extent of leave.--

19 1. Each member of the instructional staff employed on
20 a full-time basis is entitled to 4 days of sick leave as of
21 the first day of employment of each contract year and shall
22 thereafter earn 1 day of sick leave for each month of
23 employment, which shall be credited to the member at the end
24 of that month and which may not be used before it is earned
25 and credited to the member. Each other employee shall be
26 credited with 4 days of sick leave at the end of the first
27 month of employment of each contract year and shall thereafter
28 be credited for 1 day of sick leave for each month of
29 employment, which shall be credited to the employee at the end
30 of the month and which may not be used before it is earned and
31 credited to the employee. However, each member of the

1 instructional staff and each other employee is entitled to
2 earn no more than 1 day of sick leave times the number of
3 months of employment during the year of employment. If the
4 employee terminates his or her employment and has not accrued
5 the 4 days of sick leave available to him or her, the district
6 school board may withhold the average daily amount for the
7 days of sick leave used but unearned by the employee. Such
8 leave may be taken only when necessary because of sickness as
9 prescribed in this section. The sick leave shall be
10 cumulative from year to year. There shall be no limit on the
11 number of days of sick leave which a member of the
12 instructional staff or an educational support employee may
13 accrue, except that at least one-half of this cumulative leave
14 must be established within the district granting such leave.

15 2. A district school board may establish policies and
16 prescribe standards to permit an employee to be absent 6 days
17 each school year for personal reasons. However, such absences
18 for personal reasons must be charged only to accrued sick
19 leave, and leave for personal reasons is noncumulative.

20 3. District school boards may adopt rules permitting
21 the annual payment for accumulated sick leave that is earned
22 for that year and that is unused at the end of the school
23 year, based on the daily rate of pay of the employee
24 multiplied by up to 80 percent. Days for which such payment
25 is received shall be deducted from the accumulated leave
26 balance. Such annual payment may apply only to instructional
27 staff and educational support employees.

28 4. A district school board may establish policies to
29 provide terminal pay for accumulated sick leave to
30 instructional staff and educational support employees of the
31 district school board. If termination of employment is by

1 death of the employee, any terminal pay to which the employee
2 may have been entitled may be made to his or her beneficiary.
3 However, such terminal pay may not exceed an amount determined
4 as follows:

5 a. During the first 3 years of service, the daily rate
6 of pay multiplied by 35 percent times the number of days of
7 accumulated sick leave.

8 b. During the next 3 years of service, the daily rate
9 of pay multiplied by 40 percent times the number of days of
10 accumulated sick leave.

11 c. During the next 3 years of service, the daily rate
12 of pay multiplied by 45 percent times the number of days of
13 accumulated sick leave.

14 d. During the next 3 years of service, the daily rate
15 of pay multiplied by 50 percent times the number of days of
16 accumulated sick leave.

17 e. During and after the 13th year of service, the
18 daily rate of pay multiplied by 100 percent times the number
19 of days of accumulated sick leave.

20 5. A district school board may establish policies to
21 provide terminal pay for accumulated sick leave to any
22 full-time employee of the district school board other than
23 instructional staff or educational support employees as
24 defined in this section. If termination of the employee is by
25 death of the employee, any terminal pay to which the employee
26 may have been entitled may be made to the employee's
27 beneficiary.

28 a. Terminal pay may not exceed one-fourth of all
29 unused sick leave accumulated on or after July 1, 2001, and
30 may not exceed a maximum of 60 days of actual payment. This
31 limit does not impair any contractual agreement established

1 before July 1, 2001; however, a previously established
2 contract renewed on or after July 1, 2001, constitutes a new
3 contract.

4 b. For unused sick leave accumulated before July 1,
5 2001, terminal payment shall be made pursuant to a district
6 school board's policies, contracts, or rules that are in
7 effect on June 30, 2001.

8 c. If an employee has an accumulated sick leave
9 balance of 60 days of actual payment or more prior to July 1,
10 2001, sick leave earned after that date may not be accumulated
11 for terminal pay purposes until the accumulated leave balance
12 for leave earned before July 1, 2001, is less than 60 days.

13 (b) Claim must be filed.--Any district school board
14 employee who finds it necessary to be absent from his or her
15 duties because of illness, as defined in this section, shall
16 notify his or her immediate supervisor, if possible, before
17 the beginning of the workday on which the employee must be
18 absent or during that day, except for emergency reasons
19 recognized by the district school board as valid. Any
20 district school board employee shall, before claiming and
21 receiving compensation for the time absent from his or her
22 duties while absent because of sick leave as prescribed in
23 this section, make and file within 5 working days following
24 his or her return from such absence with the district school
25 superintendent of the district in which he or she is so
26 employed a written certificate which shall set forth the day
27 or days absent, that such absence was necessary, and that the
28 employee is entitled or not entitled to receive pay for such
29 absence in accordance with the provisions of this section;
30 however, the district school board of any district may adopt
31 rules under which the district school superintendent may

1 require a certificate of illness from a licensed physician or
2 from the county health officer.

3 (c) Compensation.--Any employee having unused sick
4 leave credit shall receive full-time compensation for the time
5 justifiably absent on sick leave, but no compensation may be
6 allowed beyond that which may be provided in subsection (4).

7 (d) Expenditure authorized.--District school boards
8 may expend public funds for payment to employees on account of
9 sickness. The expending and excluding of such funds shall be
10 in compliance with rules adopted by the Department of
11 Management Services pursuant to chapter 650.

12 (e) Use by family member.--Each district school system
13 must provide a policy under which a district employee may
14 authorize his or her spouse, child, parent, or sibling who is
15 also a district employee to use sick leave that has accrued to
16 the authorizing employee. In developing the policy, the
17 district school board must provide that the recipient may not
18 use the donated sick leave until all of his or her sick leave
19 has been depleted, excluding sick leave from a sick leave
20 pool, if the recipient participates in a sick leave pool.
21 Donated sick leave under this paragraph shall have no terminal
22 value as provided in s. 1012.61(2).

23 (3) SICK LEAVE POOL.--Notwithstanding any other
24 provision of this section, a district school board, based upon
25 the maintenance of reliable and accurate records by the
26 district school system showing the amount of sick leave which
27 has been accumulated and is unused by employees in accordance
28 with this section, may, by rule or collective bargaining
29 agreement, establish one or more plans allowing participating
30 full-time employees of a district school system to pool sick
31 leave accrued and allowing any sick leave thus pooled to be

1 disbursed to any participating employee who is in need of sick
2 leave in excess of that amount he or she has personally
3 accrued. Such rules or agreements shall include, but not be
4 limited to, the following provisions:

5 (a) Participation in any sick leave pool shall at all
6 times be voluntary on the part of employees.

7 (b) Any full-time employee shall be eligible for
8 participation in any sick leave pool after 1 year of
9 employment with the district school system, provided the
10 employee has accrued a minimum amount of unused sick leave
11 which shall be established by rule and provided, further, a
12 sick leave pool is established that allows participation by
13 that particular employee.

14 (c) Any sick leave pooled pursuant to this section
15 shall be removed from the personally accumulated sick leave
16 balance of the employee donating such leave.

17 (d) Participating employees shall make equal
18 contributions to the sick leave pool. There shall be
19 established a maximum amount of sick leave which may be
20 contributed by an employee to the pool. After the initial
21 contribution which an employee makes upon electing to
22 participate, no further contributions shall be required except
23 as may be necessary to replenish the pool. Any such further
24 contribution shall be equally required of all employees
25 participating in the pool.

26 (e) Any sick leave time drawn from the pool by a
27 participating employee must be used for said employee's
28 personal illness, accident, or injury.

29 (f) A participating employee is not eligible to use
30 sick leave from the pool until all of his or her sick leave
31 has been depleted, unless otherwise agreed to in a collective

1 bargaining agreement. There shall be established a maximum
2 number of days for which an employee may draw sick leave from
3 the sick leave pool.

4 (g) A participating employee who uses sick leave from
5 the pool is not required to recontribute such sick leave to
6 the pool, except as otherwise provided in this section.

7 (h) A participating employee who chooses to no longer
8 participate in the sick leave pool is not eligible to withdraw
9 any sick leave already contributed to the pool.

10 (i) Alleged abuse of the use of the sick leave pool
11 shall be investigated and, on a finding of wrongdoing, the
12 employee shall repay all of the sick leave credits drawn from
13 the sick leave pool and be subject to such other disciplinary
14 action as determined by the district school board to be
15 appropriate. Rules adopted for the administration of this
16 program shall provide for the investigation of the use of sick
17 leave utilized by the participating employee in the sick leave
18 pool.

19 Section 735. Section 1012.62, Florida Statutes, is
20 created to read:

21 1012.62 Transfer of sick leave and annual leave.--In
22 implementing the provisions of ss. 1001.42(4)(n) and
23 402.22(1)(d), educational personnel in Department of Children
24 and Family Services residential care facilities who are
25 employed by a district school board may request, and the
26 district school board shall accept, a lump-sum transfer of
27 accumulated sick leave for such personnel to the maximum
28 allowed by policies of the district school board,
29 notwithstanding the provisions of s. 110.122. Educational
30 personnel in Department of Children and Family Services
31 residential care facilities who are employed by a district

1 school board under the provisions of s. 402.22(1)(d) may
2 request, and the district school board shall accept, a
3 lump-sum transfer of accumulated annual leave for each person
4 employed by the district school board in a position in the
5 district eligible to accrue vacation leave under policies of
6 the district school board.

7 Section 736. Section 1012.63, Florida Statutes, is
8 created to read:

9 1012.63 Illness-in-line-of-duty leave.--Any district
10 school board employee shall be entitled to
11 illness-in-line-of-duty leave when he or she has to be absent
12 from his or her duties because of a personal injury received
13 in the discharge of duty or because of illness from any
14 contagious or infectious disease contracted in school work.
15 The following requirements shall be observed:

16 (1) DURATION OF LEAVE AND COMPENSATION.--Leave of the
17 district school board employee shall be authorized for a total
18 of not to exceed 10 school days during any school year for
19 illness contracted, or injury incurred, from the causes
20 prescribed above. However, in the case of sickness or injury
21 occurring under such circumstances as in the opinion of the
22 district school board warrant it, additional emergency sick
23 leave may be granted out of local funds for such term and
24 under such conditions as the district school board deems
25 proper. The district school board may carry insurance to
26 safeguard the district school board against excessive payments
27 during any year.

28 (2) CLAIMS.--Any district school board employee who
29 has any claim for compensation while absent because of illness
30 contracted or injury incurred as prescribed herein shall file
31 a claim in the manner prescribed in s. 1012.61(2)(b) within 5

1 working days following the employee's return from such
2 absence. The school board of the district in which such person
3 is employed shall approve the claims and authorize the payment
4 thereof if the district school board is satisfied that the
5 claim correctly states the facts and that the claim is
6 entitled to payment in accordance with the provisions of this
7 section.

8 Section 737. Section 1012.64, Florida Statutes, is
9 created to read:

10 1012.64 Sabbatical leave.--

11 (1) Any member of the instructional staff of any
12 school district may be granted sabbatical leave for a period
13 not to exceed 1 year. A person who receives such leave may be
14 paid one-half of his or her ordinary salary during the period
15 of such leave, or in accordance with negotiated agreement or
16 district school board policy, and shall receive full benefits
17 during such period. A person compensated under this section
18 may not be compensated for other employment during the period
19 of sabbatical leave so that he or she would receive combined
20 compensation in excess of his or her ordinary salary.

21 (2) Funds, not to exceed 25 percent, of the district's
22 allocation for inservice training under s. 1011.62(3) or other
23 district funds may be expended in order to fulfill the
24 provisions of this section, provided that the district
25 allocates \$5 of district funds for each \$1 of state inservice
26 training funds expended under this subsection.

27 (3) Each district school board shall adopt rules to
28 implement this section.

29 Section 738. Section 1012.65, Florida Statutes, is
30 created to read:

31

1 1012.65 Terminal pay for accrued vacation leave.--A
2 district school board may establish policies to provide for a
3 lump-sum payment for accrued vacation leave to an employee of
4 the district school board upon termination of employment or
5 upon retirement, or to the employee's beneficiary if service
6 is terminated by death. Effective July 1, 2001, terminal pay
7 for accrued vacation leave may not exceed a maximum of 60 days
8 of actual payment. This limit does not impair any contractual
9 agreement established before July 1, 2001. For unused vacation
10 leave accumulated before July 1, 2001, terminal payment shall
11 be made pursuant to the district school board's policies,
12 contracts, or rules that are in effect on June 30, 2001.

13 Section 739. Section 1012.66, Florida Statutes, is
14 created to read:

15 1012.66 Provisions for leaves of absence.--All leaves
16 of absence for all district school board employees, except
17 those leaves prescribed by law, shall be granted with or
18 without compensation pursuant to rules adopted by the district
19 school board. Such leaves authorized by the district school
20 board shall include, but are not limited to, professional
21 leave and extended professional leave, personal leave,
22 military leave granted in compliance with chapter 115, and
23 maternity leave.

24 Section 740. Section 1012.67, Florida Statutes, is
25 created to read:

26 1012.67 Absence without leave.--Any district school
27 board employee who is willfully absent from duty without leave
28 shall forfeit compensation for the time of such absence, and
29 his or her employment shall be subject to termination by the
30 district school board.

31

1 Section 741. Section 1012.68, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1012.68 Records of absences.--The administrator of
4 each designated organizational unit shall see that both the
5 days present and the days absent for each employee are
6 reported to the district school superintendent at least once
7 each month in the manner prescribed for that purpose. This
8 report shall include the exact dates of, and the reasons for,
9 each absence. Each district school superintendent shall
10 establish procedures to ensure maintenance of the complete
11 records of all such absences.

12 Section 742. Section 1012.685, Florida Statutes, is
13 created to read:

14 1012.685 Retirement; annuities authorized.--
15 (1) District school boards may purchase annuities for
16 all school personnel with 25 or more years of creditable
17 service who have reached age 50 and have applied for
18 retirement under the Florida Retirement System or who have
19 reached age 55 and have applied for retirement under plan E of
20 the Teachers' Retirement System. No such annuity shall provide
21 for more than the total difference in retirement income
22 between the retirement benefit based on average monthly
23 compensation and creditable service as of the member's early
24 retirement date and the early retirement benefit.

25 (2) District school boards may purchase annuities for
26 members of the Florida Retirement System who have out-of-state
27 teaching service in another state or country which is
28 documented as valid by the appropriate district school board.
29 Such annuities may be based on no more than 5 years of
30 out-of-state teaching service and may equal, but not exceed,
31 the benefits that would be payable under the Florida

1 Retirement System if credit for out-of-state teaching was
2 authorized under that system.

3 (3) District school boards may invest funds, purchase
4 annuities, or provide local supplemental retirement programs
5 for purposes of providing annuities for school personnel.

6 (4) All retirement annuities shall comply with s. 14,
7 Art. X of the State Constitution.

8 Section 743. Section 1012.69, Florida Statutes, is
9 created to read:

10 1012.69 Provisions relating to Workers' Compensation
11 Law.--Nothing contained in this chapter shall supersede any of
12 the provisions of the Workers' Compensation Law; provided,
13 however, that where amounts payable under the provisions of
14 the education code, for injuries, accidents, or other
15 disabilities which would entitle an employee to compensation
16 under the provisions of the Workers' Compensation Law exceed
17 the amounts payable under the compensation law, payments shall
18 be made, as provided in the education code, for the difference
19 between the amount paid under the Workers' Compensation Law
20 and the amount due under the provisions of the education code.

21 Section 744. Section 1012.695, Florida Statutes, is
22 created to read:

23 1012.695 Local civil service system laws not
24 superseded.--Sections 1012.66, 1012.61, and 1012.63 shall not
25 be construed to supersede or modify any local law establishing
26 a civil service system covering employees of any school
27 district.

28 Section 745. Part III.f. of chapter 1012, Florida
29 Statutes, shall be entitled "Educator Benefits; Liability
30 Protection; Awards in Public Schools" and shall consist of ss.
31 1012.71-1012.77.

1 Section 746. Section 1012.71, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1012.71 The Florida Teachers Lead Program Stipend.--

4 (1) Funding for the Florida Teachers Lead Program
5 Stipend shall be as determined by the Legislature in the
6 General Appropriations Act. Funds appropriated for the Florida
7 Teachers Lead Program Stipend are provided to purchase
8 classroom materials and supplies used in the instruction of
9 students in kindergarten through grade 12 of the public school
10 system. From the funds appropriated, the Commissioner of
11 Education shall calculate an amount for each school district
12 by prorating the total of each school district's share of the
13 total K-12 unweighted FTE student enrollment.

14 (2) From the funds allocated to each district, the
15 district school board shall calculate an identical amount for
16 each classroom teacher which is his or her proportionate share
17 of the amount allocated to the district for the total number
18 of teachers in the district. The district school board shall
19 provide the funds no later than September 30 of each year
20 directly to each teacher as a stipend to purchase, on behalf
21 of the school district, classroom materials and supplies to be
22 used in the instruction of students assigned to the teacher.
23 Each teacher shall have sole discretion regarding which
24 classroom materials and supplies best meet the needs of the
25 students, when they are needed, and where they are acquired.
26 The funds expended by individual teachers shall not be subject
27 to state or local competitive bidding requirements.
28 Disbursement of Florida Teachers Lead Program Stipend funds
29 directly to each teacher shall complete the school district's
30 expenditure of these funds.

1 (3) Each teacher shall sign a statement acknowledging
2 receipt of the funds, agreeing to keep receipts to show the
3 expenditure of the funds used to purchase classroom materials
4 and supplies for use in the instruction of the students
5 assigned to them, and agreeing to return any unused funds by
6 the end of the regular school year. The statement to be signed
7 and dated by each teacher for receipt of the Florida Teachers
8 Lead Program Stipend shall include the wording: "I, ...(Name
9 of teacher)..., am employed by the County District School
10 Board as a full-time classroom teacher. I acknowledge that
11 Florida Teachers Lead Program Stipend funds are appropriated
12 by the Legislature for the sole purpose of purchasing
13 classroom materials and supplies to be used in the instruction
14 of students assigned to me. In accepting custody of these
15 funds, I agree to keep receipts for all expenditures. I
16 understand that if I do not keep receipts showing these funds
17 were spent to purchase classroom materials and supplies for
18 use with my students, it will be my personal responsibility to
19 pay any federal taxes due on these funds. I also agree to
20 return any unused funds to the district school board at the
21 end of the regular school year for deposit into the School
22 Advisory Council account of the school at which I was employed
23 at the time of the receipt of the funds."

24 (4) Florida Teachers Lead Program Stipend funds shall
25 be provided to each teacher in addition to any other funds
26 appropriated for public school operations.

27 (5) Any unused funds which are returned to the
28 district school board shall be deposited into the School
29 Advisory Council account of the school at which the teacher
30 returning the funds was employed at the time of the receipt of
31 the funds.

1 (6) For purposes of this section, the term "classroom
2 teacher" includes certified teachers employed on or before
3 September 1 of each year whose full-time job responsibility is
4 the classroom instruction of students in kindergarten through
5 grade 12, and full-time media specialists and guidance
6 counselors who serve students in kindergarten through grade
7 12. Only school district personnel employed in these positions
8 are eligible for the classroom materials and supply stipend
9 from funds appropriated to implement the provisions of this
10 section.

11 Section 747. Section 1012.72, Florida Statutes, is
12 created to read:

13 1012.72 Excellent Teaching Program.--

14 (1) The Legislature recognizes that teachers play a
15 critical role in preparing students to achieve the high levels
16 of academic performance expected by the Sunshine State
17 Standards. The Legislature further recognizes the importance
18 of identifying and rewarding teaching excellence and of
19 encouraging good teachers to become excellent teachers. The
20 Legislature finds that the National Board of Professional
21 Teaching Standards (NBPTS) has established high and rigorous
22 standards for accomplished teaching and has developed a
23 national voluntary system for assessing and certifying
24 teachers who demonstrate teaching excellence by meeting those
25 standards. It is therefore the Legislature's intent to provide
26 incentives for teachers to seek NBPTS certification and to
27 reward teachers who demonstrate teaching excellence by
28 attaining NBPTS certification and sharing their expertise with
29 other teachers.

30 (2) The Excellent Teaching Program is created to
31 provide monetary incentives and bonuses for teaching

1 excellence. The Department of Education shall distribute to
2 each school district or to the NBPTS an amount as prescribed
3 annually by the Legislature for the Excellent Teaching
4 Program. For purposes of this section, the Florida School for
5 the Deaf and the Blind shall be considered a school district.
6 Unless otherwise provided in the General Appropriations Act,
7 each distribution shall be the sum of the amounts earned for
8 the following incentives and bonuses:

9 (a) A fee subsidy to be paid by the Department of
10 Education to the NBPTS on behalf of each individual who is an
11 employee of a district school board or a public school within
12 the school district, who is certified by the district to have
13 demonstrated satisfactory teaching performance pursuant to s.
14 1012.34 and who satisfies the prerequisites for participating
15 in the NBPTS certification program, and who agrees, in
16 writing, to pay 10 percent of the NBPTS participation fee and
17 to participate in the NBPTS certification program during the
18 school year for which the fee subsidy is provided. The fee
19 subsidy for each eligible participant shall be an amount equal
20 to 90 percent of the fee charged for participating in the
21 NBPTS certification program. The fee subsidy is a one-time
22 award and may not be duplicated for any individual.

23 (b) A portfolio-preparation incentive of \$150 paid by
24 the Department of Education to each teacher employed by a
25 district school board or a public school within a school
26 district who is participating in the NBPTS certification
27 program. The portfolio-preparation incentive is a one-time
28 award paid during the school year for which the NBPTS fee
29 subsidy is provided.

30 (c) An annual bonus equal to 10 percent of the prior
31 fiscal year's statewide average salary for classroom teachers

1 to be distributed to the school district to be paid to each
2 individual who holds NBPTS certification and is employed by
3 the district school board or by a public school within the
4 school district. The district school board shall distribute
5 the annual bonus to each individual who meets the requirements
6 of this paragraph and who is certified annually by the
7 district to have demonstrated satisfactory teaching
8 performance pursuant to s. 1012.34. The annual bonus may be
9 paid as a single payment or divided into not more than three
10 payments.

11 (d) An annual bonus equal to 10 percent of the prior
12 fiscal year's statewide average salary for classroom teachers
13 to be distributed to the school district to be paid to each
14 individual who meets the requirements of paragraph (c) and
15 agrees, in writing, to provide the equivalent of 12 workdays
16 of mentoring and related services to public school teachers
17 within the state who do not hold NBPTS certification. The
18 district school board shall distribute the annual bonus in a
19 single payment following the completion of all required
20 mentoring and related services for the year. It is not the
21 intent of the Legislature to remove excellent teachers from
22 their assigned classrooms; therefore, credit may not be
23 granted by a school district or public school for mentoring or
24 related services provided during student contact time during
25 the 196 days of required service for the school year.

26
27 A teacher for whom the state pays the certification fee and
28 who does not complete the certification program or does not
29 teach in a public school of this state for at least 1 year
30 after completing the certification program must repay the
31 amount of the certification fee to the state. However, a

1 teacher who completes the certification program but fails to
2 be awarded NBPTS certification is not required to repay the
3 amount of the certification fee if the teacher meets the
4 1-year teaching requirement. Repayment is not required of a
5 teacher who does not complete the certification program or
6 fails to fulfill the teaching requirement because of the
7 teacher's death or disability or because of other extenuating
8 circumstances as determined by the State Board of Education.
9 (3)(a) In addition to any other remedy available under
10 the law, any person who is a recipient of a certification fee
11 subsidy paid to the NBPTS and who is an employee of the state
12 or any of its political subdivisions is considered to have
13 consented, as a condition of employment, to the voluntary or
14 involuntary withholding of wages to repay to the state the
15 amount of such a certification fee subsidy awarded under this
16 section. Any such employee who defaults on the repayment of
17 such a certification fee subsidy must, within 60 days after
18 service of a notice of default by the Department of Education
19 to the employee, establish a repayment schedule which must be
20 agreed to by the department and the employee, for repaying the
21 defaulted sum through payroll deductions. The department may
22 not require the employee to pay more than 10 percent of the
23 employee's pay per pay period under such a repayment schedule
24 or plan. If the employee fails to establish a repayment
25 schedule within the specified period of time or fails to meet
26 the terms and conditions of the agreed upon or approved
27 repayment schedule as authorized by this subsection, the
28 employee has breached an essential condition of employment and
29 is considered to have consented to the involuntary withholding
30 of wages or salary for the repayment of the certification fee
31 subsidy.

1 (b) A person who is employed by the state, or any of
2 its political subdivisions, may not be dismissed for having
3 defaulted on the repayment of the certification fee subsidy to
4 the state.

5 (4) The State Board of Education may adopt rules
6 pursuant to ss. 120.536 and 120.54 as necessary to implement
7 the provisions for payment of the fee subsidies, incentives,
8 and bonuses and for the repayment of defaulted certification
9 fee subsidies under this section.

10 (5) The Excellent Teaching Program Trust Fund shall be
11 administered by the Department of Education pursuant to s.
12 1010.72.

13 Section 748. Section 1012.73, Florida Statutes, is
14 created to read:

15 1012.73 Florida Mentor Teacher School Pilot Program.--

16 (1) The Legislature recognizes that high-quality
17 teachers are essential to assuring excellence and increasing
18 the achievement levels of all students. The purpose of this
19 section is to provide a model to reform and improve the
20 current structure of the teaching profession. There is created
21 a Florida Mentor Teacher School Pilot Program to attract,
22 retain, and motivate high-quality teachers. The commissioner
23 shall select a combination of elementary, middle, and high
24 schools representing small, medium, and large districts. Each
25 approved school shall receive an equivalent grant based upon
26 the number of schools selected by the commissioner and the
27 amount of the legislative appropriation. Each mentor teacher
28 school program shall be approved based on criteria specified
29 by the commissioner.

30 (2) The goals of the Florida Mentor Teacher School
31 Pilot Program are to:

1 (a) Provide teachers with multiple career paths,
2 beginning as education paraprofessionals and rising to
3 associate teachers, teachers, lead teachers, and mentor
4 teachers. The five levels must have highly differentiated
5 duties. The mentor teacher shall have a reduced teaching
6 schedule that permits weekly instruction to all students under
7 the mentor teacher's supervision while also allowing for
8 demonstration lessons, coaching, facilitating curriculum
9 development, and providing staff development for other
10 teachers at the school.

11 (b) Establish broad salary ranges to provide
12 flexibility and to reward performance and to negotiate
13 salaries to attract teachers to hard-to-staff schools and
14 subjects. Advancement shall be determined by academic
15 achievement, examination, demonstration, and student learning
16 gains data. Each mentor teacher shall be eligible for a total
17 annual salary incentive of up to twice the average district
18 classroom teacher's salary. Fifty percent of the mentor
19 teacher salary incentive shall be based on increased student
20 achievement of students assigned to the supervision of the
21 mentor teacher.

22 (c) Provide ongoing professional development for
23 teachers to learn and grow professionally that includes a
24 daily block of time for associate teachers, teachers, and lead
25 teachers to reflect and plan and to interact with the mentor
26 teacher.

27 (d) Provide all eligible teachers with the opportunity
28 for national certification.

29 (e) Provide for a specified organizational pattern,
30 such as clusters or teams of teachers for grade levels or
31 subject areas comprised of associate teachers, teachers, and

1 lead teachers who are supported by education paraprofessional
2 learning guides and directed by a mentor teacher.
3 (3) The five teacher career development positions and
4 minimum requirements are:
5 (a) Education paraprofessional learning guide.--An
6 education paraprofessional learning guide must hold an
7 associate degree from a postsecondary educational institution
8 and must demonstrate appropriate writing, speaking, and
9 computation skills.
10 (b) Associate teacher.--An associate teacher must hold
11 a bachelor's degree from a postsecondary educational
12 institution and a valid Florida teaching certificate as
13 provided by s. 1012.56.
14 (c) Teacher.--A teacher must hold a bachelor's degree
15 or higher from a postsecondary educational institution and a
16 valid Florida teaching certificate, have a minimum of 3 years'
17 full-time teaching experience, document satisfactory teaching
18 performance, and document evidence of positive student
19 learning gains, when data become available.
20 (d) Lead teacher.--A lead teacher must hold a
21 bachelor's degree or higher from a postsecondary educational
22 institution and a valid Florida professional teaching
23 certificate, have a minimum of 3 years' full-time teaching
24 experience, document exemplary teaching performance, and
25 document evidence of significant positive student learning
26 gains, when data become available. A lead teacher shall
27 provide intensive support for associate teachers and teachers.
28 (e) Mentor teacher.--A mentor teacher must:
29 1. Hold a bachelor's degree or higher from a
30 postsecondary educational institution and a valid Florida
31 professional teaching certificate.

1 2. Have a minimum of 5 years' full-time teaching
2 experience.

3 3. Document exemplary teaching performance.

4 4. Document evidence of significant positive student
5 learning gains, when data become available.

6 5. Hold a valid National Board for Professional
7 Teaching Standards certificate; have been selected as a
8 school, district, or state teacher of the year; or hold an
9 equivalent status as determined by the commissioner.

10 6. Demonstrate expertise as a staff developer.

11 (4) The State Board of Education may adopt rules,
12 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54, for the implementation
13 of this section and approval of the mentor teacher school
14 program.

15 (5) This section shall be implemented to the extent
16 specifically funded in the General Appropriations Act.

17 Section 749. Section 1012.74, Florida Statutes, is
18 created to read:

19 1012.74 Florida educators professional liability
20 insurance protection.--

21 (1) The Legislature intends that all the teachers in
22 this state be protected from liability for monetary damages
23 and the cost of defense of actions resulting from claims made
24 against them arising out of occurrences in the course of
25 activities in their professional capacity.

26 (2)(a) Educator professional liability coverage for
27 all instructional personnel, as defined by s. 1012.01(2), who
28 are full-time personnel, as defined by the district school
29 board policy, shall be provided by specific appropriations
30 under the General Appropriations Act.

31

1 (b) Educator professional liability coverage shall be
2 extended at cost to all instructional personnel, as defined by
3 s. 1012.01(3), who are part-time personnel, as defined by the
4 district school board policy, and choose to participate in the
5 state-provided program.

6 (c) Educator professional liability coverage shall be
7 extended at cost to all administrative personnel, as defined
8 by s. 1012.01(2), who choose to participate in the
9 state-provided program.

10 (3) The Department of Education shall administer the
11 educator liability program. The insurance carrier providing
12 any portion of educator professional liability coverage under
13 the program which is procured with state funds must be
14 selected by a competitive process. The amount of the
15 appropriation for purchase of liability insurance remaining
16 after liability insurance is provided shall revert to general
17 revenue unallocated.

18 Section 750. Section 1012.75, Florida Statutes, is
19 created to read:

20 1012.75 Liability of teacher or principal; excessive
21 force.--

22 (1) Except in the case of excessive force or cruel and
23 unusual punishment, a teacher or other member of the
24 instructional staff, a principal or the principal's designated
25 representative, or a bus driver shall not be civilly or
26 criminally liable for any action carried out in conformity
27 with State Board of Education and district school board rules
28 regarding the control, discipline, suspension, and expulsion
29 of students, including, but not limited to, any exercise of
30 authority under s. 1003.32 or s. 1006.09.

31

1 (2) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
2 that outline administrative standards for the use of
3 reasonable force by school personnel to maintain a safe and
4 orderly learning environment. Such standards shall be
5 distributed to each school in the state and shall provide
6 guidance to school personnel in receiving the limitations on
7 liability specified in this section.

8 Section 751. Section 1012.77, Florida Statutes, is
9 created to read:

10 1012.77 Christa McAuliffe Ambassador for Education
11 Program.--

12 (1) The Legislature recognizes that Florida continues
13 to face teacher shortages and that fewer young people consider
14 teaching as a career. It is the intent of the Legislature to
15 promote the positive and rewarding aspects of being a teacher,
16 to encourage more individuals to become teachers, and to
17 provide annual sabbatical support for outstanding Florida
18 teachers to serve as goodwill ambassadors for education. The
19 Legislature further wishes to honor the memory of Christa
20 McAuliffe, who epitomized the challenge and inspiration that
21 teaching can be.

22 (2) The Christa McAuliffe Ambassador for Education
23 Program is established to provide salary, travel, and other
24 related expenses annually for an outstanding Florida teacher
25 to promote the positive aspects of teaching as a career. The
26 goals of the program are to:

27 (a) Enhance the stature of teachers and the teaching
28 profession.

29 (b) Promote the importance of quality education and
30 teaching for our future.

31

1 (c) Inspire and attract talented people to become
2 teachers.

3 (d) Provide information regarding Florida's
4 scholarship and loan programs related to teaching.

5 (e) Promote the teaching profession within community
6 and business groups.

7 (f) Provide information to retired military personnel
8 and other individuals who might consider teaching as a second
9 career.

10 (g) Work with and represent the Department of
11 Education, as needed.

12 (h) Work with and encourage the efforts of school and
13 district teachers of the year.

14 (i) Support the activities of the Florida Future
15 Educator of America Program.

16 (j) Represent Florida teachers at business, trade,
17 education, and other conferences and meetings.

18 (k) Promote the teaching profession in other ways
19 related to the teaching responsibilities, background
20 experiences, and aspirations of the Ambassador for Education.

21 (3) The Teacher of the Year shall serve as the
22 Ambassador for Education. If the Teacher of the Year is
23 unable to serve as the Ambassador for Education, the first
24 runner-up shall serve in his or her place. The Department of
25 Education shall establish application and selection procedures
26 for determining an annual teacher of the year. Applications
27 and selection criteria shall be developed and distributed
28 annually by the Department of Education to all school
29 districts. The Commissioner of Education shall establish a
30 selection committee which assures representation from teacher
31 organizations, administrators, and parents to select the

1 Teacher of the Year and Ambassador for Education from among
2 the district teachers of the year.

3 (4)(a) The Commissioner of Education shall pay an
4 annual salary, fringe benefits, travel costs, and other costs
5 associated with administering the program.

6 (b) The Ambassador for Education shall serve for 1
7 year, from July 1 to June 30, and shall be assured of
8 returning to his or her teaching position upon completion of
9 the program. The ambassador will not have a break in
10 creditable or continuous service or employment for the period
11 of time in which he or she participates in the program.

12 Section 752. Part III.g. of chapter 1012, Florida
13 Statutes, shall be entitled "Personnel Discipline and
14 Assistance in Public Schools" and shall consist of ss.
15 1012.79-1012.798.

16 Section 753. Section 1012.79, Florida Statutes, is
17 created to read:

18 1012.79 Education Practices Commission;
19 organization.--

20 (1) The Education Practices Commission consists of 17
21 members, including 7 teachers, 5 administrators, and 5 lay
22 citizens (of whom 2 shall be former district school board
23 members), appointed by the State Board of Education from
24 nominations by the Commissioner of Education and subject to
25 Senate confirmation. Prior to making nominations, the
26 commissioner shall consult with the teaching and other
27 involved associations in the state. In making nominations, the
28 commissioner shall attempt to achieve equal geographical
29 representation, as closely as possible.

30 (a) A teacher member, in order to be qualified for
31 appointment:

- 1 1. Must be certified to teach in the state.
2 2. Must be a resident of the state.
3 3. Must have practiced the profession in this state
4 for at least 5 years immediately preceding the appointment.
5 (b) A school administrator member, in order to be
6 qualified for appointment:
7 1. Must have an endorsement on the educator
8 certificate in the area of school administration or
9 supervision.
10 2. Must be a resident of the state.
11 3. Must have practiced the profession as an
12 administrator for at least 5 years immediately preceding the
13 appointment.
14 (c) The lay members must be residents of the state.
15 (2) Members of the commission shall serve for 4-year
16 staggered terms. No commission member may serve more than 8
17 years.
18 (3) The State Board of Education may remove any member
19 from the commission for misconduct or malfeasance in office,
20 incapacity, or neglect of duty.
21 (4) From among its members, the commission shall elect
22 a chair who shall preside over meetings of the commission and
23 perform other duties directed by the commission or required by
24 its duly adopted rules or operating procedures. School
25 districts shall be reimbursed for substitute teachers required
26 to replace commission members, when they are carrying out
27 their official duties, at a rate established by the school
28 district for substitute teachers. The department may
29 reimburse local school districts for substitutes.
30 (5) The commission, by a vote of three-fourths of the
31 membership, shall employ an executive director, who shall be

1 exempt from career service. The executive director may be
2 dismissed by a majority vote of the membership.

3 (6)(a) The commission shall be assigned to the
4 Department of Education for administrative purposes. The
5 commission, in the performance of its powers and duties, shall
6 not be subject to control, supervision, or direction by the
7 Department of Education.

8 (b) The property, personnel, and appropriations
9 related to the specified authority, powers, duties, and
10 responsibilities of the commission shall be provided to the
11 commission by the Department of Education.

12 (7) The duties and responsibilities of the commission
13 are to:

14 (a) Interpret and apply the standards of professional
15 practice established by the State Board of Education.

16 (b) Revoke or suspend a certificate or take other
17 appropriate action as provided in ss. 1012.56 and 1012.796.

18 (c) Report to and meet with the State Board of
19 Education at least once each year.

20 (d) Adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54
21 to implement provisions of law conferring duties upon it.

22 (8)(a) The commission shall, from time to time,
23 designate members of the commission to serve on panels for the
24 purpose of reviewing and issuing final orders upon cases
25 presented to the commission. A case concerning a complaint
26 against a teacher shall be reviewed and a final order thereon
27 shall be entered by a panel composed of seven commission
28 members, four of whom shall be teachers. A case concerning a
29 complaint against an administrator shall be reviewed and a
30 final order thereon shall be entered by a panel composed of
31

1 seven commission members, four of whom shall be
2 administrators.

3 (b) A majority of a quorum of a panel of the
4 commission shall have final agency authority in all cases
5 involving the revocation, suspension, or other disciplining of
6 certificates of teachers and school administrators. A majority
7 of the membership of the panel shall constitute a quorum. The
8 district school board shall retain the authority to discipline
9 teachers and administrators pursuant to law.

10 (9) The commission shall make such expenditures as may
11 be necessary in exercising its authority and powers and
12 carrying out its duties and responsibilities, including
13 expenditures for personal services, general counsel or access
14 to counsel, and rent at the seat of government and elsewhere;
15 for books of reference, periodicals, furniture, equipment, and
16 supplies; and for printing and binding. The expenditures of
17 the commission shall be subject to the powers and duties of
18 the Department of Banking and Finance as provided in s. 17.03.

19 (10) The commission shall be financed from the
20 following: certification fees; fines, penalties, and costs
21 collected pursuant to s. 1012.796(9); and general revenue.

22 Section 754. Section 1012.795, Florida Statutes, is
23 created to read:

24 1012.795 Education Practices Commission; authority to
25 discipline.--

26 (1) The Education Practices Commission may suspend the
27 educator certificate of any person as defined in s. 1012.01(2)
28 or (3) for a period of time not to exceed 3 years, thereby
29 denying that person the right to teach for that period of
30 time, after which the holder may return to teaching as
31 provided in subsection (4); may revoke the educator

1 certificate of any person, thereby denying that person the
2 right to teach for a period of time not to exceed 10 years,
3 with reinstatement subject to the provisions of subsection
4 (4); may revoke permanently the educator certificate of any
5 person; may suspend the educator certificate, upon order of
6 the court, of any person found to have a delinquent child
7 support obligation; or may impose any other penalty provided
8 by law, provided it can be shown that the person:
9 (a) Obtained the educator certificate by fraudulent
10 means.
11 (b) Has proved to be incompetent to teach or to
12 perform duties as an employee of the public school system or
13 to teach in or to operate a private school.
14 (c) Has been guilty of gross immorality or an act
15 involving moral turpitude.
16 (d) Has had an educator certificate revoked in another
17 state.
18 (e) Has been convicted of a misdemeanor, felony, or
19 any other criminal charge, other than a minor traffic
20 violation.
21 (f) Upon investigation, has been found guilty of
22 personal conduct which seriously reduces that person's
23 effectiveness as an employee of the district school board.
24 (g) Has breached a contract, as provided in s.
25 1012.33(2).
26 (h) Has been the subject of a court order directing
27 the Education Practices Commission to suspend the certificate
28 as a result of a delinquent child support obligation.
29 (i) Has violated the Principles of Professional
30 Conduct for the Education Profession prescribed by State Board
31 of Education rules.

1 (j) Has otherwise violated the provisions of law, the
2 penalty for which is the revocation of the educator
3 certificate.

4 (k) Has violated any order of the Education Practices
5 Commission.

6 (2) The plea of guilty in any court, the decision of
7 guilty by any court, the forfeiture by the teaching
8 certificateholder of a bond in any court of law, or the
9 written acknowledgment, duly witnessed, of offenses listed in
10 subsection (1) to the district school superintendent or a duly
11 appointed representative or to the district school board shall
12 be prima facie proof of grounds for revocation of the
13 certificate as listed in subsection (1) in the absence of
14 proof by the certificateholder that the plea of guilty,
15 forfeiture of bond, or admission of guilt was caused by
16 threats, coercion, or fraudulent means.

17 (3) The revocation by the Education Practices
18 Commission of an educator certificate of any person
19 automatically revokes any and all Florida educator
20 certificates held by that person.

21 (4)(a) An educator certificate which has been
22 suspended under this section is automatically reinstated at
23 the end of the suspension period, provided the certificate did
24 not expire during the period of suspension. If the
25 certificate expired during the period of suspension, the
26 holder of the former certificate may secure a new certificate
27 by making application therefor and by meeting the
28 certification requirements of the state board current at the
29 time of the application for the new certificate. An educator
30 certificate suspended pursuant to a court order for a
31 delinquent child support obligation may only be reinstated

1 upon notice from the court that the party has complied with
2 the terms of the court order.

3 (b) A person whose educator certificate has been
4 revoked under this section may apply for a new certificate at
5 the expiration of that period of ineligibility fixed by the
6 Education Practices Commission by making application therefor
7 and by meeting the certification requirements of the state
8 board current at the time of the application for the new
9 certificate.

10 (5) Each district school superintendent and the
11 governing authority of each university lab school,
12 state-supported school, or private school shall report to the
13 department the name of any person certified pursuant to this
14 chapter or employed and qualified pursuant to s. 1012.39:

15 (a) Who has been convicted of, or who has pled nolo
16 contendere to, a misdemeanor, felony, or any other criminal
17 charge, other than a minor traffic infraction;

18 (b) Who that official has reason to believe has
19 committed or is found to have committed any act which would be
20 a ground for revocation or suspension under subsection (1); or

21 (c) Who has been dismissed or severed from employment
22 because of conduct involving any immoral, unnatural, or
23 lascivious act.

24 (6)(a) When an individual violates the provisions of a
25 settlement agreement enforced by a final order of the
26 Education Practices Commission, an order to show cause may be
27 issued by the clerk of the commission. The order shall require
28 the individual to appear before the commission to show cause
29 why further penalties should not be levied against the
30 individual's certificate pursuant to the authority provided to
31 the Education Practices Commission in subsection (1). The

1 Education Practices Commission may fashion further penalties
2 under the authority of subsection (1) as deemed appropriate
3 when the show cause order is responded to by the individual.
4 (b) The Education Practices Commission shall issue a
5 final order revoking an individual's Florida educator's
6 certificate for a minimum of 1 year under the following
7 circumstances:
8 1. If the individual:
9 a. Has been found to have violated the provisions of
10 this section, such that the Education Practices Commission has
11 the authority to discipline the individual's Florida
12 educator's certificate on two separate occasions;
13 b. Has twice entered into a settlement agreement
14 enforced by a final order of the Education Practices
15 Commission; or
16 c. Has been found to have violated the provisions of
17 this section, such that the Education Practices Commission has
18 the authority to discipline the individual's Florida
19 educator's certificate on one occasion and entered into a
20 settlement agreement enforced by a final order of the
21 Education Practices Commission on one occasion; and
22 2. A third finding of probable cause and a finding
23 that the allegations are proven or admitted to is subsequently
24 found by the Commissioner of Education.
25
26 If, in the third instance, the individual enters into a
27 settlement agreement with the Department of Education, that
28 agreement shall also include a penalty revoking that
29 individual's Florida educator's certificate for a minimum of 1
30 year.
31

1 Section 755. Section 1012.796, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1012.796 Complaints against teachers and
4 administrators; procedure; penalties.--

5 (1)(a) The Department of Education shall cause to be
6 investigated expeditiously any complaint filed before it or
7 otherwise called to its attention which, if legally
8 sufficient, contains grounds for the revocation or suspension
9 of a certificate or any other appropriate penalty as set forth
10 in subsection (7). The complaint is legally sufficient if it
11 contains the ultimate facts which show a violation has
12 occurred as provided in s. 1012.795. The department may
13 investigate or continue to investigate and take appropriate
14 action in a complaint even though the original complainant
15 withdraws the complaint or otherwise indicates a desire not to
16 cause it to be investigated or prosecuted to completion. The
17 department may investigate or continue to investigate and take
18 action on a complaint filed against a person whose educator
19 certificate has expired if the act or acts which are the basis
20 for the complaint were allegedly committed while that person
21 possessed an educator certificate.

22 (b) When an investigation is undertaken, the
23 department shall notify the certificateholder and the district
24 school superintendent in the district in which the
25 certificateholder is employed and shall inform the
26 certificateholder of the substance of any complaint which has
27 been filed against that certificateholder, unless the
28 department determines that such notification would be
29 detrimental to the investigation, in which case the department
30 may withhold notification.

31

1 (c) Each school district shall file in writing with
2 the department all legally sufficient complaints within 30
3 days after the date on which subject matter of the complaint
4 comes to the attention of the school district. The school
5 district shall include all information relating to the
6 complaint which is known to the school district at the time of
7 filing. Each district school board shall develop policies and
8 procedures to comply with this reporting requirement. The
9 district school board policies and procedures shall include
10 appropriate penalties for all personnel of the district school
11 board for nonreporting and procedures for promptly informing
12 the district school superintendent of each legally sufficient
13 complaint. The district school superintendent is charged with
14 knowledge of these policies and procedures. If the district
15 school superintendent has knowledge of a legally sufficient
16 complaint and does not report the complaint, or fails to
17 enforce the policies and procedures of the district school
18 board, and fails to comply with the requirements of this
19 subsection, in addition to other actions against
20 certificateholders authorized by law, the district school
21 superintendent shall be subject to penalties as specified in
22 s. 1001.51(13). This paragraph does not limit or restrict the
23 power and duty of the department to investigate complaints as
24 provided in paragraphs (a) and (b), regardless of the school
25 district's untimely filing, or failure to file, complaints and
26 followup reports.

27 (2) The Commissioner of Education shall develop job
28 specifications for investigative personnel employed by the
29 department. Such specifications shall be substantially
30 equivalent to or greater than those job specifications of
31 investigative personnel employed by the Department of Business

1 and Professional Regulation. The department may contract with
2 the Department of Business and Professional Regulation for
3 investigations. No person who is responsible for conducting an
4 investigation of a teacher or administrator may prosecute the
5 same case. The department general counsel or members of that
6 staff may conduct prosecutions under this section.

7 (3) The department staff shall advise the commissioner
8 concerning the findings of the investigation. The department
9 general counsel or members of that staff shall review the
10 investigation and advise the commissioner concerning probable
11 cause or lack thereof. The determination of probable cause
12 shall be made by the commissioner. The commissioner shall
13 provide an opportunity for a conference, if requested, prior
14 to determining probable cause. The commissioner may enter
15 into deferred prosecution agreements in lieu of finding
16 probable cause when in his or her judgment such agreements
17 would be in the best interests of the department, the
18 certificateholder, and the public. Such deferred prosecution
19 agreements shall become effective when filed with the clerk of
20 the Education Practices Commission. However, a deferred
21 prosecution agreement shall not be entered into where there is
22 probable cause to believe that a felony or an act of moral
23 turpitude has occurred. Upon finding no probable cause, the
24 commissioner shall dismiss the complaint.

25 (4) The complaint and all information obtained
26 pursuant to the investigation by the department shall be
27 confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1)
28 until the conclusion of the preliminary investigation of the
29 complaint, until such time as the preliminary investigation
30 ceases to be active, or until such time as otherwise provided
31 by s. 1012.798(6). However, the complaint and all material

1 assembled during the investigation may be inspected and copied
2 by the certificateholder under investigation, or the
3 certificateholder's designee, after the investigation is
4 concluded, but prior to the determination of probable cause by
5 the commissioner. If the preliminary investigation is
6 concluded with the finding that there is no probable cause to
7 proceed, the complaint and information shall be open
8 thereafter to inspection pursuant to s. 119.07(1). If the
9 preliminary investigation is concluded with the finding that
10 there is probable cause to proceed and a complaint is filed
11 pursuant to subsection (6), the complaint and information
12 shall be open thereafter to inspection pursuant to s.
13 119.07(1). If the preliminary investigation ceases to be
14 active, the complaint and all such material shall be open
15 thereafter to inspection pursuant to s. 119.07(1), except as
16 otherwise provided pursuant to s. 1012.798(6). For the purpose
17 of this subsection, a preliminary investigation shall be
18 considered active as long as it is continuing with a
19 reasonable, good faith anticipation that an administrative
20 finding will be made in the foreseeable future.

21 (5) When deemed necessary to protect the health,
22 safety, and welfare of a minor student, the district school
23 superintendent in consultation with the school principal may,
24 and upon the request of the Commissioner of Education shall,
25 temporarily suspend a certificateholder from the
26 certificateholder's regularly assigned duties, with pay, and
27 reassign the suspended certificateholder to a position that
28 does not require direct contact with students in the district
29 school system. Such suspension shall continue until the
30 completion of the proceedings and the determination of
31 sanctions, if any, pursuant to this section and s. 1012.795.

1 (6) Upon the finding of probable cause, the
2 commissioner shall file a formal complaint and prosecute the
3 complaint pursuant to the provisions of chapter 120. An
4 administrative law judge shall be assigned by the Division of
5 Administrative Hearings of the Department of Management
6 Services to hear the complaint if there are disputed issues of
7 material fact. The administrative law judge shall make
8 recommendations in accordance with the provisions of
9 subsection (7) to the appropriate Education Practices
10 Commission panel which shall conduct a formal review of such
11 recommendations and other pertinent information and issue a
12 final order. The commission shall consult with its legal
13 counsel prior to issuance of a final order.

14 (7) A panel of the commission shall enter a final
15 order either dismissing the complaint or imposing one or more
16 of the following penalties:

17 (a) Denial of an application for a teaching
18 certificate or for an administrative or supervisory
19 endorsement on a teaching certificate. The denial may provide
20 that the applicant may not reapply for certification, and that
21 the department may refuse to consider that applicant's
22 application, for a specified period of time or permanently.

23 (b) Revocation or suspension of a certificate.

24 (c) Imposition of an administrative fine not to exceed
25 \$2,000 for each count or separate offense.

26 (d) Placement of the teacher, administrator, or
27 supervisor on probation for a period of time and subject to
28 such conditions as the commission may specify, including
29 requiring the certified teacher, administrator, or supervisor
30 to complete additional appropriate college courses or work
31 with another certified educator, with the administrative costs

1 of monitoring the probation assessed to the educator placed on
2 probation.

3 (e) Restriction of the authorized scope of practice of
4 the teacher, administrator, or supervisor.

5 (f) Reprimand of the teacher, administrator, or
6 supervisor in writing, with a copy to be placed in the
7 certification file of such person.

8 (g) Imposition of an administrative sanction, upon a
9 person whose teaching certificate has expired, for an act or
10 acts committed while that person possessed a teaching
11 certificate or an expired certificate subject to late renewal,
12 which sanction bars that person from applying for a new
13 certificate for a period of 10 years or less, or permanently.

14 (8) Violations of the provisions of probation shall
15 result in an order to show cause issued by the clerk of the
16 Education Practices Commission. Upon failure of the
17 probationer, at the time and place stated in the order, to
18 show cause satisfactorily to the Education Practices
19 Commission why a penalty for violating probation should not be
20 imposed, the Education Practices Commission shall impose
21 whatever penalty is appropriate as established in s.
22 1012.795(6). Any probation period will be tolled when an order
23 to show cause has been issued until the issue is resolved by
24 the Education Practices Commission.

25 (9) All moneys collected by, or awarded to, the
26 commission as fees, fines, penalties, or costs shall be
27 deposited into the Educational Certification and Service Trust
28 Fund pursuant to s. 1012.59.

29 Section 756. Section 1012.797, Florida Statutes, is
30 created to read:
31

1 1012.797 Notification of district school
2 superintendent of certain charges against or convictions of
3 employees.--

4 (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 985.04(4) or
5 any other provision of law to the contrary, a law enforcement
6 agency shall, within 48 hours, notify the appropriate district
7 school superintendent of the name and address of any employee
8 of the school district who is charged with a felony or with a
9 misdemeanor involving the abuse of a minor child or the sale
10 or possession of a controlled substance. The notification
11 shall include the specific charge for which the employee of
12 the school district was arrested. Such notification shall
13 include other education providers such as the Florida School
14 for the Deaf and the Blind, university lab schools, and
15 private elementary and secondary schools.

16 (2) Except to the extent necessary to protect the
17 health, safety, and welfare of other students, the information
18 obtained by the district school superintendent pursuant to
19 this section may be released only to appropriate school
20 personnel or as otherwise provided by law.

21 Section 757. Section 1012.798, Florida Statutes, is
22 created to read:

23 1012.798 Recovery network program for educators.--

24 (1) RECOVERY NETWORK ESTABLISHED.--There is created
25 within the Department of Education, a recovery network program
26 to assist educators who are impaired as a result of alcohol
27 abuse, drug abuse, or a mental condition in obtaining
28 treatment to permit their continued contribution to the
29 education profession. Any person who holds certification
30 issued by the department pursuant to s. 1012.56 is eligible
31 for the assistance.

1 (2) STAFF.--

2 (a) The department shall employ an administrator and
3 staff as are necessary to be assigned exclusively to the
4 recovery network program.

5 (b) The Commissioner of Education shall establish the
6 criteria for and appoint the staff of the program.

7 (c) The department may contract with other
8 professionals to implement this section.

9 (3) PURPOSE.--The recovery network program shall
10 assist educators in obtaining treatment and services from
11 approved treatment providers, but each impaired educator must
12 pay for his or her treatment under terms and conditions agreed
13 upon by the impaired educator and the treatment provider. A
14 person who is admitted to the program must contract with the
15 treatment provider and the program. The treatment contract
16 must prescribe the type of treatment and the responsibilities
17 of the impaired educator and of the provider and must provide
18 that the impaired educator's progress will be monitored by the
19 program.

20 (4) APPROVAL OF TREATMENT PROVIDERS.--The recovery
21 network program shall locate, evaluate, and approve qualified
22 treatment providers.

23 (5) RELATIONSHIP WITH EDUCATION PRACTICES COMMISSION
24 AND DEPARTMENT.--The recovery network program shall operate
25 independently of, but may cooperate with, the Office of
26 Professional Practices Services of the Department of Education
27 and the Education Practices Commission. A person's
28 participation in the program entitles the commissioner to
29 enter into a deferred prosecution agreement pursuant to s.
30 1012.796, or such participation may be considered a factor in
31 mitigation of or a condition of disciplinary action against

1 the person's certificate by the Education Practices Commission
2 pursuant to s. 1012.795.

3 (6) PARTICIPATION.--The recovery network program shall
4 operate independently of employee assistance programs operated
5 by local school districts, and the powers and duties of school
6 districts to make employment decisions, including disciplinary
7 decisions, is not affected except as provided in this section:

8 (a) A person who is not subject to investigation or
9 proceedings under ss. 1012.795 and 1012.796 may voluntarily
10 seek assistance through a local school district employee
11 assistance program for which he or she is eligible and through
12 the recovery network, regardless of action taken against him
13 or her by a school district. Voluntarily seeking assistance
14 alone does not subject a person to proceedings under ss.
15 1012.795 and 1012.796.

16 (b) A person who is subject to investigation or
17 proceedings under ss. 1012.795 and 1012.796 may be required to
18 participate in the program. The program may approve a local
19 employee assistance program as a treatment provider or as a
20 means of securing a treatment provider. The program and the
21 local school district shall cooperate so that the person may
22 obtain treatment without limiting the school district's
23 statutory powers and duties as an employer or the disciplinary
24 procedures under ss. 1012.795 and 1012.796.

25 (c) A person who has not previously been under
26 investigation by the department may be enrolled in a treatment
27 program by the recovery network after an investigation has
28 commenced, if the person:

- 29 1. Acknowledges his or her impairment.
30 2. Agrees to evaluation, as approved by the recovery
31 network.

- 1 3. Agrees to enroll in an appropriate treatment
2 program approved by the recovery network.
- 3 4. Executes releases for all medical and treatment
4 records regarding his or her impairment and participation in a
5 treatment program to the recovery network, pursuant to 42
6 U.S.C. s. 290dd-3 and the federal regulations adopted
7 thereunder.
- 8 5. Enters into a deferred prosecution agreement with
9 the commissioner, which provides that no prosecution shall be
10 instituted concerning the matters enumerated in the agreement
11 if the person is properly enrolled in the treatment program
12 and successfully completes the program as certified by the
13 recovery network. The commissioner is under no obligation to
14 enter into a deferred prosecution agreement with the educator
15 but may do so if he or she determines that it is in the best
16 interest of the educational program of the state.
- 17 6. Has not previously entered a substance abuse
18 program.
- 19 7. Is not being investigated for any action involving
20 commission of a felony or violent act against another person.
- 21 8. Has not had multiple arrests for minor drug use,
22 possession, or abuse of alcohol.
- 23 (7) REFERRAL TO NETWORK WHEN NO PROBABLE CAUSE IS
24 DETERMINED.--If a complaint is made to the department against
25 a teacher or an administrator pursuant to s. 1012.796 and a
26 finding of no probable cause indicates that no concern other
27 than impairment exists, the department shall inform the person
28 of the availability of assistance provided by the recovery
29 network program.
- 30
31

1 (8) ADMISSION.--A person who is referred or who
2 requests admission to the recovery network program shall be
3 temporarily admitted pending a finding that he or she has:
4 (a) Acknowledged his or her impairment problem.
5 (b) Agreed to evaluation as approved by the recovery
6 network program.
7 (c) Voluntarily enrolled in an appropriate treatment
8 program approved by the recovery network program.
9 (d) Voluntarily sought agreement from the school
10 district for temporary leave or limitations on the scope of
11 employment if the temporary leave or limitations are included
12 in the treatment provider's recommendations; or voluntarily
13 agreed to pursue the alternative treatment recommended by the
14 treatment provider if the school district does not approve
15 such temporary leave or limitations on the scope of
16 employment.
17 (e) Executed releases to the recovery network program
18 for all medical and treatment records regarding his or her
19 impairment and participation in a treatment program pursuant
20 to 42 U.S.C. s. 290dd-3 and the federal regulations adopted
21 thereunder.
22 (9) DISCLOSURE OF MEDICAL RECORDS.--An approved
23 treatment provider must disclose to the recovery network
24 program all information in its possession which relates to a
25 person's impairment and participation in the treatment
26 program. Information obtained under this subsection is
27 confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I
28 of the State Constitution. This exemption is necessary to
29 promote the rehabilitation of impaired educators and to
30 protect the privacy of treatment program participants. The
31 failure to provide such information to the program is grounds

1 for withdrawal of approval of a treatment provider. Medical
2 records provided to the program may not be disclosed to any
3 other person, except as authorized by law.

4 (10) DECLARATION OF INELIGIBILITY.--

5 (a) A person may be declared ineligible for further
6 assistance from the recovery network program if he or she does
7 not progress satisfactorily in a treatment program or leaves a
8 prescribed program or course of treatment without the approval
9 of the treatment provider.

10 (b) The determination of ineligibility must be made by
11 the commissioner in cases referred to him or her by the
12 program administrator. Before referring a case to the
13 commissioner, the administrator must discuss the circumstances
14 with the treatment provider. The commissioner may direct the
15 Office of Professional Practices Services to investigate the
16 case and provide a report.

17 (c) If a treatment contract with the program is a
18 condition of a deferred prosecution agreement, and the
19 commissioner determines that the person is ineligible for
20 further assistance, the commissioner may agree to modify the
21 terms and conditions of the deferred prosecution agreement or
22 may issue an administrative complaint, pursuant to s.
23 1012.796, alleging the charges regarding which prosecution was
24 deferred. The person may dispute the determination as an
25 affirmative defense to the administrative complaint by
26 including with his or her request for hearing on the
27 administrative complaint a written statement setting forth the
28 facts and circumstances that show that the determination of
29 ineligibility was erroneous. If administrative proceedings
30 regarding the administrative complaint, pursuant to ss.
31 120.569 and 120.57, result in a finding that the determination

1 of ineligibility was erroneous, the person is eligible to
2 participate in the program. If the determination of
3 ineligibility was the only reason for setting aside the
4 deferred prosecution agreement and issuing the administrative
5 complaint and the administrative proceedings result in a
6 finding that the determination was erroneous, the complaint
7 shall be dismissed and the deferred prosecution agreement
8 reinstated without prejudice to the commissioner's right to
9 reissue the administrative complaint for other breaches of the
10 agreement.

11 (d) If a treatment contract with the program is a
12 condition of a final order of the Education Practices
13 Commission, the commissioner's determination of ineligibility
14 constitutes a finding of probable cause that the person failed
15 to comply with the final order. The commissioner shall issue
16 an administrative complaint, and the case shall proceed under
17 ss. 1012.795 and 1012.796, in the same manner as cases based
18 on a failure to comply with an order of the Education
19 Practices Commission.

20 (e) If the person voluntarily entered into a treatment
21 contract with the program, the commissioner shall issue a
22 written notice stating the reasons for the determination of
23 ineligibility. Within 20 days after the date of such notice,
24 the person may contest the determination of ineligibility
25 pursuant to ss. 120.569 and 120.57.

26 (11) MEDICAL RECORDS RELEASE.--Medical records
27 released pursuant to paragraph (8)(e) may be disclosed to the
28 commissioner, the Office of Professional Practices Services,
29 and the Education Practices Commission only as required for
30 purposes of this section, or as otherwise authorized by law.
31 Further disclosure or release of the medical records may not

1 be made except as authorized by law and in accordance with 42
2 U.S.C. s. 290dd-2 and the federal regulations adopted
3 thereunder. The medical records are confidential and exempt
4 from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State
5 Constitution.

6 (12) FEES.--The State Board of Education shall include
7 in the fees established pursuant to s. 1012.59 an amount
8 sufficient to implement the provisions of this section. The
9 State Board of Education shall by rule establish procedures
10 and additional standards for:

11 (a) Approving treatment providers, including
12 appropriate qualifications and experience, amount of
13 reasonable fees and charges, and quality and effectiveness of
14 treatment programs provided.

15 (b) Admitting eligible persons to the program.

16 (c) Evaluating impaired persons by the recovery
17 network program.

18 Section 758. Part IV of chapter 1012, Florida
19 Statutes, shall be entitled "Public Postsecondary Educational
20 Institutions; Personnel" and shall consist of ss.
21 1012.80-1012.97.

22 Section 759. Part IV.a. of chapter 1012, Florida
23 Statutes, shall be entitled "General Provisions" and shall
24 consist of ss. 1012.80-1012.801.

25 Section 760. Section 1012.80, Florida Statutes, is
26 created to read:

27 1012.80 Participation by employees in disruptive
28 activities at public postsecondary educational institutions;
29 penalties.--

30 (1) Any person who accepts the privilege extended by
31 the laws of this state of employment at any public

1 postsecondary educational institution shall, by so working at
2 such institution, be deemed to have given his or her consent
3 to the policies of that institution, the State Board of
4 Education, and the laws of this state. Such policies shall
5 include prohibition against disruptive activities at public
6 postsecondary educational institutions.

7 (2) After it has been determined that an employee of a
8 public postsecondary educational institution has participated
9 in disruptive activities, the institution may terminate the
10 contract of the employee, and thereafter such person shall not
11 be employed by any state public school or public postsecondary
12 educational institution.

13 Section 761. Effective upon this act becoming a law,
14 section 1012.801, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

15 1012.801 Employees of the Division of Colleges and
16 Universities.--Employees of the Division of Colleges and
17 Universities of the Department of Education who are
18 participating in the State University Optional Retirement
19 Program prior to June 30, 2002, shall be eligible to continue
20 such participation as long as they remain employees of the
21 Department of Education or a state university without a break
22 in continuous service.

23 Section 762. Part IV.b. of chapter 1012, Florida
24 Statutes, shall be entitled "Community Colleges; Personnel"
25 and shall consist of ss. 1012.81-1012.88.

26 Section 763. Section 1012.81, Florida Statutes, is
27 created to read:

28 1012.81 Personnel records.--Rules of the State Board
29 of Education shall prescribe the content and custody of
30 limited-access records which a community college may maintain
31 on its employees. Such records shall be limited to

1 information reflecting evaluations of employee performance and
2 shall be open to inspection only by the employee and by
3 officials of the college who are responsible for supervision
4 of the employee. Such limited-access employee records are
5 confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1).
6 Except as required for use by the president in the discharge
7 of his or her official responsibilities, the custodian of
8 limited-access employee records may release information from
9 such records only upon authorization in writing from the
10 employee or the president or upon order of a court of
11 competent jurisdiction.

12 Section 764. Section 1012.82, Florida Statutes, is
13 created to read:

14 1012.82 Teaching faculty; minimum teaching hours per
15 week.--Each full-time member of the teaching faculty at any
16 community college who is paid wholly from funds appropriated
17 from the community college program fund shall teach a minimum
18 of 15 classroom contact hours per week at such institution.
19 However, the required classroom contact hours per week may be
20 reduced upon approval of the president of the institution in
21 direct proportion to specific duties and responsibilities
22 assigned the faculty member by his or her departmental chair
23 or other appropriate college administrator. Such specific
24 duties may include specific research duties, specific duties
25 associated with developing television, video tape, or other
26 specifically assigned innovative teaching techniques or
27 devices, or assigned responsibility for off-campus student
28 internship or work-study programs. A "classroom contact hour"
29 consists of a regularly scheduled classroom activity of not
30 less than 50 minutes in a course of instruction which has been
31 approved by the community college board of trustees. Any

1 full-time faculty member who is paid partly from community
2 college program funds and partly from other funds or
3 appropriations shall teach a minimum number of classroom
4 contact hours per week in such proportion to 15 classroom
5 contact hours as his or her salary paid from community college
6 program funds bears to his or her total salary.

7 Section 765. Section 1012.83, Florida Statutes, is
8 created to read:

9 1012.83 Contracts with administrative and
10 instructional staff.--Each person employed in an
11 administrative or instructional capacity in a community
12 college shall be entitled to a contract as provided by rules
13 of the State Board of Education.

14 Section 766. Section 1012.84, Florida Statutes, is
15 created to read:

16 1012.84 Exemption from county civil service
17 commissions.--

18 (1) Any community college located in a county which
19 has either a budget commission or a civil service commission
20 is exempt from the regulation, supervision, and control of any
21 such commission.

22 (2) Any general or special law conflicting with this
23 section is repealed to the extent that said law conflicts with
24 this section.

25 Section 767. Section 1012.85, Florida Statutes, is
26 created to read:

27 1012.85 Payment of costs of civil actions against
28 officers, employees, or agents of community college board of
29 trustees.--

30 (1) Whenever any civil action has been brought against
31 any officer of the community college board of trustees,

1 including a board member, or any person employed by or agent
2 of the community college board of trustees, of any community
3 college for any act or omission arising out of and in the
4 course of the performance of his or her duties and
5 responsibilities, the community college board of trustees may
6 defray all costs of defending such action, including
7 reasonable attorney's fees and expenses together with costs of
8 appeal, if any, and may save harmless and protect such person
9 from any financial loss resulting therefrom; and the community
10 college board of trustees may be self-insured, to enter into
11 risk management programs, or to purchase insurance for
12 whatever coverage it may choose, or to have any combination
13 thereof, to cover all such losses and expenses. However, any
14 attorney's fees paid from public funds for any officer,
15 employee, or agent who is found to be personally liable by
16 virtue of acting outside the scope of his or her employment or
17 acting in bad faith, with malicious purpose, or in a manner
18 exhibiting wanton and willful disregard of human rights,
19 safety, or property may be recovered by the state, county,
20 municipality, or political subdivision in a civil action
21 against such officer, employee, or agent.

22 (2) Failure by a community college board of trustees
23 to perform any act authorized by this section shall not
24 constitute a cause of action against a community college or
25 its trustees, officers, employees, or agents.

26 Section 768. Section 1012.855, Florida Statutes, is
27 created to read:

28 1012.855 Employment of community college personnel;
29 discrimination in granting salary prohibited.--

30 (1)(a) Employment of all personnel in each community
31 college shall be upon recommendation of the president, subject

1 to rejection for cause by the community college board of
2 trustees; to the rules of the State Board of Education
3 relative to certification, tenure, leaves of absence of all
4 types, including sabbaticals, remuneration, and such other
5 conditions of employment as the State Board of Education deems
6 necessary and proper; and to policies of the community college
7 board of trustees not inconsistent with law.

8 (b) Any internal auditor employed by a community
9 college shall be hired by the community college board of
10 trustees and shall report directly to the board.

11 (2) Each community college board of trustees shall
12 undertake a program to eradicate any discrimination on the
13 basis of gender, race, or physical handicap in the granting of
14 salaries to employees.

15 Section 769. Section 1012.86, Florida Statutes, is
16 created to read:

17 1012.86 Community college employment equity
18 accountability program.--

19 (1) Each community college shall include in its annual
20 equity update a plan for increasing the representation of
21 women and minorities in senior-level administrative positions
22 and in full-time faculty positions, and for increasing the
23 representation of women and minorities who have attained
24 continuing-contract status. Positions shall be defined in the
25 personnel data element directory of the Department of
26 Education. The plan must include specific measurable goals and
27 objectives, specific strategies and timelines for
28 accomplishing these goals and objectives, and comparable
29 national standards as provided by the Department of Education.
30 The goals and objectives shall be based on meeting or
31 exceeding comparable national standards and shall be reviewed

1 and recommended by the State Board of Education as
2 appropriate. Such plans shall be maintained until appropriate
3 representation has been achieved and maintained for at least 3
4 consecutive reporting years.

5 (2)(a) On or before May 1 of each year, each community
6 college president shall submit an annual employment
7 accountability plan to the Commissioner of Education and the
8 State Board of Education. The accountability plan must show
9 faculty and administrator employment data according to
10 requirements specified on the federal Equal Employment
11 Opportunity (EE0-6) report.

12 (b) The plan must show the following information for
13 those positions including, but not limited to:

14 1. Job classification title.

15 2. Gender.

16 3. Ethnicity.

17 4. Appointment status.

18 5. Salary information. At each community college,
19 salary information shall also include the salary ranges in
20 which new hires were employed compared to the salary ranges
21 for employees with comparable experience and qualifications.

22 6. Other comparative information including, but not
23 limited to, composite information regarding the total number
24 of positions within the particular job title classification
25 for the community college by race, gender, and salary range
26 compared to the number of new hires.

27 7. A statement certifying diversity and balance in the
28 gender and ethnic composition of the selection committee for
29 each vacancy, including a brief description of guidelines used
30 for ensuring balanced and diverse membership on selection and
31 review committees.

1 (c) The annual employment accountability plan shall
2 also include an analysis and an assessment of the community
3 college's attainment of annual goals and of long-range goals
4 for increasing the number of women and minorities in faculty
5 and senior-level administrative positions, and a corrective
6 action plan for addressing underrepresentation.

7 (d) Each community college's employment accountability
8 plan must also include:

9 1. The requirements for receiving a continuing
10 contract.

11 2. A brief description of the process used to grant
12 continuing-contract status.

13 3. A brief description of the process used to annually
14 appraise each eligible faculty member of progress toward
15 attainment of continuing-contract status.

16 (3) Community college presidents and the heads of each
17 major administrative division shall be evaluated annually on
18 the progress made toward meeting the goals and objectives of
19 the community college's employment accountability plan.

20 (a) The community college presidents, or the
21 presidents' designees, shall annually evaluate each department
22 chairperson, dean, provost, and vice president in achieving
23 the annual and long-term goals and objectives. A summary of
24 the results of such evaluations shall be reported annually by
25 the community college president to the community college board
26 of trustees. Annual budget allocations by the community
27 college board of trustees for positions and funding must take
28 into consideration these evaluations.

29 (b) Community college boards of trustees shall
30 annually evaluate the performance of the community college
31 presidents in achieving the annual and long-term goals and

1 objectives. A summary of the results of such evaluations shall
2 be reported to the Commissioner of Education and the State
3 Board of Education as part of the community college's annual
4 employment accountability plan, and to the Legislature as part
5 of the annual equity progress report submitted by the State
6 Board of Education.

7 (4) The State Board of Education shall submit an
8 annual equity progress report to the President of the Senate
9 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on or before
10 January 1 of each year.

11 (5) Each community college shall develop a budgetary
12 incentive plan to support and ensure attainment of the goals
13 developed pursuant to this section. The plan shall specify,
14 at a minimum, how resources shall be allocated to support the
15 achievement of goals and the implementation of strategies in a
16 timely manner. After prior review and approval by the
17 community college president and the community college board of
18 trustees, the plan shall be submitted as part of the annual
19 employment accountability plan submitted by each community
20 college to the State Board of Education.

21 (6) Subject to available funding, the Legislature
22 shall provide an annual appropriation to the State Board of
23 Education to be allocated to community college presidents,
24 faculty, and administrative personnel to further enhance
25 equity initiatives and related priorities that support the
26 mission of colleges and departments in recognition of the
27 attainment of the equity goals and objectives.

28 Section 770. Section 1012.865, Florida Statutes, is
29 created to read:

30 1012.865 Sick leave.--Each community college board of
31 trustees shall adopt rules whereby any full-time employee who

1 is unable to perform his or her duties at the community
2 college on account of personal sickness, accident disability,
3 or extended personal illness, or because of illness or death
4 of the employee's father, mother, brother, sister, husband,
5 wife, child, or other close relative or member of the
6 employee's own household, and who consequently has to be
7 absent from work shall be granted leave of absence for
8 sickness by the president or by the president's designated
9 representative. The following provisions shall govern sick
10 leave:
11 (1) DEFINITIONS.--As used in this section, unless the
12 context otherwise requires, the term:
13 (a) "Educational support employee" means any person
14 employed by a community college as an education or
15 administrative paraprofessional; a member of the operations,
16 maintenance, or comparable department; or a secretary,
17 clerical, or comparable level support employee.
18 (b) "Instructional staff" shall be used synonymously
19 with the word "teacher" or "faculty" and includes faculty
20 members, librarians, counselors, and other comparable members
21 engaged in an instructional capacity in the community college.
22 (2) EXTENT OF LEAVE WITH COMPENSATION.--
23 (a) Each full-time employee shall earn 1 day of sick
24 leave with compensation for each calendar month or major
25 fraction of a calendar month of service, not to exceed 12 days
26 for each fiscal year. Such leave shall be taken only when
27 necessary because of sickness as herein prescribed. Such sick
28 leave shall be cumulative from year to year. Accumulated sick
29 leave may be transferred from another Florida community
30 college, the Florida Department of Education, a state
31 university, a Florida district school board, or a state

1 agency, provided that at least one-half of the sick leave
2 accumulated at any time must have been established in the
3 college in which such employee is currently employed.

4 (b) A community college board of trustees may
5 establish rules and prescribe procedures whereby a full-time
6 employee may, at the beginning date of employment in any year,
7 be credited with 12 days of sick leave with compensation in
8 excess of the number of days the employee has earned. Upon
9 termination of employment, the employee's final compensation
10 shall be adjusted in an amount necessary to ensure that sick
11 leave with compensation does not exceed the days of earned
12 sick leave as provided herein.

13 (c) A community college board of trustees may
14 establish rules and prescribe standards to permit a full-time
15 employee to be absent no more than 4 days for personal
16 reasons. However, such absences for personal reasons shall be
17 charged only to accrued sick leave, and leave for personal
18 reasons shall be noncumulative.

19 (d) A community college board of trustees may
20 establish rules to provide terminal pay for accumulated sick
21 leave to full-time instructional staff and educational support
22 employees or to the employee's beneficiary if service is
23 terminated by death. However, such terminal pay may not
24 exceed an amount determined as follows:

25 1. During the first 3 years of service, the daily rate
26 of pay multiplied by 35 percent times the number of days of
27 accumulated sick leave.

28 2. During the next 3 years of service, the daily rate
29 of pay multiplied by 40 percent times the number of days of
30 accumulated sick leave.

31

1 3. During the next 3 years of service, the daily rate
2 of pay multiplied by 45 percent times the number of days of
3 accumulated sick leave.

4 4. During the 10th year of service, the daily rate of
5 pay multiplied by 50 percent times the number of days of
6 accumulated sick leave.

7 5. During the next 20 years of service, the daily rate
8 of pay multiplied by 50 percent plus up to an additional 2.5
9 percent per year for each year of service beyond 10 years,
10 times the number of days of accumulated sick leave.

11
12 If an employee receives terminal pay benefits based on unused
13 sick leave credit, all unused sick leave credit shall become
14 invalid; however, if an employee terminates his or her
15 employment without receiving terminal pay benefits and is
16 reemployed, his or her sick leave credit shall be reinstated.

17 (e) A community college board of trustees may, by
18 rule, provide for terminal pay for accumulated unused sick
19 leave to be paid to any full-time employee of a community
20 college other than instructional staff or educational support
21 employees. If termination of employment is by death of the
22 employee, any terminal pay to which the employee may have been
23 entitled shall be made to the employee's beneficiary.

24 1. For unused sick leave accumulated before July 1,
25 2001, terminal pay shall be made pursuant to rules or policies
26 of the board of trustees which were in effect on June 30,
27 2001.

28 2. For unused sick leave accumulated on or after July
29 1, 2001, terminal payment may not exceed an amount equal to
30 one-fourth of the employee's unused sick leave or 60 days of
31 the employee's pay, whichever amount is less.

1 3. If the employee had an accumulated sick leave
2 balance of 60 days or more on June 30, 2001, sick leave earned
3 after that date may not be accumulated for terminal pay
4 purposes until the accumulated leave balance as of June 30,
5 2001, is less than 60 days.

6 (3) CLAIM MUST BE FILED.--Any full-time employee who
7 finds it necessary to be absent from his or her duties because
8 of illness as defined in this section shall notify the
9 community college president or a college official designated
10 by the president, if possible before the opening of college on
11 the day on which the employee must be absent or during the
12 day, except when he or she is absent for emergency reasons
13 recognized by the community college board of trustees as
14 valid. Any employee shall, before claiming and receiving
15 compensation for the time absent from his or her duties while
16 absent because of sick leave as prescribed in this section,
17 make and file a written certificate which shall set forth the
18 day or days absent, that such absence was necessary, and that
19 he or she is entitled or not entitled to receive pay for such
20 absence in accordance with the provisions of this section. The
21 community college board of trustees may adopt rules under
22 which the president may require a certificate of illness from
23 a licensed physician or from the county health officer.

24 (4) COMPENSATION.--Any full-time employee who has
25 unused sick leave credit shall receive full-time compensation
26 for the time justifiably absent on sick leave; however, no
27 compensation may be allowed beyond that provided in subsection
28 (6).

29 (5) EXPENDITURE AUTHORIZED.--Community college boards
30 of trustees may expend public funds for payment to employees
31 on account of sickness. The expending and excluding of such

1 funds shall be in compliance with rules adopted by the
2 Department of Management Services pursuant to chapter 650.
3 (6) SICK LEAVE POOL.--Notwithstanding any other
4 provision of this section, a community college board of
5 trustees may, by rule, based upon the maintenance of reliable
6 and accurate records by the community college showing the
7 amount of sick leave which has been accumulated and is unused
8 by employees in accordance with this section, establish a plan
9 allowing participating full-time employees of the community
10 college to pool sick leave accrued and allowing any sick leave
11 thus pooled to be disbursed to any participating employee who
12 is in need of sick leave in excess of that amount he or she
13 has personally accrued. Such rules shall include, but not be
14 limited to, the following provisions:
15 (a) Participation in the sick leave pool shall at all
16 times be voluntary on the part of employees.
17 (b) Any full-time employee shall be eligible for
18 participation in the sick leave pool after 1 year of
19 employment with the community college, provided such employee
20 has accrued a minimum amount of unused sick leave, which
21 minimum shall be established by rule.
22 (c) Any sick leave pooled pursuant to this section
23 shall be removed from the personally accumulated sick leave
24 balance of the employee donating such leave.
25 (d) Participating employees shall make equal
26 contributions to the sick leave pool. There shall be
27 established a maximum amount of sick leave which may be
28 contributed to the pool by an employee. After the initial
29 contribution which an employee makes upon electing to
30 participate, no further contributions shall be required except
31 as may be necessary to replenish the pool. Any such further

1 contribution shall be equally required of all employees
2 participating in the pool.

3 (e) Any sick leave time drawn from the pool by a
4 participating employee must be used for that employee's
5 personal illness, accident, or injury.

6 (f) A participating employee will not be eligible to
7 use sick leave from the pool until all of his or her sick
8 leave has been depleted. There shall be established a maximum
9 number of days for which an employee may draw sick leave from
10 the sick leave pool.

11 (g) A participating employee who uses sick leave from
12 the pool will not be required to recontribute such sick leave
13 to the pool, except as otherwise provided herein.

14 (h) A participating employee who chooses to no longer
15 participate in the sick leave pool will not be eligible to
16 withdraw any sick leave already contributed to the pool.

17 (i) Alleged abuse of the use of the sick leave pool
18 shall be investigated, and, on a finding of wrongdoing, the
19 employee shall repay all of the sick leave credits drawn from
20 the sick leave pool and shall be subject to such other
21 disciplinary action as is determined by the board to be
22 appropriate. Rules adopted for the administration of this
23 program shall provide for the investigation of the use of sick
24 leave utilized by the participating employee in the sick leave
25 pool.

26 Section 771. Section 1012.87, Florida Statutes, is
27 created to read:

28 1012.87 Retirement annuities.--Each community college
29 board of trustees may purchase annuities for its community
30 college personnel who have 25 or more years of creditable
31 service and who have reached age 55 and have applied for

1 retirement under the Florida Retirement System. No such
2 annuity may provide for more than the total difference in
3 retirement income between the retirement benefit based on
4 average monthly compensation and creditable service as of the
5 member's early retirement date and the early retirement
6 benefit. Community college boards of trustees may also
7 purchase annuities for members of the Florida Retirement
8 System who have out-of-state teaching service in another state
9 or country which is documented as valid by the appropriate
10 educational entity. Such annuities may be based on no more
11 than 5 years of out-of-state teaching service and may equal,
12 but not exceed, the benefits that would be payable under the
13 Florida Retirement System if credit for out-of-state teaching
14 was authorized under that system. Each community college board
15 of trustees may invest funds, purchase annuities, or provide
16 local supplemental retirement programs for purposes of
17 providing retirement annuities for community college
18 personnel. All such retirement annuities shall comply with s.
19 14, Art. X of the State Constitution.

20 Section 772. Section 1012.875, Florida Statutes, is
21 created to read:

22 1012.875 Community College Optional Retirement
23 Program.--Each community college may implement an optional
24 retirement program, if such program is established therefor
25 pursuant to s. 1001.64(20), under which annuity contracts
26 providing retirement and death benefits may be purchased by,
27 and on behalf of, eligible employees who participate in the
28 program. Except as otherwise provided herein, this retirement
29 program, which shall be known as the State Community College
30 System Optional Retirement Program, may be implemented and
31

1 administered only by an individual community college or by a
2 consortium of community colleges.

3 (1) As used in this section, the term:

4 (a) "Activation" means the date upon which an optional
5 retirement program is first made available by the program
6 administrator to eligible employees.

7 (b) "College" means community colleges as defined in
8 s. 1000.21.

9 (c) "Department" means the Department of Management
10 Services.

11 (d) "Program administrator" means the individual
12 college or consortium of colleges responsible for implementing
13 and administering an optional retirement program.

14 (e) "Program participant" means an eligible employee
15 who has elected to participate in an available optional
16 retirement program as authorized by this section.

17 (2) Participation in the optional retirement program
18 provided by this section is limited to employees who satisfy
19 the criteria set forth in s. 121.051(2)(c).

20 (3)(a) With respect to any employee who is eligible to
21 participate in the optional retirement program by reason of
22 qualifying employment commencing before the program's
23 activation:

24 1. The employee may elect to participate in the
25 optional retirement program in lieu of participation in the
26 Florida Retirement System. To become a program participant,
27 the employee must file with the personnel officer of the
28 college, within 60 days after the program's activation, both a
29 written election on a form provided by the department and a
30 completed application for an individual contract or
31 certificate.

1 2. An employee's participation in the optional
2 retirement program commences on the first day of the next full
3 calendar month following the filing of the election and
4 completed application with the program administrator and
5 receipt of such election by the department. An employee's
6 membership in the Florida Retirement System terminates on this
7 same date.

8 3. Any such employee who fails to make an election to
9 participate in the optional retirement program within 60 days
10 after its activation has elected to retain membership in the
11 Florida Retirement System.

12 (b) With respect to any employee who becomes eligible
13 to participate in an optional retirement program by reason of
14 qualifying employment commencing on or after the program's
15 activation:

16 1. The employee may elect to participate in the
17 optional retirement program in lieu of participation in the
18 Florida Retirement System. To become a program participant,
19 the employee must file with the personnel officer of the
20 college, within 60 days after commencing qualifying
21 employment, both a written election on a form provided by the
22 department and a completed application for an individual
23 contract or certificate.

24 2. An employee's participation in the optional
25 retirement program commences on the first day of the next full
26 calendar month following the filing of the election and
27 completed application with the program administrator and
28 receipt of such election by the department. An employee's
29 membership in the Florida Retirement System terminates on this
30 same date.

31

1 3. If the employee makes an election to participate in
2 the optional retirement program before the community college
3 submits its initial payroll for the employee, participation in
4 the optional retirement program commences on the first date of
5 employment.

6 4. Any such employee who fails to make an election to
7 participate in the optional retirement program within 60 days
8 after commencing qualifying employment has elected to retain
9 membership in the Florida Retirement System.

10 (c) Any employee who, on or after an optional
11 retirement program's activation, becomes eligible to
12 participate in the program by reason of a change in status due
13 to the subsequent designation of the employee's position as
14 one of those referenced in subsection (2), or due to the
15 employee's appointment, promotion, transfer, or
16 reclassification to a position referenced in subsection (2),
17 must be notified by the community college of the employee's
18 eligibility to participate in the optional retirement program
19 in lieu of participation in the Florida Retirement System.
20 These eligible employees are subject to the provisions of
21 paragraph (b) and may elect to participate in the optional
22 retirement program in the same manner as those employees
23 described in paragraph (b), except that the 60-day election
24 period commences upon the date notice of eligibility is
25 received by the employee.

26 (d) Program participants must be fully and immediately
27 vested in the optional retirement program.

28 (e) The election by an eligible employee to
29 participate in the optional retirement program is irrevocable
30 for so long as the employee continues to meet the eligibility
31

1 requirements set forth in this section and in s.
2 121.051(2)(c), except as provided in paragraph (i).

3 (f) If a program participant becomes ineligible to
4 continue participating in the optional retirement program
5 pursuant to the criteria referenced in subsection (2), the
6 employee becomes a member of the Florida Retirement System if
7 eligible. The college must notify the department of an
8 employee's change in eligibility status within 30 days after
9 the event that makes the employee ineligible to continue
10 participation in the optional retirement program.

11 (g) An eligible employee who is a member of the
12 Florida Retirement System at the time of election to
13 participate in the optional retirement program retains all
14 retirement service credit earned under the Florida Retirement
15 System at the rate earned. Additional service credit in the
16 Florida Retirement System may not be earned while the employee
17 participates in the optional retirement program, nor is the
18 employee eligible for disability retirement under the Florida
19 Retirement System.

20 (h) A program participant may not simultaneously
21 participate in any other state-administered retirement system,
22 plan, or class.

23 (i) Except as provided in s. 121.052(6)(d), a program
24 participant who is or who becomes dually employed in two or
25 more positions covered by the Florida Retirement System, one
26 of which is eligible for an optional retirement program
27 pursuant to this section and one of which is not, is subject
28 to the dual employment provisions of chapter 121.

29 (4)(a) Each college must contribute on behalf of each
30 program participant an amount equal to 10.43 percent of the
31 participant's gross monthly compensation. The college shall

1 deduct an amount approved by the community college to provide
2 for the administration of the optional retirement program.
3 Payment of this contribution must be made either directly by
4 the community college or through the program administrator to
5 the designated company contracting for payment of benefits to
6 the program participant.

7 (b) Each community college must contribute on behalf
8 of each program participant an amount equal to the unfunded
9 actuarial accrued liability portion of the employer
10 contribution which would be required if the program
11 participant were a member of the Regular Class of the Florida
12 Retirement System. Payment of this contribution must be made
13 directly by the college to the department for deposit in the
14 Florida Retirement System Trust Fund.

15 (c) Each program participant who has executed an
16 annuity contract may contribute by way of salary reduction or
17 deduction a percentage of the program participant's gross
18 compensation, but this percentage may not exceed the
19 corresponding percentage contributed by the community college
20 to the optional retirement program. Payment of this
21 contribution may be made either directly by the college or
22 through the program administrator to the designated company
23 contracting for payment of benefits to the program
24 participant.

25 (d) Contributions to an optional retirement program by
26 a college or a program participant are in addition to, and
27 have no effect upon, contributions required now or in future
28 by the federal Social Security Act.

29 (5)(a) The benefits to be provided to program
30 participants must be provided through individual contracts or
31 group annuity contracts, which may be fixed, variable, or

1 both. Each individual contract or certificate must state the
2 type of annuity contract on its face page, and must include at
3 least a statement of ownership, the contract benefits, annuity
4 income options, limitations, expense charges, and surrender
5 charges, if any.

6 (b) Benefits are payable under the optional retirement
7 program to program participants or their beneficiaries, and
8 the benefits must be paid only by the designated company in
9 accordance with the terms of the annuity contracts applicable
10 to the program participant, provided that benefits funded by
11 employer contributions are payable only as a lifetime annuity
12 to the program participant, except for:

13 1. A lump-sum payment to the program participant's
14 beneficiary or estate upon the death of the program
15 participant; or

16 2. A cash-out of a de minimis account upon the request
17 of a former program participant who has been terminated for a
18 minimum of 6 months from the employment that caused the
19 participant to be eligible for participation. A de minimis
20 account is an account with a designated company containing
21 employer contributions and accumulated earnings of not more
22 than \$3,500. The cash-out must be a complete liquidation of
23 the account balance with that designated company and is
24 subject to the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code.

25 (c) The benefits payable to any person under the
26 optional retirement program, and any contribution accumulated
27 under the program, are not subject to assignment, execution,
28 attachment, or to any legal process whatsoever.

29 (6)(a) The optional retirement program authorized by
30 this section must be implemented and administered by the
31 program administrator under s. 403(b) of the Internal Revenue

1 Code. The program administrator has the express authority to
2 contract with a third party to fulfill any of the program
3 administrator's duties.

4 (b) The program administrator shall solicit
5 competitive bids or issue a request for proposal and select no
6 more than four companies from which annuity contracts may be
7 purchased under the optional retirement program. In making
8 these selections, the program administrator shall consider the
9 following factors:

10 1. The financial soundness of the company.

11 2. The extent of the company's experience in providing
12 annuity contracts to fund retirement programs.

13 3. The nature and extent of the rights and benefits
14 provided to program participants in relation to the premiums
15 paid.

16 4. The suitability of the rights and benefits provided
17 to the needs of eligible employees and the interests of the
18 college in the recruitment and retention of employees.

19
20 In lieu of soliciting competitive bids or issuing a request
21 for proposals, the program administrator may authorize the
22 purchase of annuity contracts under the optional retirement
23 program from those companies currently selected by the
24 department to offer such contracts through the State
25 University System Optional Retirement Program, as set forth in
26 s. 121.35.

27 (c) Optional retirement program annuity contracts must
28 be approved in form and content by the program administrator
29 in order to qualify. The program administrator may use the
30 same annuity contracts currently used within the State
31

1 University System Optional Retirement Program, as set forth in
2 s. 121.35.

3 (d) The provision of each annuity contract applicable
4 to a program participant must be contained in a written
5 program description that includes a report of pertinent
6 financial and actuarial information on the solvency and
7 actuarial soundness of the program and the benefits applicable
8 to the program participant. The company must furnish the
9 description annually to the program administrator, and to each
10 program participant upon commencement of participation in the
11 program and annually thereafter.

12 (e) The program administrator must ensure that each
13 program participant is provided annually with an accounting of
14 the total contributions and the annual contributions made by
15 and on the behalf of the program participant.

16 Section 773. Section 1012.88, Florida Statutes, is
17 created to read:

18 1012.88 Community college police.--

19 (1) Each community college is permitted and empowered
20 to employ police officers for the community college, who must
21 be designated community college police.

22 (2) Each community college police officer is a law
23 enforcement officer of the state and a conservator of the
24 peace who has the authority to arrest, in accordance with the
25 laws of this state, any person for a violation of state law or
26 applicable county or municipal ordinance if that violation
27 occurs on or in any property or facilities of the community
28 college by which he or she is employed or any property or
29 facilities of a direct-support organization of such community
30 college. A community college police officer may also arrest a
31 person off campus for a violation committed on campus after a

1 hot pursuit of that person that began on any such property or
2 facilities. A community college police officer may bear arms
3 in the performance of his or her duties and carry out a search
4 pursuant to a search warrant on the campus where he or she is
5 employed. Community college police, upon request of the
6 sheriff or local police authority, may serve subpoenas or
7 other legal process and may make arrests of persons against
8 whom arrest warrants have been issued or against whom charges
9 have been made for violations of federal or state laws or
10 county or municipal ordinances.

11 (3) Community college police shall promptly deliver
12 all persons arrested and charged with felonies to the sheriff
13 of the county within which the community college is located
14 and all persons arrested and charged with misdemeanors to the
15 applicable authority as provided by law, but otherwise to the
16 sheriff of the county in which the community college is
17 located.

18 (4) Community college police must meet the minimum
19 standards established by the Police Standards and Training
20 Commission of the Department of Law Enforcement and chapter
21 943 for law enforcement officers. Each community college
22 police officer must, before entering into the performance of
23 his or her duties, take the oath of office established by the
24 community college. Each community college that employs police
25 officers may obtain and approve a bond on each police officer,
26 conditioned upon the officer's faithful performance of his or
27 her duties, which bond must be payable to the Governor. The
28 community college may determine the amount of the bond. In
29 determining the amount of the bond, the community college may
30 consider the amount of money or property likely to be in the
31 custody of the officer at any one time. The community college

1 shall provide a uniform set of identifying credentials to each
2 community college police officer it employs.

3 (5) In performance of any of the powers, duties, and
4 functions authorized by law, community college police have the
5 same rights, protections, and immunities afforded other law
6 enforcement officers.

7 (6) The community college, with the approval of the
8 Department of Law Enforcement, shall adopt rules, including,
9 without limitation, rules for the appointment, employment, and
10 removal of community college police in accordance with the
11 state Career Service System and shall establish in writing a
12 policy manual, that includes, without limitation, procedures
13 for managing routine law enforcement situations and emergency
14 law enforcement situations. The community college shall
15 furnish a copy of the policy manual to each of the police
16 officers it employs.

17 Section 774. Part IV.c. of chapter 1012, Florida
18 Statutes, shall be entitled "Universities; Personnel" and
19 shall consist of ss. 1012.91-1012.97.

20 Section 775. Section 1012.91, Florida Statutes, is
21 created to read:

22 1012.91 Personnel records.--

23 (1) Each university board of trustees shall adopt
24 rules prescribing the content and custody of limited-access
25 records that the university may maintain on its employees.
26 Such limited-access records are confidential and exempt from
27 the provisions of s. 119.07(1). Such records are limited to
28 the following:

29 (a) Records containing information reflecting academic
30 evaluations of employee performance shall be open to
31

1 inspection only by the employee and by officials of the
2 university responsible for supervision of the employee.

3 (b) Records maintained for the purposes of any
4 investigation of employee misconduct, including but not
5 limited to a complaint against an employee and all information
6 obtained pursuant to the investigation of such complaint,
7 shall be confidential until the investigation ceases to be
8 active or until the university provides written notice to the
9 employee who is the subject of the complaint that the
10 university has either:

11 1. Concluded the investigation with a finding not to
12 proceed with disciplinary action;

13 2. Concluded the investigation with a finding to
14 proceed with disciplinary action; or

15 3. Issued a letter of discipline.

16
17 For the purpose of this paragraph, an investigation shall be
18 considered active as long as it is continuing with a
19 reasonable, good faith anticipation that a finding will be
20 made in the foreseeable future. An investigation shall be
21 presumed to be inactive if no finding is made within 90 days
22 after the complaint is filed.

23 (c) Records maintained for the purposes of any
24 disciplinary proceeding brought against an employee shall be
25 confidential until a final decision is made in the proceeding.
26 The record of any disciplinary proceeding, including any
27 evidence presented, shall be open to inspection by the
28 employee at all times.

29 (d) Records maintained for the purposes of any
30 grievance proceeding brought by an employee for enforcement of
31 a collective bargaining agreement or contract shall be

1 confidential and shall be open to inspection only by the
2 employee and by officials of the university conducting the
3 grievance proceeding until a final decision is made in the
4 proceeding.

5 (2) Notwithstanding the foregoing, any records or
6 portions thereof which are otherwise confidential by law shall
7 continue to be exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1). In
8 addition, for sexual harassment investigations, portions of
9 such records which identify the complainant, a witness, or
10 information which could reasonably lead to the identification
11 of the complainant or a witness are limited-access records.

12 (3) Except as required for use by the president in the
13 discharge of his or her official responsibilities, the
14 custodian of limited-access records may release information
15 from such records only upon authorization in writing from the
16 employee or upon order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

17 (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1),
18 records comprising the common core items contained in the
19 State University System Student Assessment of Instruction or
20 comparable instrument may not be prescribed as limited-access
21 records.

22 (5) This section shall apply to records created after
23 July 1, 1995.

24 Section 776. Section 1012.92, Florida Statutes, is
25 created to read:

26 1012.92 Personnel codes of conduct; disciplinary
27 measures; rulemaking authority.--

28 (1) Each university board of trustees may adopt, by
29 rule, codes of conduct and appropriate penalties for
30 violations of rules by employees, to be administered by the
31 university. Such penalties, unless otherwise provided by law,

1 may include: reprimand; restitution; fines; restrictions on
2 the use of or removal from university facilities; educational
3 training or counseling requirements; and the imposition of
4 probation, suspension, dismissal, demotion, or other
5 appropriate disciplinary action.

6 (2) Sanctions authorized by university codes of
7 conduct may be imposed only for acts or omissions in violation
8 of rules adopted by the university, including rules adopted
9 under this section, rules of the State Board of Education,
10 county and municipal ordinances, and the laws of this state,
11 the United States, or any other state.

12 (3) The university board of trustees shall adopt rules
13 for the lawful discipline of any employee who intentionally
14 acts to impair, interfere with, or obstruct the orderly
15 conduct, processes, and functions of a state university. Said
16 rules may apply to acts conducted on or off campus when
17 relevant to such orderly conduct, processes, and functions.

18 Section 777. Section 1012.93, Florida Statutes, is
19 created to read:

20 1012.93 Faculty members; test of spoken English.--The
21 State Board of Education shall adopt rules requiring that all
22 faculty members in each state university and New College,
23 other than those persons who teach courses that are conducted
24 primarily in a foreign language, be proficient in the oral use
25 of English, as determined by a satisfactory grade on the "Test
26 of Spoken English" of the Educational Testing Service or a
27 similar test approved by the state board.

28 Section 778. Section 1012.94, Florida Statutes, is
29 created to read:

30 1012.94 Evaluations of faculty members; report.--
31

1 (1) For the purpose of evaluating faculty members,
2 each university board of trustees shall adopt rules for the
3 assignment of duties and responsibilities to faculty members.
4 These assigned duties or responsibilities shall be conveyed to
5 each faculty member at the beginning of each academic term, in
6 writing, by his or her departmental chair or other appropriate
7 university administrator making the assignment. In evaluating
8 the competencies of a faculty member, primary assessment shall
9 be in terms of his or her performance of the assigned duties
10 and responsibilities, and such evaluation shall be given
11 adequate consideration for the purpose of salary adjustments,
12 promotions, reemployment, and tenure. A faculty member who is
13 assigned full-time teaching duties as provided by law shall be
14 rewarded with salary adjustments, promotions, reemployment, or
15 tenure for meritorious teaching and other scholarly activities
16 related thereto.

17 (2) The State Board of Education shall establish
18 criteria for evaluating the quantity and quality of service to
19 public schools by university faculty members and shall require
20 consideration of this service in promotion, tenure, and other
21 reward measures. Each university board of trustees shall
22 ensure that the following policies are implemented:

23 (a) Flexible criteria for rewarding faculty members,
24 consistent with the educational goals and objectives of the
25 university, shall be established, which criteria shall include
26 quality teaching and service to public schools as major
27 factors in determining salary adjustments, promotions,
28 reemployment, or tenure.

29 (b) Measures shall be taken to increase the
30 recognition, reinforcements, and rewards given quality
31 teaching and service to public schools. Such measures might

1 include grants for professional development, curriculum
2 improvement, and instructional innovation, as well as awards
3 of varying kinds for meritorious teaching.

4 (c) The means of identifying and evaluating quality
5 teachers and outstanding service to public schools shall be
6 determined in accordance with established guidelines of the
7 university.

8 (3) The chief academic officer at each state
9 university and New College shall disseminate information to
10 all faculty members which clearly states that service to
11 public schools is one of the criteria used to determine salary
12 adjustments, promotions, reemployment, and tenure for faculty
13 members.

14 Section 779. Section 1012.945, Florida Statutes, is
15 created to read:

16 1012.945 Required number of classroom teaching hours
17 for university faculty members.--

18 (1) As used in this section:

19 (a) "State funds" means those funds appropriated
20 annually in the General Appropriations Act.

21 (b) "Classroom contact hour" means a regularly
22 scheduled 1-hour period of classroom activity in a course of
23 instruction which has been approved by the university.

24 (2) Each full-time equivalent teaching faculty member
25 at a university who is paid wholly from state funds shall
26 teach a minimum of 12 classroom contact hours per week at such
27 university. However, any faculty member who is assigned by his
28 or her departmental chair or other appropriate university
29 administrator professional responsibilities and duties in
30 furtherance of the mission of the university shall teach a
31 minimum number of classroom contact hours in proportion to 12

1 classroom hours per week as such especially assigned
2 aforementioned duties and responsibilities bear to 12
3 classroom contact hours per week. Any full-time faculty member
4 who is paid partly from state funds and partly from other
5 funds or appropriations shall teach a minimum number of
6 classroom contact hours in such proportion to 12 classroom
7 contact hours per week as his or her salary paid from state
8 funds bears to his or her total salary. In determining the
9 appropriate hourly weighting of assigned duties other than
10 classroom contact hours, the universities shall develop and
11 apply a formula designed to equate the time required for
12 nonclassroom duties with classroom contact hours. "Full-time
13 equivalent teaching faculty member" shall be interpreted to
14 mean all faculty personnel budgeted in the instruction and
15 research portion of the budget, exclusive of those full-time
16 equivalent positions assigned to research, public service,
17 administrative duties, and academic advising. Full-time
18 administrators, librarians, and counselors shall be exempt
19 from the provisions of this section; and colleges of medicine
20 and law and others which are required for purposes of
21 accreditation to meet national standards prescribed by the
22 American Medical Association, the American Bar Association, or
23 other professional associations shall be exempt from the
24 provisions of this section to the extent that the requirements
25 of this section differ from the requirements of accreditation.

26 Section 780. Section 1012.95, Florida Statutes, is
27 created to read:

28 1012.95 University employment equity accountability
29 program.--

30 (1) Each state university and New College shall
31 maintain an annual equity plan for appropriate representation

1 of women and minorities in senior-level administrative
2 positions, within tenure-track faculty, and within
3 faculty-granted tenure. Such plan shall be maintained until
4 appropriate representation has been achieved. As used in this
5 subsection, the term:

6 (a) "Appropriate representation" means category
7 employment representation that at least meets comparable
8 national standards for at least two consecutive reporting
9 periods.

10 (b) "Category" means major executive, administrative,
11 and professional grouping, including senior-level
12 administrative and professional positions, senior academic
13 administrative-level positions, and tenure-track faculty.

14 (2)(a) By April 1 of each year, each state university
15 president shall submit an annual equity report to the
16 Commissioner of Education and the State Board of Education.
17 The equity report shall consist of a status update, an
18 analysis, and a status report of selected personnel
19 transactions. As used in this paragraph, the term, "selected
20 personnel transactions" means new hires in, promotions into,
21 tenure actions in, and terminations from a category. Each
22 university shall provide the following information for the
23 selected personnel transactions including, but not limited to:

- 24 1. Job classification title.
- 25 2. Gender.
- 26 3. Race.
- 27 4. Appointment status.

28
29 The status update shall assess underrepresentation in each
30 category. The status report shall consist of current category
31 employment representation, comparable national standards, an

1 evaluation of representation, and annual goals to address
2 underrepresentation.

3 (b) After 1 year of implementation of a plan, and
4 annually thereafter, for those categories in which prior year
5 goals were not achieved, each university shall provide, in its
6 annual equity report, a narrative explanation and a plan for
7 achievement of equity. The plan shall include guidelines for
8 ensuring balanced membership on selection committees and
9 specific steps for developing a diverse pool of candidates for
10 each vacancy in the category. The plan shall also include a
11 systematic process by which those responsible for hiring are
12 provided information and are evaluated regarding their
13 responsibilities pursuant to this section.

14 (c) The equity report shall include an analysis and
15 assessment of the university's accomplishment of annual goals,
16 as specified in the university's affirmative action plan, for
17 increasing the representation of women and minorities in
18 tenure-earning and senior-level administrative positions.

19 (d) The equity report shall also include the current
20 rank, race, and gender of faculty eligible for tenure in a
21 category. In addition, each university shall report
22 representation of the pool of tenure-eligible faculty at each
23 stage of the transaction process and provide certification
24 that each eligible faculty member was apprised annually of
25 progress toward tenure. Each university shall also report on
26 the dissemination of standards for achieving tenure; racial
27 and gender composition of committees reviewing recommendations
28 at each transaction level; and dissemination of guidelines for
29 equitable distribution of assignments.

30 (3)(a) A factor in the evaluation of university
31 presidents, vice presidents, deans, and chairpersons shall be

1 their annual progress in achieving the annual and long-range
2 hiring and promotional goals and objectives, as specified in
3 the university's equity plan and affirmative action plan.
4 Annual budget allocations for positions and funding shall be
5 based on this evaluation. A summary of such evaluations shall
6 be submitted to the Commissioner of Education and the State
7 Board of Education as part of the university's annual equity
8 report.

9 (b) The university boards of trustees shall annually
10 evaluate the performance of the university presidents in
11 achieving the annual equity goals and objectives. A summary of
12 the results of such evaluations shall be included as part of
13 the annual equity progress report submitted by the university
14 boards of trustees to the Legislature and the State Board of
15 Education.

16 (4) The State Board of Education shall submit an
17 annual equity progress report to the President of the Senate
18 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on or before
19 August 1 of each year.

20 (5) Each university shall develop a budgetary
21 incentive plan to support and ensure attainment of the goals
22 developed pursuant to this section. The plan shall specify, at
23 a minimum, how resources shall be allocated to support the
24 achievement of goals and the implementation of strategies in a
25 timely manner. After prior review and approval by the
26 university president and the university board of trustees, the
27 plan shall be submitted as part of the annual equity report
28 submitted by each university to the State Board of Education.

29 (6) Relevant components of each university's
30 affirmative action plan may be used to satisfy the
31 requirements of this section.

1 (7) Subject to available funding, the Legislature
2 shall provide an annual appropriation to be allocated to the
3 universities to further enhance equity initiatives and related
4 priorities that support the mission of departments, divisions,
5 or colleges in recognition of the attainment of equity goals
6 and objectives.

7 Section 781. Section 1012.96, Florida Statutes, is
8 created to read:

9 1012.96 IFAS extension personnel; federal health
10 insurance programs notwithstanding the provisions of s.
11 110.123.--The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences at
12 the University of Florida may pay the employer's share of
13 premiums to the Federal Health Benefits Insurance Program from
14 its appropriated budget for any cooperative extension employee
15 of the institute having both state and federal appointments
16 and participating in the Federal Civil Service Retirement
17 System.

18 Section 782. Section 1012.965, Florida Statutes, is
19 created to read:

20 1012.965 Payment of costs of civil action against
21 employees.--

22 (1) An employee or agent under the right of control of
23 a university board of trustees who, pursuant to the university
24 board's policies or rules, renders medical care or treatment
25 at any hospital or health care facility with which the
26 university board maintains an affiliation agreement whereby
27 the hospital or health care facility provides to the
28 university board a clinical setting for health care education,
29 research, and services, shall not be deemed to be an agent of
30 any person other than the university board in any civil action
31 resulting from any act or omission of the employee or agent

1 while rendering said medical care or treatment. For this
2 subsection to apply, the patient shall be provided separate
3 written conspicuous notice by the university board of trustees
4 or by the hospital or health care facility, and shall
5 acknowledge receipt of this notice, in writing, unless
6 impractical by reason of an emergency, either personally or
7 through another person authorized to give consent for him or
8 her, that he or she will receive care provided by university
9 board's employees and liability, if any, that may arise from
10 that care is limited as provided by law. Compliance by a
11 hospital or health care facility with the requirements of
12 chapter 395 or s. 766.110(1) shall not be used as evidence in
13 any civil action to establish an employment or agency
14 relationship between the hospital or health care facility and
15 an employee or agent of the university board of trustees
16 providing services within the hospital or health care
17 facility.

18 (2) All faculty physicians employed by a university
19 board of trustees who are subject to the requirements of s.
20 456.013 shall complete their risk management continuing
21 education on issues specific to academic medicine. Such
22 continuing education shall include instruction for the
23 supervision of resident physicians as required by the
24 Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. The
25 boards described in s. 456.013 shall adopt rules to implement
26 the provisions of this subsection.

27 (3) There are appropriated out of any funds available
28 to a university, not subject to the obligation of contract,
29 covenant, or trust, the amounts necessary to carry out the
30 purposes of this section.

31

1 (4) Failure of a university board of trustees or an
2 affiliated health care provider to do any act authorized by
3 this section shall not constitute a cause of action against
4 the university board, or an affiliated health care provider,
5 or any of their members, officers, or employees.

6 Section 783. Section 1012.97, Florida Statutes, is
7 created to read:

8 1012.97 University police.--

9 (1) Each university is empowered and directed to
10 provide for police officers for the university, and such
11 police officers shall hereafter be known and designated as the
12 "university police."

13 (2) The university police are hereby declared to be
14 law enforcement officers of the state and conservators of the
15 peace with the right to arrest, in accordance with the laws of
16 this state, any person for violation of state law or
17 applicable county or city ordinances when such violations
18 occur on any property or facilities that are under the
19 guidance, supervision, regulation, or control of the state
20 university or a direct-support organization of such
21 university, except that arrest may be made off campus when hot
22 pursuit originates on any such property or facilities. Such
23 officers shall have full authority to bear arms in the
24 performance of their duties and to execute search warrants
25 within their territorial jurisdiction. University police, when
26 requested by the sheriff or local police authority, may serve
27 subpoenas or other legal process and may make arrest of any
28 person against whom a warrant has been issued or any charge
29 has been made of violation of federal or state laws or county
30 or city ordinances.

1 (3) University police shall promptly deliver all
2 persons arrested and charged with a felony to the sheriff of
3 the county within which the university is located, and all
4 persons arrested and charged with misdemeanors shall be
5 delivered to the applicable authority as may be provided by
6 law, but otherwise to the sheriff of the county in which the
7 university is located.

8 (4) University police must meet the minimum standards
9 established by the Criminal Justice Standards and Training
10 Commission and chapter 943. Each police officer shall, before
11 entering into the performance of his or her duties, take the
12 oath of office as established by the university; and the
13 university may obtain and approve a bond on each officer,
14 payable to the Governor and his or her successors in office,
15 conditioned on the faithful performance of the duties of such
16 university police officer. The university may determine the
17 amount of the bond. In determining the amount of the bond, the
18 university may consider the amount of money or property likely
19 to be in the custody of the officer at any one time. The
20 university shall provide a uniform set of identification
21 credentials for each university police officer.

22 (5) In performance of any of the powers, duties, and
23 functions authorized by law or this section, university police
24 shall have the same rights, protections, and immunities
25 afforded other peace or law enforcement officers.

26 (6) The university, in concurrence with the Department
27 of Law Enforcement, shall adopt rules, including, but not
28 limited to, the appointment, employment, and removal of
29 university police and, further, establish in writing a policy
30 manual, including, but not limited to, routine and emergency
31

1 law enforcement situations. A policy manual shall be furnished
2 to each university police officer.

3 Section 784. Part V of chapter 1012, Florida Statutes,
4 shall be entitled "Professional Development" and shall consist
5 of ss. 1012.98-1012.985.

6 Section 785. Section 1012.98, Florida Statutes, is
7 created to read:

8 1012.98 School Community Professional Development
9 Act.--

10 (1) The Department of Education, public postsecondary
11 educational institutions, public school districts, and public
12 schools in this state shall collaborate to establish a
13 coordinated system of professional development. The purpose of
14 the professional development system is to enable the school
15 community to meet state and local student achievement
16 standards and the state education goals and to succeed in
17 school improvement as described in s. 1000.03.

18 (2) The school community includes administrative
19 personnel, managers, instructional personnel, support
20 personnel, members of district school boards, members of
21 school advisory councils, parents, business partners, and
22 personnel that provide health and social services to school
23 children. School districts may identify and include
24 additional members of the school community in the professional
25 development activities required by this section.

26 (3) The activities designed to implement this section
27 must:

28 (a) Increase the success of educators in guiding
29 student learning and development so as to implement state and
30 local educational standards, goals, and initiatives.

31

1 (b) Assist the school community in providing
2 stimulating educational activities that encourage and motivate
3 students to achieve at the highest levels and to become active
4 learners.

5 (c) Provide continuous support for all education
6 professionals as well as temporary intervention for education
7 professionals who need improvement in knowledge, skills, and
8 performance.

9 (4) The Department of Education, school districts,
10 schools, community colleges, and state universities share the
11 responsibilities described in this section. These
12 responsibilities include the following:

13 (a) The department shall develop and disseminate to
14 the school community model professional development methods
15 and programs that have demonstrated success in meeting
16 identified student needs. The Commissioner of Education shall
17 use data on student achievement to identify student needs. The
18 methods of dissemination must include a statewide performance
19 support system, a database of exemplary professional
20 development activities, a listing of available professional
21 development resources, training programs, and technical
22 assistance.

23 (b) Each school district shall develop a professional
24 development system. The system shall be developed in
25 consultation with teachers and representatives of community
26 college and university faculty, community agencies, and other
27 interested citizen groups to establish policy and procedures
28 to guide the operation of the district professional
29 development program. The professional development system
30 must:

31

1 1. Be approved by the department. All substantial
2 revisions to the system shall be submitted to the department
3 for review for continued approval.

4 2. Require the use of student achievement data; school
5 discipline data; school environment surveys; assessments of
6 parental satisfaction; performance appraisal data of teachers,
7 managers, and administrative personnel; and other performance
8 indicators to identify school and student needs that can be
9 met by improved professional performance.

10 3. Provide inservice activities coupled with followup
11 support that are appropriate to accomplish district-level and
12 school-level improvement goals and standards. The inservice
13 activities for instructional personnel shall primarily focus
14 on subject content and teaching methods, including technology,
15 as related to the Sunshine State Standards, assessment and
16 data analysis, classroom management, and school safety.

17 4. Include a master plan for inservice activities,
18 pursuant to rules of the State Board of Education, for all
19 district employees from all fund sources. The master plan
20 shall be updated annually by September 1 using criteria for
21 continued approval as specified by rules of the State Board of
22 Education. Written verification that the inservice plan meets
23 all requirements of this section must be submitted annually to
24 the commissioner by October 1.

25 5. Require each school principal to establish and
26 maintain an individual professional development plan for each
27 instructional employee assigned to the school. The individual
28 professional development plan must:

29 a. Be related to specific performance data for the
30 students to whom the teacher is assigned.

31

1 b. Define the inservice objectives and specific
2 measurable improvements expected in student performance as a
3 result of the inservice activity.

4 c. Include an evaluation component that determines the
5 effectiveness of the professional development plan.

6 6. Include inservice activities for school
7 administrative personnel that address updated skills necessary
8 for effective school management and instructional leadership.

9 7. Provide for systematic consultation with regional
10 and state personnel designated to provide technical assistance
11 and evaluation of local professional development programs.

12 8. Provide for delivery of professional development by
13 distance learning and other technology-based delivery systems
14 to reach more educators at lower costs.

15 9. Provide for the continuous evaluation of the
16 quality and effectiveness of professional development programs
17 in order to eliminate ineffective programs and strategies and
18 to expand effective ones. Evaluations must consider the impact
19 of such activities on the performance of participating
20 educators and their students' achievement and behavior.

21 (c) Each community college and state university shall
22 assist the department, school districts, and schools in the
23 design, delivery, and evaluation of professional development
24 activities. This assistance must include active participation
25 in state and local activities required by the professional
26 development system.

27 (5)(a) The Department of Education shall provide a
28 system for the recruitment, preparation, and professional
29 development of school administrative personnel. This system
30 shall:

31

1 1. Identify the knowledge, competencies, and skills
2 necessary for effective school management and instructional
3 leadership that align with student performance standards and
4 accountability measures.

5 2. Include performance evaluation methods.

6 3. Provide for alternate means for preparation of
7 school administrative personnel which may include programs
8 designed by school districts and postsecondary educational
9 institutions pursuant to guidelines developed by the
10 commissioner. Such preparation programs shall be approved by
11 the Department of Education.

12 4. Provide for the hiring of qualified out-of-state
13 school administrative personnel.

14 5. Provide advanced educational opportunities for
15 school-based instructional leaders.

16 (b) The Commissioner of Education shall appoint a task
17 force that includes a district school superintendent, a
18 district school board member, a principal, an assistant
19 principal, a teacher, a dean of a college of education, and
20 parents. The task force shall convene periodically to provide
21 recommendations to the department in the areas of recruitment,
22 certification, preparation, professional development, and
23 evaluation of school administrators.

24 (6) Each district school board shall provide funding
25 for the professional development system as required by s.
26 1011.62 and the General Appropriations Act, and shall direct
27 expenditures from other funding sources to strengthen the
28 system and make it uniform and coherent. A school district
29 may coordinate its professional development program with that
30 of another district, with an educational consortium, or with a
31 community college or university, especially in preparing and

1 educating personnel. Each district school board shall make
2 available inservice activities to instructional personnel of
3 nonpublic schools in the district and the state certified
4 teachers who are not employed by the district school board on
5 a fee basis not to exceed the cost of the activity per all
6 participants.

7 (7) An organization of private schools which has no
8 fewer than 10 member schools in this state, which publishes
9 and files with the Department of Education copies of its
10 standards, and the member schools of which comply with the
11 provisions of part II of chapter 1003, relating to compulsory
12 school attendance, may also develop a professional development
13 system that includes a master plan for inservice activities.
14 The system and inservice plan must be submitted to the
15 commissioner for approval pursuant to rules of the State Board
16 of Education.

17 (8) The Department of Education shall design methods
18 by which the state and district school boards may evaluate and
19 improve the professional development system. The evaluation
20 must include an annual assessment of data that indicate
21 progress or lack of progress of all students. If the review of
22 the data indicates progress, the department shall identify the
23 best practices that contributed to the progress. If the review
24 of the data indicates a lack of progress, the department shall
25 investigate the causes of the lack of progress, provide
26 technical assistance, and require the school district to
27 employ a different approach to professional development. The
28 department shall report annually to the State Board of
29 Education and the Legislature any school district that, in the
30 determination of the department, has failed to provide an
31 adequate professional development system. This report must

1 include the results of the department's investigation and of
2 any intervention provided.

3 (9) The State Board of Education may adopt rules
4 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to administer this
5 section.

6 (10) This section does not limit or discourage a
7 district school board from contracting with independent
8 entities for professional development services and inservice
9 education if the district school board believes that, through
10 such a contract, a better product can be acquired or its goals
11 for education improvement can be better met.

12 (11) For teachers, managers, and administrative
13 personnel who have been evaluated as less than satisfactory, a
14 district school board shall require participation in specific
15 professional development programs as part of the improvement
16 prescription.

17 Section 786. Section 1012.985, Florida Statutes, is
18 created to read:

19 1012.985 Statewide system for inservice professional
20 development.--The intent of this section is to establish a
21 statewide system of professional development that provides a
22 wide range of targeted inservice training to teachers,
23 managers, and administrative personnel designed to upgrade
24 skills and knowledge needed to reach world class standards in
25 education. The system shall consist of a network of
26 professional development academies in each region of the state
27 that are operated in partnership with area business partners
28 to develop and deliver high-quality training programs
29 purchased by school districts. The academies shall be
30 established to meet the human resource development needs of
31 professional educators, schools, and school districts. Funds

1 appropriated for the initiation of professional development
2 academies shall be allocated by the Commissioner of Education,
3 unless otherwise provided in an appropriations act. To be
4 eligible for startup funds, the academy must:

5 (1) Be established by the collaborative efforts of one
6 or more district school boards, members of the business
7 community, and the postsecondary educational institutions
8 which may award college credits for courses taught at the
9 academy.

10 (2) Demonstrate the capacity to provide effective
11 training to improve teaching skills in the areas of elementary
12 reading and mathematics, the use of instructional technology,
13 high school algebra, and classroom management, and to deliver
14 such training using face-to-face, distance learning, and
15 individualized computer-based delivery systems.

16 (3) Propose a plan for responding in an effective and
17 timely manner to the professional development needs of
18 teachers, managers, administrative personnel, schools, and
19 school districts relating to improving student achievement and
20 meeting state and local education goals.

21 (4) Demonstrate the ability to provide high-quality
22 trainers and training, appropriate followup and coaching for
23 all participants, and support school personnel in positively
24 impacting student performance.

25 (5) Be operated under contract with its public
26 partners and governed by an independent board of directors,
27 which should include at least one district school
28 superintendent and one district school board chair from the
29 participating school districts, the president of the
30 collective bargaining unit that represents the majority of the
31 region's teachers, and at least three individuals who are not

1 employees or elected or appointed officials of the
2 participating school districts. Regional educational consortia
3 as defined in s. 1001.451 satisfy the requirements of this
4 subsection.

5 (6) Be financed during the first year of operation by
6 an equal or greater match from private funding sources and
7 demonstrate the ability to be self-supporting within 1 year
8 after opening through fees for services, grants, or private
9 contributions. Regional educational consortia as defined in s.
10 1001.451 which serve rural areas of critical economic concern
11 are exempt from the funding match required by this subsection.

12 (7) Own or lease a facility that can be used to
13 deliver training onsite and through distance learning and
14 other technology-based delivery systems. The participating
15 district school boards may lease a site or facility to the
16 academy for a nominal fee and may pay all or part of the costs
17 of renovating a facility to accommodate the academy. The
18 academy is responsible for all operational, maintenance, and
19 repair costs.

20 (8) Provide professional development services for the
21 participating school districts as specified in the contract
22 and may provide professional development services to other
23 school districts, private schools, and individuals on a
24 fee-for-services basis.

25 Section 787. Part VI of chapter 1012, Florida
26 Statutes, shall be entitled "Interstate Compact on
27 Qualifications of Educational Personnel" and shall consist of
28 ss. 1012.99-1012.992.

29 Section 788. Section 1012.99, Florida Statutes, is
30 created to read:

31

1 consequence, a significant number of professionally prepared
2 and experienced educators is lost to our school systems.
3 Facilitating the employment of qualified educational
4 personnel, without reference to their states of origin, can
5 increase the available educational resources. Participation in
6 this compact can increase the availability of educational
7 personnel.

8
9 ARTICLE II

10
11 DEFINITIONS

12 As used in this agreement and contracts made pursuant
13 to it, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

14 1. "Educational personnel" means persons who must meet
15 requirements pursuant to state law as a condition of
16 employment in educational programs.

17 2. "Designated state official" means the education
18 official of a state selected by that state to negotiate and
19 enter into, on behalf of this state, contracts pursuant to
20 this agreement.

21 3. "Accept," or any variant thereof, means to
22 recognize and give effect to one or more determinations of
23 another state relating to the qualifications of educational
24 personnel in lieu of making or requiring a like determination
25 that would otherwise be required by or pursuant to the laws of
26 a receiving state.

27 4. "State" means a state, territory, or possession of
28 the United States; the district of Columbia; or the
29 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

30 5. "Originating state" means a state and the
31 subdivision thereof, if any, whose determination that certain

1 educational personnel are qualified to be employed for
2 specific duties in schools is acceptable in accordance with
3 the terms of a contract made pursuant to Article III.

4 6. "Receiving state" means a state and the
5 subdivisions thereof which accept educational personnel in
6 accordance with the terms of a contract made pursuant to
7 Article III.

8
9 ARTICLE III

10
11 INTERSTATE EDUCATIONAL

12 PERSONNEL CONTRACTS

13 1. The designated state official of a party state may
14 make one or more contracts on behalf of his or her state with
15 one or more other party states providing for the acceptance of
16 educational personnel. Any such contract for the period of
17 its duration shall be applicable to and binding on the states
18 whose designated state officials enter into it, and the
19 subdivisions of those states, with the same force and effect
20 as if incorporated in this agreement. A designated state
21 official may enter into a contract pursuant to this article
22 only with states in which he or she finds that there are
23 programs of education, certification standards or other
24 acceptable qualifications that assure preparation or
25 qualification of educational personnel on a basis sufficiently
26 comparable, even though not identical to that prevailing in
27 his or her own state.

28 2. Any such contract shall provide for:

29 (a) Its duration.
30
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1 (b) The criteria to be applied by an originating state
2 in qualifying educational personnel for acceptance by a
3 receiving state.

4 (c) Such waivers, substitutions, and conditional
5 acceptances as shall aid the practical effectuation of the
6 contract without sacrifice of basic educational standards.

7 (d) Any other necessary matters.

8 3. No contract made pursuant to this agreement shall
9 be for a term longer than five years but any such contract may
10 be renewed for like or lesser periods.

11 4. Any contract dealing with acceptance of educational
12 personnel on the basis of their having completed an
13 educational program shall specify the earliest date or dates
14 on which originating state approval of the program or programs
15 involved can have occurred. No contract made pursuant to this
16 agreement shall require acceptance by a receiving state or any
17 persons qualified because of successful completion of a
18 program prior to January 1, 1954.

19 5. The certification or other acceptance of a person
20 who has been accepted pursuant to the terms of a contract
21 shall not be revoked or otherwise impaired because the
22 contract has expired or been terminated. However, any
23 certificate or other qualifying document may be revoked or
24 suspended on any ground which would be sufficient for
25 revocation or suspension of a certificate or other qualifying
26 document initially granted or approved in the receiving state.

27 6. A contract committee composed of the designated
28 state officials of the contracting states or their
29 representatives shall keep the contract under continuous
30 review, study means of improving its administration, and
31

1 report no less frequently than once a year to the heads of the
2 appropriate education agencies of the contracting states.

3
4 ARTICLE IV

5
6 APPROVED AND ACCEPTED PROGRAMS

7 1. Nothing in this agreement shall be construed to
8 repeal or otherwise modify any law or regulation of a party
9 state relating to the approval of programs of educational
10 preparation having effect solely on the qualification of
11 educational personnel within that state.

12 2. To the extent that contracts made pursuant to this
13 agreement deal with the educational requirements for the
14 proper qualification of educational personnel, acceptance of a
15 program of educational preparation shall be in accordance with
16 such procedures and requirements as may be provided in the
17 applicable contract.

18
19 ARTICLE V

20
21 INTERSTATE COOPERATION

22 The party states agree that:

23 1. They will, so far as practicable, prefer the making
24 of multilateral contracts pursuant to Article III of this
25 agreement.

26 2. They will facilitate and strengthen cooperation in
27 interstate certification and other elements of educational
28 personnel qualification and for this purpose shall cooperate
29 with agencies, organizations, and associations interested in
30 certification and other elements of educational personnel
31 qualification.

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ARTICLE VI

AGREEMENT EVALUATION

The designated state officials of any party states may meet from time to time as a group to evaluate progress under the agreement, and to formulate recommendations for changes.

ARTICLE VII

OTHER ARRANGEMENTS

Nothing in this agreement shall be construed to prevent or inhibit other arrangements or practices of any party state or states to facilitate the interchange of educational personnel.

ARTICLE VIII

EFFECT AND WITHDRAWAL

1. This agreement shall become effective when enacted into law by two states. Thereafter it shall become effective as to any state upon its enactment of this agreement.

2. Any party state may withdraw from this agreement by enacting a statute repealing the same, but no such withdrawal shall take effect until one year after the governor of the withdrawing state has given notice in writing of the withdrawal to the governors of all other party states.

3. No withdrawal shall relieve the withdrawing state of any obligation imposed upon it by a contract to which it is a party. The duration of contracts and the methods and

1 conditions of withdrawal therefrom shall be those specified in
2 their terms.

3
4 ARTICLE IX

5
6 CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY

7 This agreement shall be liberally construed so as to
8 effectuate the purposes thereof. The provisions of this
9 agreement shall be severable and if any phrase, clause,
10 sentence or provision of this agreement is declared to be
11 contrary to the constitution of any state or of the United
12 States, or the application thereof to any government, agency,
13 person, or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the
14 remainder of this agreement and the applicability thereof to
15 any government, agency, person, or circumstance shall not be
16 affected thereby. If this agreement shall be held contrary to
17 the constitution of any state participating therein, the
18 agreement shall remain in full force and effect as to the
19 state affected as to all severable matters.

20 Section 789. Section 1012.991, Florida Statutes, is
21 created to read:

22 1012.991 Commissioner designated official.--For the
23 purposes of the agreement set forth in Article IX, the
24 "designated state official" for this state shall be the
25 Commissioner of Education. The Commissioner of Education shall
26 enter into contracts pursuant to Article III of the agreement
27 only with the approval of the specific texts thereof by the
28 State Board of Education.

29 Section 790. Section 1012.992, Florida Statutes, is
30 created to read:

31

1 1012.992 Copies of contracts with other states;
2 depository.--Two copies of all contracts made on behalf of
3 this state pursuant to the agreement set forth in Article IX
4 shall be kept on file in the office of the Commissioner of
5 Education and in the office of the Department of State. The
6 Department of Education shall publish all such contracts in
7 convenient form.

8 Section 791. Chapter 1013, Florida Statutes, shall be
9 entitled "Educational Facilities" and shall consist of ss.
10 1013.01-1013.82.

11 Section 792. Part I of chapter 1013, Florida Statutes,
12 shall be entitled "Functions; Department of Education" and
13 shall consist of ss. 1013.01-1013.05.

14 Section 793. Section 1013.01, Florida Statutes, is
15 created to read:

16 1013.01 Definitions.--The following terms shall be
17 defined as follows for the purpose of this chapter:

18 (1) "Ancillary plant" is comprised of the building,
19 site, and site improvements necessary to provide such
20 facilities as vehicle maintenance, warehouses, maintenance, or
21 administrative buildings necessary to provide support services
22 to an educational program.

23 (2) "Auxiliary facility" means the spaces located at
24 educational plants which are not designed for student occupant
25 stations.

26 (3) "Board," unless otherwise specified, means a
27 district school board, a community college board of trustees,
28 a university board of trustees, and the Board of Trustees for
29 the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind. The term
30 "board" does not include the State Board of Education.

31

1 (4) "Capital project," for the purpose of s. 9(a)(2),
2 Art. XII of the State Constitution, as amended, means sums of
3 money appropriated from the Public Education Capital Outlay
4 and Debt Service Trust Fund to the state system of public
5 education and other educational agencies as authorized by the
6 Legislature.

7 (5) "Core facilities" means the media center,
8 cafeteria, toilet facilities, and circulation space of an
9 educational plant.

10 (6) "Educational facilities" means the buildings and
11 equipment, structures, and special educational use areas that
12 are built, installed, or established to serve primarily the
13 educational purposes and secondarily the social and
14 recreational purposes of the community and which may lawfully
15 be used as authorized by the Florida Statutes and approved by
16 boards.

17 (7) "Educational plant" comprises the educational
18 facilities, site, and site improvements necessary to
19 accommodate students, faculty, administrators, staff, and the
20 activities of the educational program of each plant.

21 (8) "Educational plant survey" means a systematic
22 study of present educational and ancillary plants and the
23 determination of future needs to provide an appropriate
24 educational program and services for each student based on
25 projected capital outlay FTE's approved by the Department of
26 Education.

27 (9) "Feasibility study" means the examination and
28 analysis of information related to projected educational
29 facilities to determine whether they are reasonable and
30 possible.

31

1 (10) "Long-range planning" means devising a systematic
2 method based on educational information and needs, carefully
3 analyzed, to provide the facilities to meet the goals and
4 objectives of the educational agency for a period of 5 years.

5 (11) "Low-energy usage features" means engineering
6 features or devices that supplant or minimize the consumption
7 of fossil fuels by heating equipment and cooling equipment.
8 Such features may include, but are not limited to, high
9 efficiency chillers and boilers, thermal storage tanks, solar
10 energy systems, waste heat recovery systems, and facility load
11 management systems.

12 (12) "Maintenance and repair" means the upkeep of
13 educational and ancillary plants, including, but not limited
14 to, roof or roofing replacement short of complete replacement
15 of membrane or structure; repainting of interior or exterior
16 surfaces; resurfacing of floors; repair or replacement of
17 glass; repair of hardware, furniture, equipment, electrical
18 fixtures, and plumbing fixtures; and repair or resurfacing of
19 parking lots, roads, and walkways. The term "maintenance and
20 repair" does not include custodial or groundskeeping
21 functions, or renovation except for the replacement of
22 equipment with new equipment of equal systems meeting current
23 code requirements, provided that the replacement item neither
24 places increased demand upon utilities services or structural
25 supports nor adversely affects the function of safety to life
26 systems.

27 (13) "Need determination" means the identification of
28 types and amounts of educational facilities necessary to
29 accommodate the educational programs, student population,
30 faculty, administrators, staff, and auxiliary and ancillary
31 services of an educational agency.

1 (14) "New construction" means any construction of a
2 building or unit of a building in which the entire work is new
3 or an entirely new addition connected to an existing building
4 or which adds additional square footage to the space
5 inventory.

6 (15) "Passive design elements" means architectural
7 features that minimize heat gain, heat loss, and the use of
8 heating and cooling equipment when ambient conditions are
9 extreme and that permit use of the facility without heating or
10 air-conditioning when ambient conditions are moderate. Such
11 features may include, but are not limited to, building
12 orientation, landscaping, earth bermings, insulation, thermal
13 windows and doors, overhangs, skylights, thermal chimneys, and
14 other design arrangements.

15 (16) "Public education capital outlay (PECO) funded
16 projects" means site acquisition, renovation, remodeling,
17 construction projects, and site improvements necessary to
18 accommodate buildings, equipment, other structures, and
19 special educational use areas that are built, installed, or
20 established to serve primarily the educational instructional
21 program of the district school board, community college board
22 of trustees, or university board of trustees.

23 (17) "Remodeling" means the changing of existing
24 facilities by rearrangement of spaces and their use and
25 includes, but is not limited to, the conversion of two
26 classrooms to a science laboratory or the conversion of a
27 closed plan arrangement to an open plan configuration.

28 (18) "Renovation" means the rejuvenating or upgrading
29 of existing facilities by installation or replacement of
30 materials and equipment and includes, but is not limited to,
31 interior or exterior reconditioning of facilities and spaces;

1 air-conditioning, heating, or ventilating equipment; fire
2 alarm systems; emergency lighting; electrical systems; and
3 complete roofing or roof replacement, including replacement of
4 membrane or structure. As used in this subsection, the term
5 "materials" does not include instructional materials.

6 (19) "Satisfactory educational facility" means a
7 facility that has been recommended for continued use by an
8 educational plant survey or that has been classified as
9 satisfactory in the state inventory of educational facilities.

10 (20) "Site" means a space of ground occupied or to be
11 occupied by an educational facility or program.

12 (21) "Site development" means work that must be
13 performed on an unimproved site in order to make it usable for
14 the desired purpose or work incidental to new construction or
15 to make an addition usable.

16 (22) "Site improvement" means work that must be
17 performed on an existing site to improve its utilization,
18 correct health and safety deficiencies, meet special program
19 needs, or provide additional service areas.

20 (23) "Site improvement incident to construction" means
21 the work that must be performed on a site as an accompaniment
22 to the construction of an educational facility.

23 (24) "Satellite facility" means the buildings and
24 equipment, structures, and special educational use areas that
25 are built, installed, or established by private business or
26 industry in accordance with chapter 6A-2, Florida
27 Administrative Code, to be used exclusively for educational
28 purposes to serve primarily the students of its employees and
29 that are staffed professionally by the district school board.

30 Section 794. Section 1013.02, Florida Statutes, is
31 created to read:

1 1013.02 Purpose; rules.--

2 (1) The purpose of this chapter is to authorize state
3 and local officials to cooperate in establishing and
4 maintaining educational plants that will provide for public
5 educational needs throughout the state.

6 (2) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
7 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the
8 provisions of this chapter.

9 Section 795. Section 1013.03, Florida Statutes, is
10 created to read:

11 1013.03 Functions of the department.--The functions of
12 the Department of Education as it pertains to educational
13 facilities shall include, but not be limited to, the
14 following:

15 (1) Establish recommended minimum and maximum square
16 footage standards for different functions and areas and
17 procedures for determining the gross square footage for each
18 educational facility to be funded in whole or in part by the
19 state, including public broadcasting stations but excluding
20 postsecondary special purpose laboratory space. The gross
21 square footage determination standards may be exceeded when
22 the core facility space of an educational facility is
23 constructed or renovated to accommodate the future addition of
24 classrooms to meet projected increases in student enrollment.
25 The department shall encourage multiple use of facilities and
26 spaces in educational plants.

27 (2) Establish, for the purpose of determining need,
28 equitably uniform utilization standards for all types of like
29 space, regardless of the level of education. These standards
30 shall also establish, for postsecondary education classrooms,
31 a minimum room utilization rate of 40 hours per week and a

1 minimum station utilization rate of 60 percent. These rates
2 shall be subject to increase based on national norms for
3 utilization of postsecondary education classrooms.

4 (3) Require boards to submit other educational plant
5 inventories data and statistical data or information relevant
6 to construction, capital improvements, and related costs.

7 (4) Require each board and other appropriate agencies
8 to submit complete and accurate financial data as to the
9 amounts of funds from all sources that are available and spent
10 for construction and capital improvements. The commissioner
11 shall prescribe the format and the date for the submission of
12 this data and any other educational facilities data. If any
13 district does not submit the required educational facilities
14 fiscal data by the prescribed date, the Commissioner of
15 Education shall notify the district school board of this fact
16 and, if appropriate action is not taken to immediately submit
17 the required report, the district school board shall be
18 directed to proceed pursuant to the provisions of s.
19 1001.42(11)(b). If any community college or university does
20 not submit the required educational facilities fiscal data by
21 the prescribed date, the same policy prescribed in this
22 subsection for school districts shall be implemented.

23 (5) Administer, under the supervision of the
24 Commissioner of Education, the Public Education Capital Outlay
25 and Debt Service Trust Fund and the School District and
26 Community College District Capital Outlay and Debt Service
27 Trust Fund.

28 (6) Develop, review, update, revise, and recommend a
29 mandatory portion of the Florida Building Code for educational
30 facilities construction and capital improvement by community
31 college boards and district school boards.

1 (7) Provide training, technical assistance, and
2 building code interpretation for requirements of the mandatory
3 Florida Building Code for the educational facilities
4 construction and capital improvement programs of the community
5 college boards and district school boards and, upon request,
6 approve phase III construction documents for remodeling,
7 renovation, or new construction of educational plants or
8 ancillary facilities, except that university boards of
9 trustees shall approve specifications and construction
10 documents for their respective institutions. The Department of
11 Management Services may, upon request, provide similar
12 services for the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind and
13 shall use the Florida Building Code and the Florida Fire
14 Prevention Code.

15 (8) Provide minimum criteria, procedures, and training
16 to boards to conduct educational plant surveys and document
17 the determination of future needs.

18 (9) Make available to boards technical assistance,
19 awareness training, and research and technical publications
20 relating to lifesafety, casualty, sanitation, environmental,
21 maintenance, and custodial issues; and, as needed, technical
22 assistance for survey, planning, design, construction,
23 operation, and evaluation of educational and ancillary
24 facilities and plants, facilities administrative procedures
25 review, and training for new administrators.

26 (10)(a) Review and validate surveys proposed or
27 amended by the boards and recommend to the Commissioner of
28 Education, for approval, surveys that meet the requirements of
29 this chapter.

30 1. The term "validate" as applied to surveys by school
31 districts means to review inventory data as submitted to the

1 department by district school boards; provide for review and
2 inspection, where required, of student stations and aggregate
3 square feet of inventory changed from satisfactory to
4 unsatisfactory or changed from unsatisfactory to satisfactory;
5 compare new school inventory to allocation limits provided by
6 this chapter; review cost projections for conformity with cost
7 limits set by s. 1013.64(6); compare total capital outlay
8 full-time equivalent enrollment projections in the survey with
9 the department's projections; review facilities lists to
10 verify that student station and auxiliary facility space
11 allocations do not exceed the limits provided by this chapter
12 and related rules; review and confirm the application of
13 uniform facility utilization factors, where provided by this
14 chapter or related rules; utilize the documentation of
15 programs offered per site, as submitted by the board, to
16 analyze facility needs; confirm that need projections for
17 career and technical and adult educational programs comply
18 with needs documented by the Office of Workforce and Economic
19 Development; and confirm the assignment of full-time student
20 stations to all space except auxiliary facilities, which, for
21 purposes of exemption from student station assignment, include
22 the following:

- 23 a. Cafeterias.
24 b. Multipurpose dining areas.
25 c. Media centers.
26 d. Auditoriums.
27 e. Administration.
28 f. Elementary, middle, and high school resource rooms,
29 up to the number of such rooms recommended for the applicable
30 occupant and space design capacity of the educational plant in
31

1 the State Requirements for Educational Facilities, beyond
2 which student stations must be assigned.

3 g. Elementary school skills labs, up to the number of
4 such rooms recommended for the applicable occupant and space
5 design capacity of the educational plant in the State
6 Requirements for Educational Facilities, beyond which student
7 stations must be assigned.

8 h. Elementary school art and music rooms.

9 2. The term "validate" as applied to surveys by
10 community colleges and universities means to review and
11 document the approval of each new site and official
12 designation, where applicable; review the inventory database
13 as submitted by each board to the department, including
14 noncareer and technical, and total capital outlay full-time
15 equivalent enrollment projections per site and per college;
16 provide for the review and inspection, where required, of
17 student stations and aggregate square feet of space changed
18 from satisfactory to unsatisfactory; utilize and review the
19 documentation of programs offered per site submitted by the
20 boards as accurate for analysis of space requirements and
21 needs; confirm that needs projected for career and technical
22 and adult educational programs comply with needs documented by
23 the Office of Workforce and Economic Development; compare new
24 facility inventory to allocations limits as provided in this
25 chapter; review cost projections for conformity with state
26 averages or limits designated by this chapter; compare student
27 enrollment projections in the survey to the department's
28 projections; review facilities lists to verify that area
29 allocations and space factors for generating space needs do
30 not exceed the limits as provided by this chapter and related
31 rules; confirm the application of facility utilization factors

1 as provided by this chapter and related rules; and review, as
2 submitted, documentation of how survey recommendations will
3 implement the detail of current campus master plans and
4 integrate with local comprehensive plans and development
5 regulations.

6 (b) Recommend priority of projects to be funded for
7 approval by the state board, when required by law.

8 (11) Prepare the commissioner's comprehensive fixed
9 capital outlay legislative budget request and provide annually
10 an estimate of the funds available for developing required
11 3-year priority lists. This amount shall be based upon the
12 average percentage for the 5 prior years of funds appropriated
13 by the Legislature for fixed capital outlay to each level of
14 public education: public schools, community colleges, and
15 universities.

16 (12) Perform any other functions that may be involved
17 in educational facilities construction and capital improvement
18 which shall ensure that the intent of the Legislature is
19 implemented.

20 Section 796. Section 1013.04, Florida Statutes, is
21 created to read:

22 1013.04 School district facilities work program
23 performance and productivity standards; development;
24 measurement; application.--

25 (1) The Office of Educational Facilities and SMART
26 Schools Clearinghouse shall develop and adopt measures for
27 evaluating the performance and productivity of school district
28 facilities work programs. The measures may be both
29 quantitative and qualitative and must, to the maximum extent
30 practical, assess those factors that are within the districts'
31

1 control. The measures must, at a minimum, assess performance
2 in the following areas:
3 (a) Frugal production of high-quality projects.
4 (b) Efficient finance and administration.
5 (c) Optimal school and classroom size and utilization
6 rate.
7 (d) Safety.
8 (e) Core facility space needs and cost-effective
9 capacity improvements that consider demographic projections.
10 (f) Level of district local effort.
11 (2) The office shall establish annual performance
12 objectives and standards that can be used to evaluate district
13 performance and productivity.
14 (3) The office shall conduct ongoing evaluations of
15 district educational facilities program performance and
16 productivity, using the measures adopted under this section.
17 If, using these measures, the office finds that a district
18 failed to perform satisfactorily, the office must recommend to
19 the district school board actions to be taken to improve the
20 district's performance.
21 Section 797. Section 1013.05, Florida Statutes, is
22 created to read:
23 1013.05 Office of Educational Facilities and SMART
24 (Soundly Made, Accountable, Reasonable, and Thrifty) Schools
25 Clearinghouse.--
26 (1) The SMART Schools Clearinghouse is established to
27 assist school districts that seek to access School
28 Infrastructure Thrift (SIT) Program awards pursuant to ss.
29 1013.42 and 1013.72 or effort index grants pursuant to s.
30 1013.73. The office must use expedited procedures in providing
31 such assistance.

1 (2) The office shall prioritize school district SIT
2 Program awards based on a review of the district facilities
3 work programs and proposed construction projects.

4 Section 798. Part II of chapter 1013, Florida
5 Statutes, shall be entitled "Use and Management of Educational
6 Facilities" and shall consist of ss. 1013.10-1013.28.

7 Section 799. Section 1013.10, Florida Statutes, is
8 created to read:

9 1013.10 Use of buildings and grounds.--The board may
10 permit the use of educational facilities and grounds for any
11 legal assembly or for community use centers or may permit the
12 same to be used as voting places in any primary, regular, or
13 special election. The board shall adopt rules or policies and
14 procedures necessary to protect educational facilities and
15 grounds when used for such purposes.

16 Section 800. Section 1013.11, Florida Statutes, is
17 created to read:

18 1013.11 Postsecondary institutions assessment of
19 physical plant safety.--The president of each postsecondary
20 institution shall conduct or cause to be conducted an annual
21 assessment of physical plant safety. An annual report shall
22 incorporate the findings obtained through such assessment and
23 recommendations for the improvement of safety on each campus.
24 The annual report shall be submitted to the respective
25 governing or licensing board of jurisdiction no later than
26 January 1 of each year. Each board shall compile the
27 individual institutional reports and convey the aggregate
28 institutional reports to the Commissioner of Education. The
29 Commissioner of Education shall convey these reports and the
30 reports required in s. 1008.48 to the President of the Senate
31

1 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives no later than
2 March 1 of each year.

3 Section 801. Section 1013.12, Florida Statutes, is
4 created to read:

5 1013.12 Safety and sanitation standards and inspection
6 of property.--The State Board of Education shall adopt and
7 administer rules prescribing standards for the safety and
8 health of occupants of educational and ancillary plants as a
9 part of State Requirements for Educational Facilities or the
10 Florida Building Code for educational facilities construction
11 as provided in s. 1013.37, the provisions of chapter 633 to
12 the contrary notwithstanding. These standards must be used by
13 all public agencies when inspecting public educational and
14 ancillary plants. In accordance with such standards, each
15 board shall prescribe policies and procedures establishing a
16 comprehensive program of safety and sanitation for the
17 protection of occupants of public educational and ancillary
18 plants. Such policies must contain procedures for periodic
19 inspections as prescribed herein and for withdrawal of any
20 educational and ancillary plant, or portion thereof, from use
21 until unsafe or unsanitary conditions are corrected or
22 removed.

23 (1) PERIODIC INSPECTION OF PROPERTY BY DISTRICT SCHOOL
24 BOARDS.--

25 (a) Each board shall provide for periodic inspection
26 of each educational and ancillary plant at least once during
27 each fiscal year to determine compliance with standards of
28 sanitation and casualty safety prescribed in the rules of the
29 State Board of Education.

30 (b) Firesafety inspections of each educational and
31 ancillary plant must be made annually by persons certified by

1 the Division of State Fire Marshal to be eligible to conduct
2 firesafety inspections in public educational and ancillary
3 plants.

4 (c) In each firesafety inspection report, the board
5 shall include a plan of action and a schedule for the
6 correction of each deficiency. If immediate life-threatening
7 deficiencies are noted in any inspection, the board shall
8 either take action to promptly correct the deficiencies or
9 withdraw the educational or ancillary plant from use until
10 such time as the deficiencies are corrected.

11 (2) INSPECTION OF EDUCATIONAL PROPERTY BY OTHER PUBLIC
12 AGENCIES.--

13 (a) A safety or sanitation inspection of any
14 educational or ancillary plant may be made at any time by the
15 Department of Education or any other state or local agency
16 authorized or required to conduct such inspections by either
17 general or special law. Each agency conducting inspections
18 shall use the standards adopted by the Commissioner of
19 Education in lieu of, and to the exclusion of, any other
20 inspection standards prescribed either by statute or
21 administrative rule, the provisions of chapter 633 to the
22 contrary notwithstanding. The agency shall submit a copy of
23 the inspection report to the board.

24 (b) In addition to district school board inspections,
25 the applicable local fire control authority shall also
26 annually inspect district school board educational facilities
27 within its fire control district, using the standards adopted
28 by the Commissioner of Education. Reports shall be filed with
29 the district school board, and a copy shall be on file with
30 the local site administrator.

31

1 (3) CORRECTIVE ACTION.--Upon failure of the board to
2 take corrective action within a reasonable time, the agency
3 making the inspection may request the commissioner to:

4 (a) Order that appropriate action be taken to correct
5 all deficiencies in accordance with a schedule determined
6 jointly by the inspecting authority and the board; in
7 developing the schedule, consideration must be given to the
8 seriousness of the deficiencies and the ability of the board
9 to obtain the necessary funds; or

10 (b) After 30 calendar days' notice to the board, order
11 all or a portion of the educational or ancillary plant
12 withdrawn from use until the deficiencies are corrected.

13 (4) INSPECTIONS OF PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION
14 FACILITIES.--Firesafety inspections of community college and
15 university facilities shall comply with State Board of
16 Education rules.

17 Section 802. Section 1013.13, Florida Statutes, is
18 created to read:

19 1013.13 Coordination of school safety information;
20 construction design documents.--

21 (1) Each district school superintendent must provide
22 to the law enforcement agency and fire department that has
23 jurisdiction over each educational facility a copy of the
24 floor plans and other relevant documents for each educational
25 facility in the district, as defined in s. 1013.01. After the
26 initial submission of the floor plans and other relevant
27 documents, the district superintendent of schools shall
28 submit, by October 1 of each year, revised floor plans and
29 other relevant documents for each educational facility in the
30 district that was modified during the preceding year.

31

1 (2) Each community college president must provide to
2 the law enforcement agency and fire department that has
3 jurisdiction over the community college a copy of the floor
4 plans and other relevant documents for each educational
5 facility as defined in s. 1013.01. After the initial
6 submission of the floor plans and other relevant documents,
7 the community college president shall submit, by October 1 of
8 each year, revised floor plans and other relevant documents
9 for each educational facility that was modified during the
10 preceding year.

11 Section 803. Section 1013.14, Florida Statutes, is
12 created to read:

13 1013.14 Proposed purchase of real property by a board;
14 confidentiality of records; procedure.--

15 (1)(a) In any case in which a board, pursuant to the
16 provisions of this chapter, seeks to acquire by purchase any
17 real property for educational purposes, every appraisal,
18 offer, or counteroffer must be in writing and is exempt from
19 the provisions of s. 119.07(1) until an option contract is
20 executed or, if no option contract is executed, until 30 days
21 before a contract or agreement for purchase is considered for
22 approval by the board. If a contract or agreement for purchase
23 is not submitted to the board for approval, the exemption from
24 s. 119.07(1) shall expire 30 days after the termination of
25 negotiations. The board shall maintain complete and accurate
26 records of every such appraisal, offer, and counteroffer. For
27 the purposes of this section, the term "option contract" means
28 an agreement by the board to purchase a piece of property,
29 subject to the approval of the board at a public meeting after
30 30 days' public notice.

31

1 (b) Prior to acquisition of the property, the board
2 shall obtain at least one appraisal by an appraiser approved
3 pursuant to s. 253.025(6)(b) for each purchase in an amount
4 greater than \$100,000 and not more than \$500,000. For each
5 purchase in an amount in excess of \$500,000, the board shall
6 obtain at least two appraisals by appraisers approved pursuant
7 to s. 253.025(6)(b). If the agreed to purchase price exceeds
8 the average appraised value, the board is required to approve
9 the purchase by an extraordinary vote.

10 (2) Nothing in this section shall be interpreted as
11 providing an exemption from, or an exception to, s. 286.011.

12 Section 804. Section 1013.15, Florida Statutes, is
13 created to read:

14 1013.15 Lease, rental, and lease-purchase of
15 educational facilities and sites.--

16 (1) A board may lease any land, facilities, or
17 educational plants owned by it to any person or entity for
18 such term, for such rent, and upon such terms and conditions
19 as the board determines to be in its best interests; any such
20 lease may provide for the optional or binding purchase of the
21 land, facilities, or educational plants by the lessee upon
22 such terms and conditions as the board determines are in its
23 best interests. A determination that any such land, facility,
24 or educational plant so leased is unnecessary for educational
25 purposes is not a prerequisite to the leasing or
26 lease-purchase of such land, facility, or educational plant.
27 Prior to entering into or executing any such lease, a board
28 shall consider approval of the lease or lease-purchase
29 agreement at a public meeting, at which a copy of the proposed
30 agreement in its final form shall be available for inspection
31 and review by the public, after due notice as required by law.

1 (2)(a) A district school board may rent or lease
2 educational facilities and sites as defined in s. 1013.01.
3 Educational facilities and sites rented or leased for 1 year
4 or less shall be funded through the operations budget or funds
5 derived from millage proceeds pursuant to s. 1011.71(2). A
6 lease contract for 1 year or less, when extended or renewed
7 beyond a year, becomes a multiple-year lease. Operational
8 funds or funds derived from millage proceeds pursuant to s.
9 1011.71(2) may be authorized to be expended for multiple-year
10 leases. All leased facilities and sites must be inspected
11 prior to occupancy by the authority having jurisdiction.

12 1. All newly leased spaces must be inspected and
13 brought into compliance with the Florida Building Code
14 pursuant to chapter 553 and the life safety codes pursuant to
15 chapter 633, prior to occupancy, using the board's operations
16 budget or funds derived from millage proceeds pursuant to s.
17 1011.71(2).

18 2. Plans for renovation or remodeling of leased space
19 shall conform to the Florida Building Code and the Florida
20 Fire Prevention Code for educational occupancies or other
21 occupancies, as appropriate and as required in chapters 553
22 and 633, prior to occupancy.

23 3. All leased facilities must be inspected annually
24 for firesafety deficiencies in accordance with the applicable
25 code and have corrections made in accordance with s. 1013.12.
26 Operational funds or funds derived from millage proceeds
27 pursuant to s. 1011.71(2) may be used to correct deficiencies
28 in leased space.

29 4. When the board declares that a public emergency
30 exists, it may take up to 30 days to bring the leased facility
31

1 into compliance with the requirements of State Board of
2 Education rules.

3 (b) A board is authorized to lease-purchase
4 educational facilities and sites as defined in s. 1013.01. The
5 lease-purchase of educational facilities and sites shall be as
6 required by s. 1013.37, shall be advertised for and receive
7 competitive proposals and be awarded to the best proposer, and
8 shall be funded using current or other funds specifically
9 authorized by law to be used for such purpose.

10 1. A district school board, by itself, or through a
11 direct-support organization formed pursuant to s. 1013.77 or
12 nonprofit educational organization or a consortium of district
13 school boards, may, in developing a lease-purchase of
14 educational facilities and sites provide for separately
15 advertising for and receiving competitive bids or proposals on
16 the construction of facilities and the selection of financing
17 to provide the lowest cost funding available, so long as the
18 board determines that such process would best serve the public
19 interest and the pledged revenues are limited to those
20 authorized in s. 1011.71(2)(e).

21 2. All activities and information, including lists of
22 individual participants, associated with agreements made
23 pursuant to this section shall be subject to the provisions of
24 chapter 119 and s. 286.011.

25 (c)1. The term of any lease-purchase agreement,
26 including the initial term and any subsequent renewals, shall
27 not exceed the useful life of the educational facilities and
28 sites for which the agreement is made, or 30 years, whichever
29 is less.

30 2. The initial term or any renewal term of any
31 lease-purchase agreement shall expire on June 30 of each

1 fiscal year, but may be automatically renewed annually,
2 subject to a board making sufficient annual appropriations
3 therefor. Under no circumstances shall the failure of a board
4 to renew a lease-purchase agreement constitute a default or
5 require payment of any penalty or in any way limit the right
6 of a board to purchase or utilize educational facilities and
7 sites similar in function to the educational facilities and
8 sites that are the subject of the said lease-purchase
9 agreement. Educational facilities and sites being acquired
10 pursuant to a lease-purchase agreement shall be exempt from ad
11 valorem taxation.

12 3. No lease-purchase agreement entered into pursuant
13 to this subsection shall constitute a debt, liability, or
14 obligation of the state or a board or shall be a pledge of the
15 faith and credit of the state or a board.

16 4. Any lease-purchase agreement entered into pursuant
17 to this subsection shall stipulate an annual rate which may
18 consist of a principal component and an interest component,
19 provided that the maximum interest rate of any interest
20 component payable under any such lease-purchase agreement, or
21 any participation or certificated portion thereof, shall be
22 calculated in accordance with and be governed by the
23 provisions of s. 215.84.

24 (3) Lease agreements entered into by university boards
25 of trustees shall comply with the provisions of s. 1013.171.

26 (4)(a) A board may rent or lease existing buildings,
27 or space within existing buildings, originally constructed or
28 used for purposes other than education, for conversion to use
29 as educational facilities. Such buildings rented or leased for
30 1 year or less shall be funded through the operations budget
31 or funds derived from millage pursuant to s. 1011.71(2). A

1 rental agreement or lease contract for 1 year or less, when
2 extended or renewed beyond a year, becomes a multiple-year
3 rental or lease. Operational funds or funds derived from
4 millage proceeds pursuant to s. 1011.71(2) may be authorized
5 to be expended for multiple-year rentals or leases.
6 Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, if a
7 building was constructed in conformance with all applicable
8 building and life safety codes, it shall be deemed to meet the
9 requirements for use and occupancy as an educational facility
10 subject only to the provisions of this subsection.

11 (b) Prior to occupying a rented or a leased existing
12 building, or space within an existing building, pursuant to
13 this subsection, a school board shall, in a public meeting,
14 adopt a resolution certifying that the following circumstances
15 apply to the building proposed for occupancy:

16 1. Growth among the school-age population in the
17 school district has created a need for new educational
18 facilities in a neighborhood where there is little or no
19 vacant land.

20 2. There exists a supply of vacant space in existing
21 buildings that meet state minimum building and life safety
22 codes.

23 3. Acquisition and conversion to use as educational
24 facilities of an existing building or buildings is a
25 cost-saving means of providing the needed classroom space as
26 determined by the difference between the cost of new
27 construction, including land acquisition and preparation and,
28 if applicable, demolition of existing structures, and the cost
29 of acquisition through rental or lease and conversion of an
30 existing building or buildings.

31

1 4. The building has been examined for suitability,
2 safety, and conformance with state minimum building and life
3 safety codes. The building examination shall consist, at a
4 minimum, of a review of existing documents, building site
5 reconnaissance, and analysis of the building conducted by, or
6 under the responsible charge of, a licensed structural
7 engineer.

8 5. A certificate of evaluation has been issued by an
9 appropriately licensed design professional which states that,
10 based on available documents, building site reconnaissance,
11 current knowledge, and design judgment in the professional's
12 opinion, the building meets the requirements of state minimum
13 building and life safety codes, provides safe egress of
14 occupants from the building, provides adequate firesafety, and
15 does not pose a substantial threat to life to persons who
16 would occupy the building for classroom use.

17 6. The plans for conversion of the building were
18 prepared by an appropriate design professional licensed in
19 this state and the work of conversion was performed by
20 contractors licensed in this state.

21 7. The conversion of the building was observed by an
22 appropriate design professional licensed in this state.

23 8. The building has been reviewed, inspected, and
24 granted a certificate of occupancy by the local building
25 department.

26 9. All ceilings, light fixtures, ducts, and registers
27 within the area to be occupied for classroom purposes were
28 constructed or have been reconstructed to meet state minimum
29 requirements.

30 Section 805. Section 1013.16, Florida Statutes, is
31 created to read:

1 1013.16 Construction of facilities on leased property;
2 conditions.--

3 (1) A board may construct or place educational
4 facilities and ancillary facilities on land that is owned by
5 any person after the board has acquired from the owner of the
6 land a long-term lease for the use of this land for a period
7 of not less than 40 years or the life expectancy of the
8 permanent facilities constructed thereon, whichever is longer.

9 (2) A board may enter into a short-term lease for the
10 use of land owned by any person on which temporary or
11 relocatable facilities are to be utilized.

12 Section 806. Section 1013.17, Florida Statutes, is
13 created to read:

14 1013.17 University leasing in affiliated research and
15 development park.--A university is exempt from the
16 requirements of s. 255.25(3), (4), and (8) when leasing
17 educational facilities in a research and development park with
18 which the university is affiliated and when the State Board of
19 Education certifies in writing that the leasing of said
20 educational facilities is in the best interests of the
21 university and that the exemption from competitive bid
22 requirements would not be detrimental to the state.

23 Section 807. Section 1013.171, Florida Statutes, is
24 created to read:

25 1013.171 University lease agreements; land,
26 facilities.--

27 (1) Each university is authorized to negotiate and
28 enter into agreements to lease land under its jurisdiction to
29 for-profit and nonprofit corporations, registered by the
30 Secretary of State to do business in this state, for the
31 purpose of erecting thereon facilities and accommodations

1 necessary and desirable to serve the needs and purposes of the
2 university, as determined by the systemwide strategic plan
3 adopted by the State Board of Education. Such agreement will
4 be for a term not in excess of 99 years or the life expectancy
5 of the permanent facilities constructed thereon, whichever is
6 shorter, and shall include as a part of the consideration
7 provisions for the eventual ownership of the completed
8 facilities by the state. The Board of Trustees of the Internal
9 Improvement Trust Fund upon request of the university shall
10 lease any such property to the university for sublease as
11 heretofore provided.

12 (2) Each university board of trustees is authorized to
13 enter into agreements with for-profit and nonprofit
14 corporations, registered by the Secretary of State to do
15 business in this state, whereby income-producing buildings,
16 improvements, and facilities necessary and desirable to serve
17 the needs and purposes of the university, as determined by the
18 systemwide strategic plan adopted by the State Board of
19 Education, are acquired by purchase or lease-purchase by the
20 university. When such agreements provide for lease-purchase of
21 facilities erected on land that is not under the jurisdiction
22 of the university, the agreement shall include as a part of
23 the consideration provisions for the eventual ownership of the
24 land and facility by the state. Agreements for lease-purchase
25 shall not exceed 30 years or the life expectancy of the
26 permanent facility constructed, whichever is shorter.
27 Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, the
28 university board of trustees may enter into an agreement for
29 the lease-purchase of a facility under this section for a term
30 greater than 1 year. Each university board of trustees is
31 authorized to use any auxiliary trust funds, available and not

1 otherwise obligated, to pay rent to the owner should income
2 from the facilities not be sufficient in any debt payment
3 period. The trust funds used for payment of rent shall be
4 reimbursed as soon as possible to the extent that income from
5 the facilities exceeds the amount necessary for such debt
6 payment.

7 (3) Each university board of trustees may:
8 (a) Construct educational facilities on land that is
9 owned by a direct-support organization, as defined in s.
10 1004.28, or a governmental agency at the federal, state,
11 county, or municipal level, if the university has acquired a
12 long-term lease for the use of the land. The lease must be for
13 at least 40 years or the expected time the facilities to be
14 constructed on the land are expected to remain in a condition
15 acceptable for use, whichever is longer.

16 (b) Acquire a short-term lease from one of the
17 entities listed in paragraph (a) for the use of land, if
18 adequate temporary or relocatable facilities are available on
19 the land.

20 (c) Enter into a short-term lease for the use of land
21 and buildings upon which capital improvements may be made.

22
23 If sufficient land is not available from any of the entities
24 listed in paragraph (a), a university may acquire a short-term
25 lease from a private landowner or developer.

26 (4) Agreements as provided in this section shall be
27 entered into with an offeror resulting from publicly announced
28 competitive bids or proposals, except that the university may
29 enter into an agreement with an entity enumerated in paragraph
30 (3)(a) for leasing land or with a direct-support organization
31 as provided in s. 1004.28, which shall enter into subsequent

1 agreements for financing and constructing the project after
2 receiving competitive bids or proposals. Any facility
3 constructed, lease-purchased, or purchased under such
4 agreements, whether erected on land under the jurisdiction of
5 the university or not, shall conform to the construction
6 standards and codes applicable to university facilities. Each
7 university board of trustees shall adopt such rules as are
8 necessary to carry out its duties and responsibilities imposed
9 by this section.

10 (5) Agreements executed by the State Board of
11 Education prior to January 1, 1980, for the purposes listed
12 herein shall be validated, and said board's capacity to act in
13 such cases ratified and confirmed.

14 Section 808. Section 1013.18, Florida Statutes, is
15 created to read:

16 1013.18 Radio and television facilities.--

17 (1) A board may acquire, by purchase, license,
18 permanent easement, or gift, suitable lands and other
19 facilities, either within or without the boundaries of the
20 district, for use in providing educational radio or television
21 transmitting sites and may erect such buildings, antennas,
22 transmission equipment, towers, or other structures as are
23 necessary to accomplish the purposes of this section.

24 (2) Fixed capital outlay budget requests for public
25 broadcasting stations and instructional television and radio
26 facilities shall be submitted pursuant to s. 1013.60. The
27 commissioner may include any recommendations for these
28 purposes in the legislative budget request for fixed capital
29 outlay.

30 Section 809. Section 1013.19, Florida Statutes, is
31 created to read:

1 1013.19 Purchase, conveyance, or encumbrance of
2 property interests above surface of land; joint-occupancy
3 structures.--For the purpose of implementing jointly financed
4 construction project agreements, or for the construction of
5 combined occupancy structures, any board may purchase, own,
6 convey, sell, lease, or encumber airspace or any other
7 interests in property above the surface of the land, provided
8 the lease of airspace for nonpublic use is for such reasonable
9 rent, length of term, and conditions as the board in its
10 discretion may determine. All proceeds from such sale or lease
11 shall be used by the board or boards receiving the proceeds
12 solely for fixed capital outlay purposes. These purposes may
13 include the renovation or remodeling of existing facilities
14 owned by the board or the construction of new facilities;
15 however, for a community college board or university board,
16 such new facility must be authorized by the Legislature. It is
17 declared that the use of such rental by the board for public
18 purposes in accordance with its statutory authority is a
19 public use. Airspace or any other interest in property held by
20 the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund
21 or the State Board of Education may not be divested or
22 conveyed without approval of the respective board. Any
23 building, including any building or facility component that is
24 common to both nonpublic and educational portions thereof,
25 constructed in airspace that is sold or leased for nonpublic
26 use pursuant to this section is subject to all applicable
27 state, county, and municipal regulations pertaining to land
28 use, zoning, construction of buildings, fire protection,
29 health, and safety to the same extent and in the same manner
30 as such regulations would be applicable to the construction of
31 a building for nonpublic use on the appurtenant land beneath

1 the subject airspace. Any educational facility constructed or
2 leased as a part of a joint-occupancy facility is subject to
3 all rules and requirements of the respective boards or
4 departments having jurisdiction over educational facilities.

5 Section 810. Effective upon this act becoming a law,
6 section 1013.20, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

7 1013.20 Standards for relocatables used as classroom
8 space; inspections.--

9 (1) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
10 establishing standards for relocatables intended for long-term
11 use as classroom space at a public elementary school, middle
12 school, or high school. "Long-term use" means the use of
13 relocatables at the same educational plant for a period of 4
14 years or more. Each relocatable acquired by a district school
15 board after the effective date of the rules and intended for
16 long-term use must comply with the standards. District school
17 boards shall submit a plan for the use of existing
18 relocatables within the 5-year work program to be reviewed and
19 approved by the commissioner by January 1, 2003. A progress
20 report shall be provided by the commissioner to the Speaker of
21 the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate
22 each January thereafter. Relocatables that fail to meet the
23 standards after completion of the approved plan may not be
24 used as classrooms. The standards shall protect the health,
25 safety, and welfare of occupants by requiring compliance with
26 the Florida Building Code or the State Requirements for
27 Educational Facilities for existing relocatables, as
28 applicable, to ensure the safety and stability of construction
29 and onsite installation; fire and moisture protection; air
30 quality and ventilation; appropriate wind resistance; and
31 compliance with the requirements of the Americans with

1 Disabilities Act of 1990. If appropriate and where
2 relocatables are not scheduled for replacement, the standards
3 must also require relocatables to provide access to the same
4 technologies available to similar classrooms within the main
5 school facility and, if appropriate, and where relocatables
6 are not scheduled for replacement, to be accessible by
7 adequate covered walkways. A relocatable that is subject to
8 this section and does not meet the standards shall not be
9 reported as providing satisfactory student stations in the
10 Florida Inventory of School Houses.

11 (2) Annual inspections for all satisfactory
12 relocatables designed for classroom use or being occupied by
13 students are required for: foundations; tie-downs; structural
14 integrity; weatherproofing; HVAC; electrical; plumbing, if
15 applicable; firesafety; and accessibility. Reports shall be
16 filed with the district school board and posted in each
17 respective relocatable in order to facilitate corrective
18 action.

19 Section 811. Section 1013.21, Florida Statutes, is
20 created to read:

21 1013.21 Reduction of relocatable facilities in use.--

22 (1)(a) It is a goal of the Legislature that all school
23 districts shall provide a quality educational environment for
24 their students such that, by July 1, 2003, student stations in
25 relocatable facilities exceeding 20 years of age and in use by
26 a district during the 1998-1999 fiscal year shall be removed
27 and the number of all other relocatable student stations at
28 over-capacity schools during that fiscal year shall be
29 decreased by half. The Legislature finds, however, that
30 necessary maintenance of existing facilities and public school
31 enrollment growth impair the ability of some districts to

1 achieve the goal of this section within 5 years. Therefore,
2 the Legislature is increasing its commitment to school funding
3 in this act, in part to help districts reduce the number of
4 temporary, relocatable student stations at over-capacity
5 schools. The Legislature intends that local school districts
6 also increase their investment toward meeting this goal. Each
7 district's progress toward meeting this goal shall be measured
8 annually by comparing district facilities work programs for
9 replacing relocatables with the state capital outlay
10 projections for education prepared by the Office of
11 Educational Facilities and SMART Schools Clearinghouse.
12 District facilities work programs shall be monitored by the
13 SMART Schools Clearinghouse to measure the commitment of local
14 school districts toward this goal.

15 (b) For the purposes of this section, an
16 "over-capacity school" means a school the capital outlay FTE
17 enrollment of which exceeds 100 percent of the space and
18 occupant design capacity of its nonrelocatable facilities.
19 However, if a school's initial design incorporated relocatable
20 or modular instructional space, an "over-capacity school"
21 shall mean a school the capital outlay FTE enrollment of which
22 exceeds 100 percent of the space and occupant design capacity
23 of its core facilities.

24 (2) In accordance with the legislative goal described
25 in subsection (1), any relocatables purchased with money
26 appropriated pursuant to chapter 97-384, Laws of Florida,
27 shall be counted at actual student capacity for purposes of s.
28 1013.31 for the life cycle of the relocatable.

29 Section 812. Section 1013.22, Florida Statutes, is
30 created to read:
31

1 1013.22 Obscenity on educational buildings or
2 vehicles.--Whoever willfully cuts, paints, pastes, marks, or
3 defaces by writing or in any other manner any educational
4 building, furniture, apparatus, appliance, outbuilding,
5 ground, fence, tree, post, vehicle, or other educational
6 property with an obscene word, image, or device commits a
7 misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s.
8 775.082 or s. 775.083. This section shall not apply to any
9 student in grades K-12 subject to the discipline of a district
10 school board.

11 Section 813. Section 1013.23, Florida Statutes, is
12 created to read:

13 1013.23 Energy efficiency contracting.--

14 (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.--The Legislature finds that
15 investment in energy conservation measures in educational
16 facilities can reduce the amount of energy consumed and
17 produce immediate and long-term savings. It is the policy of
18 this state to encourage school districts, state community
19 colleges, and state universities to invest in energy
20 conservation measures that reduce energy consumption, produce
21 a cost savings, and improve the quality of indoor air in
22 facilities, and, when economically feasible, to build,
23 operate, maintain, or renovate educational facilities in such
24 a manner so as to minimize energy consumption and maximize
25 energy savings. It is further the policy of this state to
26 encourage school districts, state community colleges, and
27 state universities to reinvest any energy savings resulting
28 from energy conservation measures into additional energy
29 conservation efforts.

30 (2) DEFINITIONS.--For purposes of this section, the
31 term:

- 1 (a) "Energy conservation measure" means a training
2 program, facility alteration, or equipment to be used in new
3 construction, including an addition to an existing facility,
4 that reduces energy costs, and includes, but is not limited
5 to:
- 6 1. Insulation of the facility structure and systems
7 within the facility.
 - 8 2. Storm windows and doors, caulking or
9 weatherstripping, multiglazed windows and doors,
10 heat-absorbing, or heat-reflective, glazed and coated window
11 and door systems, additional glazing, reductions in glass
12 area, and other window and door system modifications that
13 reduce energy consumption.
 - 14 3. Automatic energy control systems.
 - 15 4. Heating, ventilating, or air-conditioning system
16 modifications or replacements.
 - 17 5. Replacement or modifications of lighting fixtures
18 to increase the energy efficiency of the lighting system
19 which, at a minimum, shall conform to the Florida Building
20 Code.
 - 21 6. Energy recovery systems.
 - 22 7. Cogeneration systems that produce steam or forms of
23 energy such as heat, as well as electricity, for use primarily
24 within a facility or complex of facilities.
 - 25 8. Energy conservation measures that provide long-term
26 operating cost reductions and significantly reduce Btu
27 consumed.
 - 28 9. Renewable energy systems, such as solar, biomass,
29 and wind.
 - 30 10. Devices which reduce water consumption or sewer
31 charges.

- 1 (b) "Energy cost savings" means:
- 2 1. A measured reduction in fuel, energy, or operation
3 and maintenance costs created from the implementation of one
4 or more energy conservation measures when compared with an
5 established baseline for previous fuel, energy, or operation
6 and maintenance costs; or
- 7 2. For new construction, a projected reduction in
8 fuel, energy, or operation and maintenance costs created from
9 the implementation of one or more energy conservation measures
10 when compared with the projected fuel, energy, or operation
11 and maintenance costs for equipment if the minimum standards
12 of the Florida Building Code for educational facilities
13 construction were implemented and signed and sealed by a
14 registered professional engineer.
- 15 (c) "Energy performance-based contract" means a
16 contract for the evaluation, recommendation, and
17 implementation of energy conservation measures which includes,
18 at a minimum:
- 19 1. The design and installation of equipment to
20 implement one or more of such measures, and, if applicable,
21 operation and maintenance of such measures.
- 22 2. The amount of any actual annual savings. This
23 amount must meet or exceed total annual contract payments made
24 by the school, state community college, or state university
25 for such contract.
- 26 3. Financing charges to be incurred by the school,
27 state community college, or state university over the life of
28 the contract.
- 29 (d) "Energy performance contractor" means a person or
30 business licensed pursuant to chapter 471, chapter 481, or
31 chapter 489 and experienced in the analysis, design,

1 implementation, and installation of energy conservation
2 measures through the implementation of energy
3 performance-based contracts.

4 (3) ENERGY PERFORMANCE-BASED CONTRACT PROCEDURES.--

5 (a) A school district, state community college, or
6 state university may enter into an energy performance-based
7 contract with an energy performance contractor to
8 significantly reduce energy or operating costs of an
9 educational facility through one or more energy conservation
10 measures.

11 (b) The energy performance contractor shall be
12 selected in compliance with s. 287.055; except that in a case
13 where a school district, state community college, or state
14 university determines that fewer than three firms are
15 qualified to perform the required services, the requirement
16 for agency selection of three firms, as provided in s.
17 287.055(4)(b), shall not apply and the bid requirements of s.
18 287.057 shall not apply.

19 (c) Before entering into a contract pursuant to this
20 section, the district school board, state community college,
21 or state university shall provide published notice of the
22 meeting in which it proposes to award the contract, the names
23 of the parties to the proposed contract, and the contract's
24 purpose.

25 (d) Prior to the design and installation of the energy
26 conservation measure, the school district, state community
27 college, or state university must obtain from the energy
28 performance contractor a report that discloses all costs
29 associated with the energy conservation measure and provides
30 an estimate of the amount of the energy cost savings. The
31 report must be reviewed by either the Department of Education

1 or the Department of Management Services or signed and sealed
2 by a registered professional engineer.

3 (e) A school district, state community college, or
4 state university may enter into an energy performance-based
5 contract with an energy performance contractor if, after
6 review of the report required by paragraph (d), it finds that
7 the amount it would spend on the energy conservation measures
8 recommended in the report will not exceed the amount to be
9 saved in energy and operation costs over 20 years from the
10 date of installation, based on life-cycle costing
11 calculations, if the recommendations in the report were
12 followed and if the energy performance contractor provides a
13 written guarantee that the energy or operating cost savings
14 will meet or exceed the costs of the system. The contract may
15 provide for payments over a period of time not to exceed 20
16 years.

17 (f) A school district, state community college, or
18 state university may enter into an installment payment
19 contract for the purchase and installation of energy
20 conservation measures. The contract shall provide for
21 payments of not less than one-twentieth of the price to be
22 paid within 2 years from the date of the complete installation
23 and acceptance by the school board, state community college,
24 or state university, and the remaining costs to be paid at
25 least quarterly, not to exceed a 20-year term based on
26 life-cycle costing calculations.

27 (g) Energy performance-based contracts may extend
28 beyond the fiscal year in which they become effective;
29 however, the term of any contract shall expire at the end of
30 each fiscal year and may be automatically renewed annually up
31 to 20 years, subject to a school board, state community

1 college, or state university making sufficient annual
2 appropriations based upon continued realized energy cost
3 savings. Such contracts shall stipulate that the agreement
4 does not constitute a debt, liability, or obligation of the
5 state or a school board, state community college, or state
6 university, or a pledge of the faith and credit of the state
7 or a school board, state community college, or state
8 university.

9 (4) CONTRACT PROVISIONS.--

10 (a) An energy performance-based contract shall include
11 a guarantee by the energy performance contractor that annual
12 energy cost savings will meet or exceed the amortized cost of
13 energy conservation measures.

14 (b) The contract shall provide that all payments,
15 except obligations on termination of the contract before its
16 expiration, are to be made over time, but not to exceed 20
17 years from the date of complete installation and acceptance by
18 the school board, state community college, or state
19 university, and that the annual savings are guaranteed to the
20 extent necessary to make annual payments to satisfy the
21 contract.

22 (c) The contract must require that the energy
23 performance contractor to whom the contract is awarded provide
24 a 100-percent public construction bond to the school district,
25 state community college, or state university for its faithful
26 performance, as required by s. 255.05.

27 (d) The contract shall require the energy performance
28 contractor to provide to the school district, state community
29 college, or state university an annual reconciliation of the
30 guaranteed energy cost savings. The energy performance
31 contractor shall be liable for any annual savings shortfall

1 which may occur. In the event that such reconciliation reveals
2 an excess in annual energy cost savings, such excess savings
3 shall not be used to cover potential energy cost savings
4 shortages in subsequent contract years.

5 Section 814. Section 1013.24, Florida Statutes, is
6 created to read:

7 1013.24 Right of eminent domain.--There is conferred
8 upon the district school boards in the state the authority and
9 right to take private property for any public school purpose
10 or use when, in the opinion of the school board, such property
11 is needed in the operation of any or all of the public schools
12 within the district, including property needed for any school
13 purpose or use in any school district or districts within the
14 county. The absolute fee simple title to all property so
15 taken and acquired shall vest in the district school board,
16 unless the school board seeks to appropriate a particular
17 right or estate in such property.

18 Section 815. Section 1013.25, Florida Statutes, is
19 created to read:

20 1013.25 When university or community college board of
21 trustees may exercise power of eminent domain.--Whenever it
22 becomes necessary for the welfare and convenience of any of
23 its institutions or divisions to acquire private property for
24 the use of such institutions, and this cannot be acquired by
25 agreement satisfactory to a university or community college
26 board of trustees and the parties interested in, or the owners
27 of, the private property, the board of trustees may exercise
28 the power of eminent domain after receiving approval therefor
29 from the State Board of Education and may then proceed to
30 condemn the property in the manner provided by chapter 73 or
31 chapter 74.

1 Section 816. Section 1013.26, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1013.26 Department of Legal Affairs to represent
4 university board in condemnation proceedings.--Any suits or
5 actions brought by a university board of trustees to condemn
6 property, as provided in s. 1013.25, shall be brought in the
7 name of the university board of trustees, and the Department
8 of Legal Affairs shall conduct the proceedings for, and act as
9 the counsel of, the university board of trustees.

10 Section 817. Section 1013.27, Florida Statutes, is
11 created to read:

12 1013.27 Purchase of land by municipality.--Any
13 municipality wherein a community college as defined by s.
14 1004.65 is situated may purchase land with municipal funds and
15 to donate and convey the land or any other land to the
16 community college board of trustees.

17 Section 818. Section 1013.28, Florida Statutes, is
18 created to read:

19 1013.28 Disposal of property.--

20 (1) REAL PROPERTY.--Subject to rules of the State
21 Board of Education, a board may dispose of any land or real
22 property that is, by resolution of the board, determined to be
23 unnecessary for educational purposes as recommended in an
24 educational plant survey. A board shall take diligent measures
25 to dispose of educational property only in the best interests
26 of the public. However, appraisals may be obtained by the
27 board prior to or simultaneously with the receipt of bids.

28 (2) TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY.--Tangible personal
29 property which has been properly classified as surplus by a
30 district school board or community college board of trustees
31 shall be disposed of in accordance with the procedure

1 established by chapter 274 and by a university board of
2 trustees by chapter 273. However, the provisions of chapter
3 274 shall not be applicable to a motor vehicle used in driver
4 education to which title is obtained for a token amount from
5 an automobile dealer or manufacturer. In such cases, the
6 disposal of the vehicle shall be as prescribed in the
7 contractual agreement between the automotive agency or
8 manufacturer and the board.

9 Section 819. Part III of chapter 1013, Florida
10 Statutes, shall be entitled "Planning and Construction of
11 Educational Facilities" and shall consist of ss.
12 1013.30-1013.54.

13 Section 820. Part III.a. of chapter 1013, Florida
14 Statutes, shall be entitled "Campus Master Plans and
15 Educational Plant Surveys" and shall consist of ss.
16 1013.30-1013.365.

17 Section 821. Section 1013.30, Florida Statutes, is
18 created to read:

19 1013.30 University campus master plans and campus
20 development agreements.--

21 (1) This section contains provisions for campus
22 planning and concurrency management that supersede the
23 requirements of part II of chapter 163, except when stated
24 otherwise in this section. These special growth management
25 provisions are adopted in recognition of the unique
26 relationship between university campuses and the local
27 governments in which they are located. While the campuses
28 provide research and educational benefits of statewide and
29 national importance, and further provide substantial
30 educational, economic, and cultural benefits to their host
31 local governments, they may also have an adverse impact on the

1 public facilities and services and natural resources of host
2 governments. On balance, however, universities should be
3 considered as vital public facilities of the state and local
4 governments. The intent of this section is to address this
5 unique relationship by providing for the preparation of campus
6 master plans and associated campus development agreements.

7 (2) As used in this section:

8 (a) "Affected local government" means a unit of local
9 government that provides public services to or is responsible
10 for maintaining facilities within a campus of an institution
11 or is directly affected by development that is proposed for a
12 campus.

13 (b) "Affected person" means a host local government;
14 an affected local government; any state, regional, or federal
15 agency; or a person who resides, owns property, or owns or
16 operates a business within the boundaries of a host local
17 government or affected local government.

18 (c) "Host local government" means a local government
19 within the jurisdiction of which all or part of a campus of an
20 institution is located, but does not include a county if no
21 part of an institution is located within its unincorporated
22 area.

23 (d) "Institution" means a university.

24 (3) Each university board of trustees shall prepare
25 and adopt a campus master plan for the university. The master
26 plan must identify general land uses and address the need for
27 and plans for provision of roads, parking, public
28 transportation, solid waste, drainage, sewer, potable water,
29 and recreation and open space during the coming 10 to 20
30 years. The plans must contain elements relating to future land
31 use, intergovernmental coordination, capital improvements,

1 recreation and open space, general infrastructure, housing,
2 and conservation. Each element must address compatibility with
3 the surrounding community. The master plan must identify
4 specific land uses, location of structures, densities and
5 intensities of use, and contain standards for onsite
6 development, site design, environmental management, and the
7 preservation of historic and archaeological resources. The
8 transportation element must address reasonable transportation
9 demand management techniques to minimize offsite impacts where
10 possible. Data and analyses on which the elements are based
11 must include, at a minimum: the characteristics of vacant
12 lands; projected impacts of development on onsite and offsite
13 infrastructure, public services, and natural resources;
14 student enrollment projections; student housing needs; and the
15 need for academic and support facilities. Master plans must be
16 updated at least every 5 years.

17 (4) Campus master plans may contain additional
18 elements at the discretion of the State Board of Education;
19 however, such elements are not subject to review under this
20 section. These additional elements may include the academic
21 mission of the institution, academic program, utilities,
22 public safety, architectural design, landscape architectural
23 design, and facilities maintenance.

24 (5) Subject to the right of the university board of
25 trustees to initiate the dispute resolution provisions of
26 subsection (8), a campus master plan must not be in conflict
27 with the comprehensive plan of the host local government and
28 the comprehensive plan of any affected local governments. A
29 campus master plan must be consistent with the state
30 comprehensive plan.

31

1 (6) Before a campus master plan is adopted, a copy of
2 the draft master plan must be sent for review to the host and
3 any affected local governments, the state land planning
4 agency, the Department of Environmental Protection, the
5 Department of Transportation, the Department of State, the
6 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and the applicable
7 water management district and regional planning council. These
8 agencies must be given 90 days after receipt of the campus
9 master plans in which to conduct their review and provide
10 comments to the university board of trustees. The commencement
11 of this review period must be advertised in newspapers of
12 general circulation within the host local government and any
13 affected local government to allow for public comment.
14 Following receipt and consideration of all comments, and the
15 holding of at least two public hearings within the host
16 jurisdiction, the university board of trustees shall adopt the
17 campus master plan. It is the intent of the Legislature that
18 the university board of trustees comply with the notice
19 requirements set forth in s. 163.3184(15) to ensure full
20 public participation in this planning process. Campus master
21 plans developed under this section are not rules and are not
22 subject to chapter 120 except as otherwise provided in this
23 section.

24 (7) Notice that the campus master plan has been
25 adopted must be forwarded within 45 days after its adoption to
26 any affected person that submitted comments on the draft
27 campus master plan. The notice must state how and where a copy
28 of the master plan may be obtained or inspected. Within 30
29 days after receipt of the notice of adoption of the campus
30 master plan, or 30 days after the date the adopted plan is
31 available for review, whichever is later, an affected person

1 who submitted comments on the draft master plan may petition
2 the university board of trustees, challenging the campus
3 master plan as not being in compliance with this section or
4 any rule adopted under this section. The petition must state
5 each objection, identify its source, and provide a recommended
6 action. A petition filed by an affected local government may
7 raise only those issues directly pertaining to the public
8 facilities or services that the affected local government
9 provides to or maintains within the campus or to the direct
10 impact that campus development would have on the affected
11 local government.

12 (8) Following receipt of a petition, the petitioning
13 party or parties and the university board of trustees shall
14 mediate the issues in dispute as follows:

15 (a) The parties have 60 days to resolve the issues in
16 dispute. Other affected parties that submitted comments on the
17 draft campus master plan must be given the opportunity to
18 participate in these and subsequent proceedings.

19 (b) If resolution of the matter cannot be achieved
20 within 60 days, the issues must be submitted to the state land
21 planning agency. The state land planning agency has 60 days to
22 hold informal hearings, if necessary, identify the issues
23 remaining in dispute, prepare a record of the proceedings, and
24 submit the matter to the Administration Commission for final
25 action. The report to the Administration Commission must list
26 each issue in dispute, describe the nature and basis for each
27 dispute, identify alternative resolutions of the dispute, and
28 make recommendations.

29 (c) After receiving the report from the state land
30 planning agency, the Administration Commission shall take
31 action to resolve the issues in dispute. In deciding upon a

1 proper resolution, the Administration Commission shall
2 consider the nature of the issues in dispute, the compliance
3 of the parties with this section, the extent of the conflict
4 between the parties, the comparative hardships, and the public
5 interest involved. If the Administration Commission
6 incorporates in its final order a term or condition that
7 specifically requires the university board of trustees or a
8 local government to amend or modify its plan, the university
9 board of trustees shall have a reasonable period of time to
10 amend or modify its plan, and a local government shall
11 initiate the required plan amendment, which shall be exempt
12 from the requirements of s. 163.3187(1). Any required
13 amendment to a local government comprehensive plan must be
14 limited in scope so as to only relate to specific impacts
15 attributable to the campus development. The final order of the
16 Administration Commission is subject to judicial review as
17 provided in s. 120.68.

18 (9) An amendment to a campus master plan must be
19 reviewed and adopted under subsections (6)-(8) if such
20 amendment, alone or in conjunction with other amendments,
21 would:

22 (a) Increase density or intensity of use of land on
23 the campus by more than 10 percent;

24 (b) Decrease the amount of natural areas, open space,
25 or buffers on the campus by more than 10 percent; or

26 (c) Rearrange land uses in a manner that will increase
27 the impact of any proposed campus development by more than 10
28 percent on a road or on another public facility or service
29 provided or maintained by the state, the county, the host
30 local government, or any affected local government.

31

1 (10) Upon adoption of a campus master plan, the
2 university board of trustees shall draft a proposed campus
3 development agreement for each local government and send it to
4 the local government within 270 days after the adoption of the
5 relevant campus master plan.

6 (11) At a minimum, each campus development agreement:

7 (a) Must identify the geographic area of the campus
8 and local government covered by the campus development
9 agreement.

10 (b) Must establish its duration, which must be at
11 least 5 years and not more than 10 years.

12 (c) Must address public facilities and services
13 including roads, sanitary sewer, solid waste, drainage,
14 potable water, parks and recreation, and public
15 transportation.

16 (d) Must, for each of the facilities and services
17 listed in paragraph (c), identify the level-of-service
18 standard established by the applicable local government,
19 identify the entity that will provide the service to the
20 campus, and describe any financial arrangements between the
21 State Board of Education and other entities relating to the
22 provision of the facility or service.

23 (e) Must, for each of the facilities and services
24 listed in paragraph (c), determine the impact of existing and
25 proposed campus development reasonably expected over the term
26 of the campus development agreement on each service or
27 facility and any deficiencies in such service or facility
28 which the proposed campus development will create or to which
29 it will contribute.

30 (f) May, if proposed by the university board of
31 trustees, address the issues prescribed in paragraphs (d) and

1 (e) with regard to additional facilities and services,
2 including, but not limited to, electricity, nonpotable water,
3 law enforcement, fire and emergency rescue, gas, and
4 telephone.

5 (g) Must, to the extent it addresses issues addressed
6 in the campus master plan and host local government
7 comprehensive plan, be consistent with the adopted campus
8 master plan and host local government comprehensive plan.

9 (12)(a) Each proposed campus development agreement
10 must clearly identify the lands to which the university board
11 of trustees intends the campus development agreement to apply.

12 (b) Such land may include:

13 1. Land to be purchased by the university board of
14 trustees and if purchased with state appropriated funds titled
15 in the name of the board of trustees of the Internal
16 Improvement Trust Fund for use by an institution over the life
17 of the campus development agreement.

18 2. Land not owned by the board of trustees of the
19 Internal Improvement Trust Fund if the university board of
20 trustees intends to undertake development activities on the
21 land during the term of the campus development agreement.

22 (c) Land owned by the Board of Trustees of the
23 Internal Improvement Trust Fund for lease to the State Board
24 of Education acting on behalf of the institution may be
25 excluded, but any development activity undertaken on excluded
26 land is subject to part II of chapter 163.

27 (13) With regard to the impact of campus development
28 on the facilities and services listed in paragraph (11)(c),
29 the following applies:

30 (a) All improvements to facilities or services which
31 are necessary to eliminate the deficiencies identified in

1 paragraph (11)(e) must be specifically listed in the campus
2 development agreement.

3 (b) The university board of trustees' fair share of
4 the cost of the measures identified in paragraph (a) must be
5 stated in the campus development agreement. In determining the
6 fair share, the effect of any demand management techniques,
7 which may include such techniques as flexible work hours and
8 carpooling, that are used by the State Board of Education to
9 minimize the offsite impacts shall be considered.

10 (c) The university board of trustees is responsible
11 for paying the fair share identified in paragraph (b), and it
12 may do so by:

13 1. Paying a fair share of each of the improvements
14 identified in paragraph (a); or

15 2. Taking on full responsibility for the improvements,
16 selected from the list of improvements identified in paragraph
17 (a), and agreed to between the host local government and the
18 State Board of Education, the total cost of which equals the
19 contribution identified in paragraph (b).

20 (d) All concurrency management responsibilities of the
21 university board of trustees are fulfilled if the university
22 board of trustees expends the total amount of funds identified
23 in paragraph (b) notwithstanding that the university board of
24 trustees may not have undertaken or made contributions to some
25 of the measures identified in paragraph (a).

26 (e) Capital projects included in the campus
27 development agreement may be used by the local government for
28 the concurrency management purposes.

29 (f) Funds provided by universities in accordance with
30 campus development agreements are subject to appropriation by
31 the Legislature. A development authorized by a campus

1 development agreement may not be built until the funds to be
2 provided pursuant to paragraph (b) are appropriated by the
3 Legislature.

4 (14) A campus development agreement may not address or
5 include any standards or requirements for onsite development,
6 including environmental management requirements or
7 requirements for site preparation.

8 (15) Once the university board of trustees and host
9 local government agree on the provisions of the campus
10 development agreement, the campus development agreement shall
11 be executed by the university board of trustees and the host
12 local government in a manner consistent with the requirements
13 of s. 163.3225. Once the campus development agreement is
14 executed, it is binding upon the university board of trustees
15 and host local government. A copy of the executed campus
16 development agreement must be sent to the state land planning
17 agency within 14 days after the date of execution.

18 (16) If, within 180 days following the host local
19 government's receipt of the proposed campus development
20 agreement, the university board of trustees and host local
21 government cannot reach agreement on the provisions of the
22 campus development agreement, the following procedures for
23 resolving the matter must be followed:

24 (a) The matter must be submitted to the state land
25 planning agency, which has 60 days to hold informal hearings,
26 if necessary, and identify the issues remaining in dispute,
27 prepare a record of the proceedings, and submit the matter to
28 the Administration Commission for final action. The report to
29 the Administration Commission must list each issue in dispute,
30 describe the nature and basis for each dispute, identify

31

1 alternative resolutions of each dispute, and make
2 recommendations.

3 (b) After receiving the report from the state land
4 planning agency, the Administration Commission shall take
5 action to resolve the issues in dispute. In deciding upon a
6 proper resolution, the Administration Commission shall
7 consider the nature of the issues in dispute, the compliance
8 of the parties with this section, the extent of the conflict
9 between the parties, the comparative hardships, and the public
10 interest involved. In resolving the matter, the Administration
11 Commission may prescribe, by order, the contents of the campus
12 development agreement.

13 (17) Disputes that arise in the implementation of an
14 executed campus development agreement must be resolved as
15 follows:

16 (a) Each party shall select one mediator and notify
17 the other in writing of the selection. Thereafter, within 15
18 days after their selection, the two mediators selected by the
19 parties shall select a neutral, third mediator to complete the
20 mediation panel.

21 (b) Each party is responsible for all costs and fees
22 payable to the mediator selected by it and shall equally bear
23 responsibility for the costs and fees payable to the third
24 mediator for services rendered and costs expended in
25 connection with resolving disputes pursuant to the campus
26 development agreement.

27 (c) Within 10 days after the selection of the
28 mediation panel, proceedings must be convened by the panel to
29 resolve the issues in dispute.

30
31

1 (d) Within 60 days after the convening of the panel,
2 the panel shall issue a report containing a recommended
3 resolution of the issues in dispute.

4 (e) If either the university board of trustees or
5 local government rejects the recommended resolution of the
6 issues in dispute, the disputed issues must be resolved
7 pursuant to the procedures provided by subsection (16).

8 (18) Once the campus development agreement is
9 executed, all campus development may proceed without further
10 review by the host local government if it is consistent with
11 the adopted campus master plan and associated campus
12 development agreement.

13 (19) A campus development agreement may be amended
14 under subsections (10)-(16):

15 (a) In conjunction with any amendment to the campus
16 master plan subject to the requirements in subsection (9).

17 (b) If either party delays by more than 12 months the
18 construction of a capital improvement identified in the
19 agreement.

20 (20) Any party to a campus development agreement or
21 aggrieved or adversely affected person, as defined in s.
22 163.3215(2), may file an action for injunctive relief in the
23 circuit court where the host local government is located to
24 enforce the terms of a campus development agreement or to
25 challenge compliance of the agreement with this section. This
26 action shall be the sole and exclusive remedy of an adversely
27 affected person other than a party to the agreement to enforce
28 any rights or obligations arising from a development
29 agreement.

30 (21) State and regional environmental program
31 requirements remain applicable, except that this section

1 supersedes all other sections of part II of chapter 163 and s.
2 380.06 except as provided in this section.

3 (22) In consultation with the state land planning
4 agency, the State Board of Education shall adopt rules
5 implementing subsections (3)-(6). The rules must set specific
6 schedules and procedures for the development and adoption of
7 campus master plans.

8 (23) Until the campus master plan and campus
9 development agreement for an institution have been finalized,
10 any dispute between the university board of trustees and a
11 local government relating to campus development for that
12 institution shall be resolved by the process established in
13 subsection (8).

14 Section 822. Section 1013.31, Florida Statutes, is
15 created to read:

16 1013.31 Educational plant survey; localized need
17 assessment; PECO project funding.--

18 (1) At least every 5 years, each board shall arrange
19 for an educational plant survey, to aid in formulating plans
20 for housing the educational program and student population,
21 faculty, administrators, staff, and auxiliary and ancillary
22 services of the district or campus, including consideration of
23 the local comprehensive plan. The Office of Workforce and
24 Economic Development shall document the need for additional
25 career and adult education programs and the continuation of
26 existing programs before facility construction or renovation
27 related to career or adult education may be included in the
28 educational plant survey of a school district or community
29 college that delivers career or adult education programs.
30 Information used by the Office of Workforce and Economic
31 Development to establish facility needs must include, but need

1 not be limited to, labor market data, needs analysis, and
2 information submitted by the school district or community
3 college.

4 (a) Survey preparation and required data.--Each survey
5 shall be conducted by the board or an agency employed by the
6 board. Surveys shall be reviewed and approved by the board,
7 and a file copy shall be submitted to the commissioner. The
8 survey report shall include at least an inventory of existing
9 educational and ancillary plants; recommendations for existing
10 educational and ancillary plants; recommendations for new
11 educational or ancillary plants, including the general
12 location of each in coordination with the land use plan;
13 campus master plan update and detail for community colleges;
14 the utilization of school plants based on an extended school
15 day or year-round operation; and such other information as may
16 be required by the rules of the State Board of Education. This
17 report may be amended, if conditions warrant, at the request
18 of the board or commissioner.

19 (b) Required need assessment criteria for district,
20 community college, and state university plant surveys.--Each
21 educational plant survey completed must use uniform data
22 sources and criteria specified in this paragraph. Each revised
23 educational plant survey and each new educational plant survey
24 supersedes previous surveys.

25 1. Each school district's educational plant survey
26 must reflect the capacity of existing satisfactory facilities
27 as reported in the Florida Inventory of School Houses.
28 Projections of facility space needs may not exceed the norm
29 space and occupant design criteria established by the State
30 Requirements for Educational Facilities. Existing and
31 projected capital outlay full-time equivalent student

1 enrollment must be consistent with data prepared by the
2 department and must include all enrollment used in the
3 calculation of the distribution formula in s. 1013.64(3). To
4 insure that the data reported to the Department of Education
5 as required by this section is correct, the department shall
6 annually conduct an onsite review of 5 percent of the
7 facilities reported for each school district completing a new
8 survey that year. If the department's review finds the data
9 reported by a district is less than 95 percent accurate,
10 within one year from the time of notification by the
11 department the district must submit revised reports correcting
12 its data. If a district fails to correct its reports, the
13 commissioner may direct that future fixed capital outlay funds
14 be withheld until such time as the district has corrected its
15 reports so that they are not less than 95 percent accurate.
16 All satisfactory relocatable classrooms, including those
17 owned, lease-purchased, or leased by the school district,
18 shall be included in the school district inventory of gross
19 capacity of facilities and must be counted at actual student
20 capacity for purposes of the inventory. For future needs
21 determination, student capacity shall not be assigned to any
22 relocatable classroom that is scheduled for elimination or
23 replacement with a permanent educational facility in the
24 adopted 5-year educational plant survey and in the district
25 facilities work program adopted under s. 1013.35. Those
26 relocatables clearly identified and scheduled for replacement
27 in a school board adopted financially feasible 5-year district
28 facilities work program shall be counted at zero capacity at
29 the time the work program is adopted and approved by the
30 school board. However, if the district facilities work program
31 is changed or altered and the relocatables are not replaced as

1 scheduled in the work program, they must then be reentered
2 into the system for counting at actual capacity. Relocatables
3 may not be perpetually added to the work program and
4 continually extended for purposes of circumventing the intent
5 of this section. All remaining relocatable classrooms,
6 including those owned, lease-purchased, or leased by the
7 school district, shall be counted at actual student capacity.
8 The educational plant survey shall identify the number of
9 relocatable student stations scheduled for replacement during
10 the 5-year survey period and the total dollar amount needed
11 for that replacement. All district educational plant surveys
12 shall include information on leased space used for conducting
13 the district's instructional program, in accordance with the
14 recommendations of the department's report authorized in s.
15 1013.15. A definition of satisfactory relocatable classrooms
16 shall be established by rule of the State Board of Education.

17 2. Each survey of a special facility, joint-use
18 facility, or cooperative career and technical education
19 facility must be based on capital outlay full-time equivalent
20 student enrollment data prepared by the department for school
21 districts, community colleges, and universities. A survey of
22 space needs of a joint-use facility shall be based upon the
23 respective space needs of the school districts, community
24 colleges, and universities, as appropriate. Projections of a
25 school district's facility space needs may not exceed the norm
26 space and occupant design criteria established by the State
27 Requirements for Educational Facilities.

28 3. Each community college's survey must reflect the
29 capacity of existing facilities as specified in the inventory
30 maintained by the Department of Education. Projections of
31 facility space needs must comply with standards for

1 determining space needs as specified by rule of the State
2 Board of Education. The 5-year projection of capital outlay
3 student enrollment must be consistent with the annual report
4 of capital outlay full-time student enrollment prepared by the
5 Department of Education.

6 4. Each state university's survey must reflect the
7 capacity of existing facilities as specified in the inventory
8 maintained and validated by the Department of Education.

9 Projections of facility space needs must be consistent with
10 standards for determining space needs approved by the
11 Department of Education. The projected capital outlay
12 full-time equivalent student enrollment must be consistent
13 with the 5-year planned enrollment cycle for the State
14 University System approved by the Department of Education.

15 5. The educational plant survey of a school district,
16 community college, or state university may include space needs
17 that deviate from approved standards for determining space
18 needs if the deviation is justified by the district or
19 institution and approved by the department as necessary for
20 the delivery of an approved educational program.

21 (c) Review and validation.--The department shall
22 review and validate the surveys of school districts, community
23 colleges, and universities, and any amendments thereto for
24 compliance with the requirements of this chapter and, when
25 required by the State Constitution, shall recommend those in
26 compliance for approval by the State Board of Education.

27 Annually, the department shall perform an in-depth analysis of
28 a representative sample of each survey of recommended needs
29 for five districts selected by the commissioner from among
30 districts with the largest need-to-revenue ratio. For the
31 purpose of this subsection, the need-to-revenue ratio is

1 determined by dividing the total 5-year cost of projects
2 listed on the district survey by the total 5-year fixed
3 capital outlay revenue projections from state and local
4 sources as determined by the department. The commissioner may
5 direct fixed capital outlay funds to be withheld from
6 districts until such time as the survey accurately projects
7 facilities needs.

8 (2) Only the district school superintendent, community
9 college president, or university president shall certify to
10 the department a project's compliance with the requirements
11 for expenditure of PECO funds prior to release of funds.

12 (a) Upon request for release of PECO funds for
13 planning purposes, certification must be made to the
14 department that the need and location of the facility are in
15 compliance with the board-approved survey recommendations and
16 that the project meets the definition of a PECO project and
17 the limiting criteria for expenditures of PECO funding.

18 (b) Upon request for release of construction funds,
19 certification must be made to the department that the need and
20 location of the facility are in compliance with the
21 board-approved survey recommendations, that the project meets
22 the definition of a PECO project and the limiting criteria for
23 expenditures of PECO funding, and that the construction
24 documents meet the requirements of the Florida Building Code
25 for educational facilities construction or other applicable
26 codes as authorized in this chapter.

27 Section 823. Section 1013.32, Florida Statutes, is
28 created to read:

29 1013.32 Exception to recommendations in educational
30 plant survey.--An exception to the recommendations in the
31 educational plant survey may be allowed if a board considers

1 that it will be advantageous to the welfare of the educational
2 system or that it will make possible a substantial saving of
3 funds. A board, upon determining that an exception is
4 warranted, must present a full statement, in writing, setting
5 forth all the facts to the Commissioner of Education.

6 Section 824. Section 1013.33, Florida Statutes, is
7 created to read:

8 1013.33 Coordination of planning with local governing
9 bodies.--

10 (1) It is the policy of this state to require the
11 coordination of planning between boards and local governing
12 bodies to ensure that plans for the construction and opening
13 of public educational facilities are facilitated and
14 coordinated in time and place with plans for residential
15 development, concurrently with other necessary services. Such
16 planning shall include the integration of the educational
17 plant survey and applicable policies and procedures of a board
18 with the local comprehensive plan and land development
19 regulations of local governing bodies. The planning must
20 include the consideration of allowing students to attend the
21 school located nearest their homes when a new housing
22 development is constructed near a county boundary and it is
23 more feasible to transport the students a short distance to an
24 existing facility in an adjacent county than to construct a
25 new facility or transport students longer distances in their
26 county of residence. The planning must also consider the
27 effects of the location of public education facilities,
28 including the feasibility of keeping central city facilities
29 viable, in order to encourage central city redevelopment and
30 the efficient use of infrastructure and to discourage
31 uncontrolled urban sprawl.

1 (2) A board and the local governing body must share
2 and coordinate information related to existing and planned
3 school facilities; proposals for development, redevelopment,
4 or additional development; and infrastructure required to
5 support the school facilities, concurrent with proposed
6 development. A school board shall use Department of Education
7 enrollment projections when preparing the 5-year district
8 facilities work program pursuant to s. 1013.35, and a school
9 board shall affirmatively demonstrate in the educational
10 facilities report consideration of local governments'
11 population projections to ensure that the 5-year work program
12 not only reflects enrollment projections but also considers
13 applicable municipal and county growth and development
14 projections. A school board is precluded from siting a new
15 school in a jurisdiction where the school board has failed to
16 provide the annual educational facilities report for the prior
17 year required pursuant to s. 1013.34 unless the failure is
18 corrected.

19 (3) The location of educational facilities shall be
20 consistent with the comprehensive plan of the appropriate
21 local governing body developed under part II of chapter 163
22 and the plan's implementing land development regulations, to
23 the extent that the regulations are not in conflict with or
24 the subject regulated is not specifically addressed by this
25 chapter or the state requirements for educational facilities,
26 unless mutually agreed by the local government and the board.

27 (4) To improve coordination relative to potential
28 educational facility sites, a board shall provide written
29 notice to the local government that has regulatory authority
30 over the use of the land at least 60 days prior to acquiring
31 or leasing property that may be used for a new public

1 educational facility. The local government, upon receipt of
2 this notice, shall notify the board within 45 days if the site
3 proposed for acquisition or lease is consistent with the land
4 use categories and policies of the local government's
5 comprehensive plan. This preliminary notice does not
6 constitute the local government's determination of consistency
7 pursuant to subsection (5).

8 (5) As early in the design phase as feasible, but at
9 least before commencing construction of a new public
10 educational facility, the local governing body that regulates
11 the use of land shall determine, in writing within 90 days
12 after receiving the necessary information and a school board's
13 request for a determination, whether a proposed educational
14 facility is consistent with the local comprehensive plan and
15 local land development regulations, to the extent that the
16 regulations are not in conflict with or the subject regulated
17 is not specifically addressed by this chapter or the Florida
18 Building Code for educational facilities and construction,
19 unless mutually agreed. If the determination is affirmative,
20 school construction may proceed and further local government
21 approvals are not required, except as provided in this
22 section. Failure of the local governing body to make a
23 determination in writing within 90 days after a district
24 school board's request for a determination of consistency
25 shall be considered an approval of the district school board's
26 application. Campus master plans and development agreements
27 must comply with the provisions of ss. 1013.30 and 1013.63.

28 (6) A local governing body may not deny the site
29 applicant based on adequacy of the site plan as it relates
30 solely to the needs of the school. If the site is consistent
31 with the comprehensive plan's future land use policies and

1 categories in which public schools are identified as allowable
2 uses, the local government may not deny the application but it
3 may impose reasonable development standards and conditions in
4 accordance with s. 1013.51(1) and consider the site plan and
5 its adequacy as it relates to environmental concerns, health,
6 safety and welfare, and effects on adjacent property.
7 Standards and conditions may not be imposed which conflict
8 with those established in this chapter or the State Uniform
9 Building Code, unless mutually agreed.

10 (7) This section does not prohibit a local governing
11 body and district school board from agreeing and establishing
12 an alternative process for reviewing a proposed educational
13 facility and site plan, and offsite impacts.

14 (8) Existing schools shall be considered consistent
15 with the applicable local government comprehensive plan
16 adopted under part II of chapter 163. The collocation of a new
17 proposed public educational facility with an existing public
18 educational facility, or the expansion of an existing public
19 educational facility is not inconsistent with the local
20 comprehensive plan, if the site is consistent with the
21 comprehensive plan's future land use policies and categories
22 in which public schools are identified as allowable uses, and
23 levels of service adopted by the local government for any
24 facilities affected by the proposed location for the new
25 facility are maintained. If a board submits an application to
26 expand an existing school site, the local governing body may
27 impose reasonable development standards and conditions on the
28 expansion only, and in a manner consistent with s. 1013.51(1).
29 Standards and conditions may not be imposed which conflict
30 with those established in this chapter or the State Uniform
31

1 Building Code, unless mutually agreed. Local government review
2 or approval is not required for:
3 (a) The placement of temporary or portable classroom
4 facilities; or
5 (b) Proposed renovation or construction on existing
6 school sites, with the exception of construction that changes
7 the primary use of a facility, includes stadiums, or results
8 in a greater than 5 percent increase in student capacity, or
9 as mutually agreed.

10 Section 825. Section 1013.34, Florida Statutes, is
11 created to read:
12 1013.34 General educational facilities report.--
13 (1) It is the policy of the state to foster
14 coordination between district school boards and the local
15 general-purpose governments as those local general-purpose
16 governments develop and implement plans under the Local
17 Government Comprehensive Planning and Land Development
18 Regulation Act, part II of chapter 163.
19 (2) Each district school board shall submit annually
20 on October 1 to each local government within the school
21 board's jurisdiction a general educational facilities report.
22 The general educational facilities report must contain
23 information detailing existing educational facilities and
24 their locations and projected needs. The report must also
25 contain the board's capital improvement plan, including
26 planned facilities with funding over the next 3 years, and the
27 educational facilities representing the district's unmet need.
28 The school board shall also provide a copy of its educational
29 plan survey to each local government at least once every 5
30 years.
31

1 Section 826. Section 1013.35, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1013.35 School district facilities work program;
4 definitions; preparation, adoption, and amendment; long-term
5 work programs.--

6 (1) DEFINITIONS.--As used in this section, the term:

7 (a) "Adopted district facilities work program" means
8 the 5-year work program adopted by the district school board
9 as provided in subsection (3).

10 (b) "Tentative district facilities work program" means
11 the 5-year listing of capital outlay projects required:

12 1. To properly maintain the educational plant and
13 ancillary facilities of the district.

14 2. To provide an adequate number of satisfactory
15 student stations for the projected student enrollment of the
16 district in K-12 programs in accordance with the goal in s.
17 1013.21.

18 (2) PREPARATION OF TENTATIVE DISTRICT FACILITIES WORK
19 PROGRAM.--

20 (a) Annually, prior to the adoption of the district
21 school budget, each district school board shall prepare a
22 tentative district facilities work program that includes:

23 1. A schedule of major repair and renovation projects
24 necessary to maintain the educational plant and ancillary
25 facilities of the district.

26 2. A schedule of capital outlay projects necessary to
27 ensure the availability of satisfactory student stations for
28 the projected student enrollment in K-12 programs. This
29 schedule shall consider:

30 a. The locations, capacities, and planned utilization
31 rates of current educational facilities of the district.

- 1 b. The proposed locations of planned facilities.
2 c. Plans for the use and location of relocatable
3 facilities, leased facilities, and charter school facilities.
4 d. Plans for multitrack scheduling, grade level
5 organization, block scheduling, or other alternatives that
6 reduce the need for permanent student stations.
7 e. Information concerning average class size and
8 utilization rate by grade level within the district that will
9 result if the tentative district facilities work program is
10 fully implemented. The average shall not include exceptional
11 student education classes or prekindergarten classes.
12 f. The number and percentage of district students
13 planned to be educated in relocatable facilities during each
14 year of the tentative district facilities work program.
15 g. Plans for the closure of any school, including
16 plans for disposition of the facility or usage of facility
17 space, and anticipated revenues.
18 3. The projected cost for each project identified in
19 the tentative district facilities work program. For proposed
20 projects for new student stations, a schedule shall be
21 prepared comparing the planned cost and square footage for
22 each new student station, by elementary, middle, and high
23 school levels, to the low, average, and high cost of
24 facilities constructed throughout the state during the most
25 recent fiscal year for which data is available from the
26 Department of Education.
27 4. A schedule of estimated capital outlay revenues
28 from each currently approved source which is estimated to be
29 available for expenditure on the projects included in the
30 tentative district facilities work program.
31

1 5. A schedule indicating which projects included in
2 the tentative district facilities work program will be funded
3 from current revenues projected in subparagraph 4.

4 6. A schedule of options for the generation of
5 additional revenues by the district for expenditure on
6 projects identified in the tentative district facilities work
7 program which are not funded under subparagraph 5. Additional
8 anticipated revenues may include effort index grants, SIT
9 Program awards, and Classrooms First funds.

10 (b) To the extent available, the tentative district
11 facilities work program shall be based on information produced
12 by the demographic, revenue, and education estimating
13 conferences pursuant to s. 216.136.

14 (c) Provision shall be made for public comment
15 concerning the tentative district facilities work program.

16 (3) ADOPTED DISTRICT FACILITIES WORK
17 PROGRAM.--Annually, the district school board shall consider
18 and adopt the tentative district facilities work program
19 completed pursuant to subsection (2). Upon giving proper
20 public notice and opportunity for public comment, the district
21 school board may amend the program to revise the priority of
22 projects, to add or delete projects, to reflect the impact of
23 change orders, or to reflect the approval of new revenue
24 sources which may become available. The adopted district
25 facilities work program shall:

26 (a) Be a complete, balanced capital outlay financial
27 plan for the district.

28 (b) Set forth the proposed commitments and planned
29 expenditures of the district to address the educational
30 facilities needs of its students and to adequately provide for
31

1 the maintenance of the educational plant and ancillary
2 facilities.

3 (4) EXECUTION OF ADOPTED DISTRICT FACILITIES WORK
4 PROGRAM.--The first year of the adopted district facilities
5 work program shall constitute the capital outlay budget
6 required in s. 1013.61. The adopted district facilities work
7 program shall include the information required in
8 subparagraphs (2)(a)1., 2., and 3., based upon projects
9 actually funded in the program.

10 (5) 10-YEAR AND 20-YEAR WORK PROGRAMS.--In addition to
11 the adopted district facilities work program covering the
12 5-year work program, the district school board shall adopt
13 annually a 10-year and a 20-year work program which include
14 the information set forth in subsection (2), but based upon
15 enrollment projections and facility needs for the 10-year and
16 20-year periods. It is recognized that the projections in the
17 10-year and 20-year timeframes are tentative and should be
18 used only for general planning purposes.

19 Section 827. Section 1013.355, Florida Statutes, is
20 created to read:

21 1013.355 Abandonment or disposal of satisfactory
22 educational facilities prohibited.--District school boards are
23 prohibited from abandoning or disposing of existing
24 satisfactory educational facilities constructed with Public
25 Education Capital Outlay funds if the school district does not
26 have excess student stations to serve the projected student
27 enrollment in its required 5-year work program.

28 Section 828. Section 1013.36, Florida Statutes, is
29 created to read:

30 1013.36 Site planning and selection.--
31

1 (1) Before acquiring property for sites, each district
2 school board and community college board of trustees shall
3 determine the location of proposed educational centers or
4 campuses. In making this determination, the board shall
5 consider existing and anticipated site needs and the most
6 economical and practicable locations of sites. The board shall
7 coordinate with the long-range or comprehensive plans of
8 local, regional, and state governmental agencies to assure the
9 compatibility of such plans with site planning. Boards are
10 encouraged to locate educational facilities proximate to urban
11 residential areas to the extent possible, and shall seek to
12 collocate educational facilities with other public facilities,
13 such as parks, libraries, and community centers, to the extent
14 possible.

15 (2) Each new site selected must be adequate in size to
16 meet the educational needs of the students to be served on
17 that site by the original educational facility or future
18 expansions of the facility through renovation or the addition
19 of relocatables. The State Board of Education shall prescribe
20 by rule recommended sizes for new sites according to
21 categories of students to be housed and other appropriate
22 factors determined by the state board. Less-than-recommended
23 site sizes are allowed if the board recommends such a site and
24 finds that it can provide an appropriate and equitable
25 educational program on the site.

26 (3) Sites recommended for purchase or purchased must
27 meet standards prescribed in law and such supplementary
28 standards as the State Board of Education prescribes to
29 promote the educational interests of the students. Each site
30 must be well drained and suitable for outdoor educational
31 purposes as appropriate for the educational program. As

1 provided in s. 333.03, the site must not be located within any
2 path of flight approach of any airport. Insofar as is
3 practicable, the site must not adjoin a right-of-way of any
4 railroad or through highway and must not be adjacent to any
5 factory or other property from which noise, odors, or other
6 disturbances, or at which conditions, would be likely to
7 interfere with the educational program.

8 (4) It shall be the responsibility of the board to
9 provide adequate notice to appropriate municipal, county,
10 regional, and state governmental agencies for requested
11 traffic control and safety devices so they can be installed
12 and operating prior to the first day of classes or to satisfy
13 itself that every reasonable effort has been made in
14 sufficient time to secure the installation and operation of
15 such necessary devices prior to the first day of classes. It
16 shall also be the responsibility of the board to review
17 annually traffic control and safety device needs and to
18 request all necessary changes indicated by such review.

19 (5) Each board may request county and municipal
20 governments to construct and maintain sidewalks and bicycle
21 trails within a 2-mile radius of each educational facility
22 within the jurisdiction of the local government. When a board
23 discovers or is aware of an existing hazard on or near a
24 public sidewalk, street, or highway within a 2-mile radius of
25 a school site and the hazard endangers the life or threatens
26 the health or safety of students who walk, ride bicycles, or
27 are transported regularly between their homes and the school
28 in which they are enrolled, the board shall, within 24 hours
29 after discovering or becoming aware of the hazard, excluding
30 Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, report such hazard to
31 the governmental entity within the jurisdiction of which the

1 hazard is located. Within 5 days after receiving notification
2 by the board, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal
3 holidays, the governmental entity shall investigate the
4 hazardous condition and either correct it or provide such
5 precautions as are practicable to safeguard students until the
6 hazard can be permanently corrected. However, if the
7 governmental entity that has jurisdiction determines upon
8 investigation that it is impracticable to correct the hazard,
9 or if the entity determines that the reported condition does
10 not endanger the life or threaten the health or safety of
11 students, the entity shall, within 5 days after notification
12 by the board, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal
13 holidays, inform the board in writing of its reasons for not
14 correcting the condition. The governmental entity, to the
15 extent allowed by law, shall indemnify the board from any
16 liability with respect to accidents or injuries, if any,
17 arising out of the hazardous condition.

18 Section 829. Section 1013.365, Florida Statutes, is
19 created to read:

20 1013.365 Schools on contaminated site prohibited.--

21 (1) DEFINITIONS.--For purposes of this section, the
22 following terms shall have the same meaning as provided in the
23 definitions in s. 376.301: "contaminant," "contaminated
24 site," "discharge," "engineering controls," "hazardous
25 substances," "institutional controls," "pollutants," and "site
26 rehabilitation."

27 (2) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.--The Legislature finds:

28 (a) Steps should be taken to eliminate or reduce the
29 risk to student health posed by attendance at K-12 schools
30 located on or adjacent to a contaminated site.

31

1 (b) District school boards have a duty and a
2 responsibility to ensure the safety of school children while
3 attending K-12 schools and engaging in extracurricular
4 activities on school properties.

5 (c) Ensuring student safety includes preventing,
6 eliminating, or reducing exposure to contaminants that may
7 exist at or adjacent to K-12 school properties.

8 (3) K-12 SCHOOL SITING LIMITATIONS; PROHIBITIONS.--No
9 K-12 school shall be built on or adjacent to a known
10 contaminated site unless steps have been taken to ensure that
11 children attending the school or playing on school property
12 will not be exposed to contaminants in the air, water, or soil
13 at levels that present a threat to human health or the
14 environment.

15 (4) DUTIES OF DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD.--Before taking
16 title to real property upon which a K-12 school may be built
17 or initiating action to locate a K-12 school on real property
18 already owned by the school district, the district school
19 board shall conduct appropriate due diligence including all
20 appropriate inquiry into the previous ownership and use of the
21 property consistent with good commercial or customary practice
22 in an effort to determine the existence of any potential air,
23 water, or soil contamination that may exist on or adjacent to
24 the proposed K-12 school site. The district school board is
25 encouraged to contact the Department of Environmental
26 Protection to obtain any information about contaminated sites
27 on or adjacent to a proposed K-12 school site. Any evidence
28 of a discharge of pollutants or hazardous substances on or
29 adjacent to a proposed K-12 school site shall prompt the
30 district school board to conduct further investigation using
31 at least a Phase II Environmental Audit, in accordance with

1 standards established by the American Society for Testing and
2 Materials (ASTM), that includes air, water, and soil sampling.
3 If the results of the environmental audit confirm the presence
4 of contaminants or pollution on or adjacent to the proposed
5 K-12 school site at concentrations that pose a threat to human
6 health or the environment, then the district school board
7 shall conduct appropriate site rehabilitation in accordance
8 with the provisions of subsection (5) before initiating K-12
9 school construction at the site.

10 (5) CORRECTIVE ACTION.--The Department of
11 Environmental Protection may use risk-based corrective action
12 cleanup criteria as described in ss. 376.3071, 376.3078, and
13 376.81, and in Chapter 62-777, F.A.C., in reviewing and
14 approving site rehabilitation conducted by district school
15 boards pursuant to this section.

16 Section 830. Part III.b. of chapter 1013, Florida
17 Statutes, shall be entitled "Building Codes and Construction
18 for Educational Facilities" and shall consist of ss.
19 1013.37-1013.45.

20 Section 831. Section 1013.37, Florida Statutes, is
21 created to read:

22 1013.37 State uniform building code for public
23 educational facilities construction.--

24 (1) UNIFORM BUILDING CODE.--A uniform statewide
25 building code for the planning and construction of public
26 educational and ancillary plants by district school boards and
27 community college district boards of trustees shall be adopted
28 by the Florida Building Commission within the Florida Building
29 Code, pursuant to s. 553.73. Included in this code must be
30 flood plain management criteria in compliance with the rules
31 and regulations in 44 C.F.R. parts 59 and 60, and subsequent

1 revisions thereto which are adopted by the Federal Emergency
2 Management Agency. It is also the responsibility of the
3 department to develop, as a part of the uniform building code,
4 standards relating to:

5 (a) Prefabricated facilities or factory-built
6 facilities that are designed to be portable, relocatable,
7 demountable, or reconstructible; are used primarily as
8 classrooms; and do not fall under the provisions of ss.
9 320.822-320.862. Such standards must permit boards to contract
10 with the Department of Community Affairs for factory
11 inspections by certified building code inspectors to certify
12 conformance with applicable law and rules. The standards must
13 comply with the requirements of s. 1013.20 for relocatable
14 facilities intended for long-term use as classroom space, and
15 the relocatable facilities shall be designed subject to
16 missile impact criteria of s. 423(24)(d)(1) of the Florida
17 Building Code when located in the windborne debris region.

18 (b) The sanitation of educational and ancillary plants
19 and the health of occupants of educational and ancillary
20 plants.

21 (c) The safety of occupants of educational and
22 ancillary plants as provided in s. 1013.12, except that the
23 firesafety criteria shall be established by the State Fire
24 Marshal in cooperation with the Florida Building Commission
25 and the department and such firesafety requirements must be
26 incorporated into the Florida Fire Prevention Code.

27 (d) Accessibility for children, notwithstanding the
28 provisions of s. 553.512.

29 (e) The performance of life-cycle cost analyses on
30 alternative architectural and engineering designs to evaluate
31 their energy efficiencies.

- 1 1. The life-cycle cost analysis must consist of the
2 sum of:
- 3 a. The reasonably expected fuel costs over the life of
4 the building which are required to maintain illumination,
5 water heating, temperature, humidity, ventilation, and all
6 other energy-consuming equipment in a facility; and
- 7 b. The reasonable costs of probable maintenance,
8 including labor and materials, and operation of the building.
- 9 2. For computation of the life-cycle costs, the
10 department shall develop standards that must include, but need
11 not be limited to:
- 12 a. The orientation and integration of the facility
13 with respect to its physical site.
- 14 b. The amount and type of glass employed in the
15 facility and the directions of exposure.
- 16 c. The effect of insulation incorporated into the
17 facility design and the effect on solar utilization of the
18 properties of external surfaces.
- 19 d. The variable occupancy and operating conditions of
20 the facility and subportions of the facility.
- 21 e. An energy-consumption analysis of the major
22 equipment of the facility's heating, ventilating, and cooling
23 system; lighting system; and hot water system and all other
24 major energy-consuming equipment and systems as appropriate.
- 25 3. Life-cycle cost criteria published by the
26 Department of Education for use in evaluating projects.
- 27 4. Standards for construction materials and systems
28 based on life-cycle costs that consider initial costs,
29 maintenance costs, custodial costs, operating costs, and life
30 expectancy. The standards may include multiple acceptable
31 materials. It is the intent of the Legislature to require

1 district school boards to comply with these standards when
2 expending funds from the Public Education Capital Outlay and
3 Debt Service Trust Fund or the School District and Community
4 College District Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund
5 and to prohibit district school boards from expending local
6 capital outlay revenues for any project that includes
7 materials or systems that do not comply with these standards,
8 unless the district school board submits evidence that
9 alternative materials or systems meet or exceed standards
10 developed by the department.

11

12 It is not a purpose of the Florida Building Code to inhibit
13 the use of new materials or innovative techniques; nor may it
14 specify or prohibit materials by brand names. The code must be
15 flexible enough to cover all phases of construction so as to
16 afford reasonable protection for the public safety, health,
17 and general welfare. The department may secure the service of
18 other state agencies or such other assistance as it finds
19 desirable in recommending to the Florida Building Commission
20 revisions to the code.

21 (2) APPROVAL.--

22 (a) Before a contract has been let for the
23 construction, the department, the district school board, the
24 community college board, or its authorized review agent must
25 approve the phase III construction documents. A district
26 school board or a community college board may reuse prototype
27 plans on another site, provided the facilities list and phase
28 III construction documents have been updated for the new site
29 and for compliance with the Florida Building Code and the
30 Florida Fire Prevention Code and any laws relating to
31 firesafety, health and sanitation, casualty safety, and

- 1 requirements for the physically handicapped which are in
2 effect at the time a construction contract is to be awarded.
- 3 (b) In reviewing plans for approval, the department,
4 the district school board, the community college board, or its
5 review agent as authorized in s. 1013.38, shall take into
6 consideration:
- 7 1. The need for the new facility.
 - 8 2. The educational and ancillary plant planning.
 - 9 3. The architectural and engineering planning.
 - 10 4. The location on the site.
 - 11 5. Plans for future expansion.
 - 12 6. The type of construction.
 - 13 7. Sanitary provisions.
 - 14 8. Conformity to Florida Building Code standards.
 - 15 9. The structural design and strength of materials
16 proposed to be used.
 - 17 10. The mechanical design of any heating,
18 air-conditioning, plumbing, or ventilating system. Typical
19 heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning systems preapproved
20 by the department for specific applications may be used in the
21 design of educational facilities.
 - 22 11. The electrical design of educational plants.
 - 23 12. The energy efficiency and conservation of the
24 design.
 - 25 13. Life-cycle cost considerations.
 - 26 14. The design to accommodate physically handicapped
27 persons.
 - 28 15. The ratio of net to gross square footage.
 - 29 16. The proposed construction cost per gross square
30 foot.
 - 31 17. Conformity with the Florida Fire Prevention Code.

1 (c) The district school board or the community college
2 board may not occupy a facility until the project has been
3 inspected to verify compliance with statutes, rules, and codes
4 affecting the health and safety of the occupants. Verification
5 of compliance with rules, statutes, and codes for nonoccupancy
6 projects such as roofing, paving, site improvements, or
7 replacement of equipment may be certified by the architect or
8 engineer of record and verification of compliance for other
9 projects may be made by an inspector certified by the
10 department or certified pursuant to chapter 468 who is not the
11 architect or engineer of record. The board shall maintain a
12 record of the project's completion and permanent archive of
13 phase III construction documents, including any addenda and
14 change orders to the project. The boards shall provide project
15 data to the department, as requested, for purposes and reports
16 needed by the Legislature.

17 (3) REVIEW PROCEDURE.--The Commissioner of Education
18 shall cooperate with the Florida Building Commission in
19 addressing all questions, disputes, or interpretations
20 involving the provisions of the Florida Building Code which
21 govern the construction of public educational and ancillary
22 facilities, and any objections to decisions made by the
23 inspectors or the department must be submitted in writing.

24 (4) BIENNIAL REVIEW AND UPDATE; DISSEMINATION.--The
25 department shall biennially review and recommend to the
26 Florida Building Commission updates and revisions to the
27 provisions of the Florida Building Code which govern the
28 construction of public educational and ancillary facilities.
29 The department shall publish and make available to each board
30 at no cost copies of the state requirements for educational
31 facilities and each amendment and revision thereto. The

1 department shall make additional copies available to all
2 interested persons at a price sufficient to recover costs.

3 (5) LOCAL LEGISLATION PROHIBITED.--After June 30,
4 1985, pursuant to s. 11(a)(21), Art. III of the State
5 Constitution, there shall not be enacted any special act or
6 general law of local application which proposes to amend,
7 alter, or contravene any provisions of the State Building Code
8 adopted under the authority of this section.

9 Section 832. Section 1013.371, Florida Statutes, is
10 created to read:

11 1013.371 Conformity to codes.--

12 (1) CONFORMITY TO FLORIDA BUILDING CODE AND FLORIDA
13 FIRE PREVENTION CODE REQUIRED FOR APPROVAL.--

14 (a) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b), all
15 public educational and ancillary plants constructed by a board
16 must conform to the Florida Building Code and the Florida Fire
17 Prevention Code, and the plants are exempt from all other
18 state building codes; county, municipal, or other local
19 amendments to the Florida Building Code and local amendments
20 to the Florida Fire Prevention Code; building permits, and
21 assessments of fees for building permits, except as provided
22 in s. 553.80; ordinances; road closures; and impact fees or
23 service availability fees. Any inspection by local or state
24 government must be based on the Florida Building Code and the
25 Florida Fire Prevention Code. Each board shall provide for
26 periodic inspection of the proposed educational plant during
27 each phase of construction to determine compliance with the
28 state requirements for educational facilities.

29 (b) A board may comply with the Florida Building Code
30 and the Florida Fire Prevention Code and the administration of
31 the codes when constructing ancillary plants that are not

1 attached to educational facilities, if those plants conform to
2 the space size requirements established in the codes.
3 (c) A board may not approve any plans for the
4 construction, renovation, remodeling, or demolition of any
5 educational or ancillary plants unless these plans conform to
6 the requirements of the Florida Building Code and the Florida
7 Fire Prevention Code. Each board may adopt policies for
8 delegating to the district school superintendent, community
9 college president, or university president authority for
10 submitting documents to the department and for awarding
11 contracts subsequent to and consistent with board approval of
12 the scope, timeframes, funding source, and budget of a
13 survey-recommended project.
14 (2) ENFORCEMENT BY BOARD.--It is the responsibility of
15 each board to ensure that all plans and educational and
16 ancillary plants meet the standards of the Florida Building
17 Code and the Florida Fire Prevention Code and to provide for
18 the enforcement of these codes in the areas of its
19 jurisdiction. Each board shall provide for the proper
20 supervision and inspection of the work. Each board may employ
21 a chief building official or inspector and such other
22 inspectors, who have been certified pursuant to chapter 468,
23 and such personnel as are necessary to administer and enforce
24 the provisions of this code. Boards may also use local
25 building department inspectors who are certified by the
26 department to enforce this code. Plans or facilities that fail
27 to meet the standards of the Florida Building Code or the
28 Florida Fire Prevention Code may not be approved. When
29 planning for and constructing an educational, auxiliary, or
30 ancillary facility, a board must use construction materials
31 and systems that meet standards adopted pursuant to s.

1 1013.37(1)(e)3. and 4. If the planned or actual construction
2 of a facility deviates from the adopted standards, the board
3 must, at a public hearing, quantify and compare the costs of
4 constructing the facility with the proposed deviations and in
5 compliance with the adopted standards and the Florida Building
6 Code. The board must explain the reason for the proposed
7 deviations and compare how the total construction costs and
8 projected life-cycle costs of the facility or component system
9 of the facility would be affected by implementing the proposed
10 deviations rather than using materials and systems that meet
11 the adopted standards.

12 (3) ENFORCEMENT BY DEPARTMENT.--As a further means of
13 ensuring that all educational and ancillary facilities
14 constructed or materially altered or added to conform to the
15 Florida Building Code standards or Florida Fire Prevention
16 Code standards, each board that undertakes the construction,
17 renovation, remodeling, purchasing, or lease-purchase of any
18 educational plant or ancillary facility, the cost of which
19 exceeds \$200,000, may submit plans to the department for
20 approval.

21 Section 833. Section 1013.372, Florida Statutes, is
22 created to read:

23 1013.372 Education facilities as emergency shelters.--

24 (1) The Department of Education shall, in consultation
25 with boards and county and state emergency management offices,
26 include within the standards to be developed under this
27 subsection public shelter design criteria to be incorporated
28 into the Florida Building Code. The new criteria must be
29 designed to ensure that appropriate new educational facilities
30 can serve as public shelters for emergency-management
31 purposes. A facility, or an appropriate area within a

1 facility, for which a design contract is entered into after
2 the effective date of the inclusion of the public shelter
3 criteria in the code must be built in compliance with the
4 amended code unless the facility or a part of it is exempted
5 from using the new shelter criteria due to its location, size,
6 or other characteristics by the applicable board with the
7 concurrence of the applicable local emergency management
8 agency or the Department of Community Affairs. Any educational
9 facility located or proposed to be located in an identified
10 category 1, 2, or 3 evacuation zone is not subject to the
11 requirements of this subsection. If the regional planning
12 council region in which the county is located does not have a
13 hurricane evacuation shelter deficit, as determined by the
14 Department of Community Affairs, educational facilities within
15 the planning council region are not required to incorporate
16 the public shelter criteria.

17 (2) By January 31 of each even-numbered year, the
18 Department of Community Affairs shall prepare and submit a
19 statewide emergency shelter plan to the Governor and the
20 Cabinet for approval. The plan must identify the general
21 location and square footage of existing shelters, by regional
22 planning council region, and the general location and square
23 footage of needed shelters, by regional planning council
24 region, during the next 5 years. The plan must identify the
25 types of public facilities that should be constructed to
26 comply with emergency-shelter criteria and must recommend an
27 appropriate and available source of funding for the additional
28 cost of constructing emergency shelters within these public
29 facilities. After the approval of the plan, a board may not be
30 required to build more emergency-shelter space than identified

31

1 as needed in the plan, and decisions pertaining to exemptions
2 pursuant to subsection (1) must be guided by the plan.

3 (3) The provisions of s. 1013.74 apply to university
4 facilities as emergency shelters.

5 Section 834. Section 1013.38, Florida Statutes, is
6 created to read:

7 1013.38 Boards to ensure that facilities comply with
8 building codes and life safety codes.--

9 (1) Boards shall ensure that all new construction,
10 renovation, remodeling, day labor, and maintenance projects
11 conform to the appropriate sections of the Florida Building
12 Code, Florida Fire Prevention Code, or, where applicable as
13 authorized in other sections of law, other building codes, and
14 life safety codes.

15 (2) Boards may provide compliance as follows:

16 (a) Boards or consortia may individually or
17 cooperatively provide review services under the insurance risk
18 management oversight through the use of board employees or
19 consortia employees, registered pursuant to chapter 471,
20 chapter 481, or part XII of chapter 468.

21 (b) Boards may elect to review construction documents
22 using their own employees registered pursuant to chapter 471,
23 chapter 481, or part XII of chapter 468.

24 (c) Boards may submit phase III construction documents
25 for review to the department.

26 (d) Boards or consortia may contract for plan review
27 services directly with engineers and architects registered
28 pursuant to chapter 471 or chapter 481.

29 (3) The Department of Management Services may, upon
30 request, provide facilities services for the Florida School
31 for the Deaf and the Blind, the Division of Blind Services,

1 and Public Broadcasting. As used in this section, the term
2 "facilities services" means project management, code and
3 design plan review, and code compliance inspection for
4 projects as defined in s. 287.017(1)(e).

5 Section 835. Section 1013.39, Florida Statutes, is
6 created to read:

7 1013.39 Building construction standards;
8 exemptions.--Universities are exempt from local amendments to
9 the Florida Building Code and the Florida Fire Prevention
10 Code.

11 Section 836. Section 1013.40, Florida Statutes, is
12 created to read:

13 1013.40 Planning and construction of community college
14 facilities; property acquisition.--

15 (1) The need for community college facilities shall be
16 established by a survey conducted pursuant to this chapter.
17 The facilities recommended by such survey must be approved by
18 the State Board of Education and the projects must be
19 constructed according to the provisions of this chapter and
20 State Board of Education rules.

21 (2) No community college may expend public funds for
22 the acquisition of additional property without the specific
23 approval of the Legislature.

24 (3) No facility may be acquired or constructed by a
25 community college or its direct-support organization if such
26 facility requires general revenue funds for operation or
27 maintenance upon project completion or in subsequent years of
28 operation, unless prior approval is received from the
29 Legislature.

30 Section 837. Section 1013.41, Florida Statutes, is
31 created to read:

1 1013.41 SMART schools; Classrooms First; legislative
2 purpose.--
3 (1) SMART SCHOOLS.--"SMART schools" are schools that
4 are soundly made, accountable, reasonable, and thrifty. It is
5 the purpose of the Legislature to provide a balanced and
6 principle-based plan for a functional, safe, adequate, and
7 thrifty learning environment for Florida's K-12 students
8 through SMART schools. The plan must be balanced in serving
9 all school districts and must also be balanced between the
10 operating and capital sides of the budget. The principles upon
11 which the plan is based are less government, lower taxes,
12 increased responsibility of school districts, increased
13 freedom through local control, and family and community
14 empowerment.
15 (2) CLASSROOMS FIRST.--It is the purpose of the
16 Legislature to substantially increase the state's investment
17 in school construction in an equitable, fair, and reasonable
18 way.
19 (3) SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITIES WORK PROGRAMS.--It is
20 the purpose of the Legislature to create s. 1013.35, requiring
21 each school district annually to adopt a district facilities
22 5-year work program. The purpose of the district facilities
23 work program is to keep the district school board and the
24 public fully informed as to whether the district is using
25 sound policies and practices that meet the essential needs of
26 students and that warrant public confidence in district
27 operations. The district facilities work program will be
28 monitored by the Office of Educational Facilities and SMART
29 Schools Clearinghouse, which will also apply performance
30 standards pursuant to s. 1013.04.
31

1 (4) OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AND SMART SCHOOLS
2 CLEARINGHOUSE.--It is the purpose of the Legislature to create
3 s. 1013.05, establishing the Office of Educational Facilities
4 and SMART Schools Clearinghouse to assist the school districts
5 in building SMART schools utilizing functional and frugal
6 practices. The Office of Educational Facilities and SMART
7 Schools Clearinghouse must review district facilities work
8 programs and projects and identify districts qualified for
9 incentive funding available through School Infrastructure
10 Thrift Program awards; identify opportunities to maximize
11 design and construction savings; develop school district
12 facilities work program performance standards; and provide for
13 review and recommendations to the Governor, the Legislature,
14 and the State Board of Education.

15 (5) EFFORT INDEX GRANTS.--It is the purpose of the
16 Legislature to create s. 1013.73, in order to provide grants
17 from state funds to assist school districts that have provided
18 a specified level of local effort funding.

19 (6) SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE THRIFT (SIT) PROGRAM
20 AWARDS.--It is the purpose of the Legislature to convert the
21 SIT Program established in ss. 1013.42 and 1013.72 to an
22 incentive award program to encourage functional, frugal
23 facilities and practices.

24 Section 838. Section 1013.42, Florida Statutes, is
25 created to read:

26 1013.42 School Infrastructure Thrift (SIT) Program
27 Act.--

28 (1) This section and s. 1013.72 may be cited as the
29 "School Infrastructure Thrift Program Act."

30 (2) The School Infrastructure Thrift (SIT) Program is
31 established within the Department of Education, and the State

1 Board of Education may adopt rules as necessary to operate the
2 program. To facilitate the program's purposes, the department
3 shall aggressively seek the elimination or revision of
4 obsolete, excessively restrictive, or unnecessary laws, rules,
5 and regulations for the purpose of reducing the cost of
6 constructing educational facilities and related costs without
7 sacrificing safety or quality of construction. Such efforts
8 must include, but are not limited to, the elimination of
9 duplicate or overlapping inspections; the relaxation of
10 requirements relating to the life cycle of buildings,
11 landscaping, operable glazing, operable windows, radon
12 testing, and firesafety when lawful, safe, and
13 cost-beneficial; and other cost savings identified as lawful,
14 safe, and cost-beneficial.

15 (3) The SIT Program is designed as:

16 (a) An incentive program to reward districts for
17 savings realized through functional, frugal construction.

18 (b) A recognition program to provide an annual SMART
19 school of the year recognition award to the district that
20 builds the highest quality functional, frugal school.

21 (4) Funds shall be appropriated to the SIT Program on
22 an annual basis as determined by the Legislature.

23 Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 216.301 and pursuant to
24 s. 216.351, undisbursed balances of appropriations to the SIT
25 Program shall not revert. It is the intent of the Legislature
26 to continue funding the SIT Program with funds available
27 through frugal government operation and agency savings.

28 (5) Participating school districts may seek SIT
29 Program awards beginning July 1, 1997, for projects commenced
30 after or for projects underway at that time, if the projects
31 comply with s. 1013.72.

1 (6)(a) Each school district may submit to the Office
2 of Educational Facilities and SMART Schools Clearinghouse,
3 with supporting data, its request, based on eligibility
4 pursuant to s. 1013.72 for an award of SIT Program dollars.

5 (b) The Office of Educational Facilities and SMART
6 Schools Clearinghouse shall examine the supporting data from
7 each school district and shall report to the commissioner each
8 district's eligibility pursuant to s. 1013.72. Based on the
9 office's report and pursuant to ss. 1013.04 and 1013.05, the
10 office shall make recommendations, ranked in order of
11 priority, for SIT Program awards.

12 (c) The criteria for SIT Program evaluation and
13 recommendation for awards must be based on the school
14 district's eligibility pursuant to s. 1013.72 and the balance
15 of dollars in the SIT Program.

16 (7) Awards from the SIT Program shall be made by the
17 commissioner from funds appropriated by the Legislature. An
18 award funded by an appropriation from the General Revenue Fund
19 may be used for any lawful capital outlay expenditure. An
20 award funded by an appropriation of the proceeds of bonds
21 issued pursuant to s. 1013.70 may be used only for bondable
22 capital outlay projects.

23 Section 839. Section 1013.43, Florida Statutes, is
24 created to read:

25 1013.43 Small school requirement.--

26 (1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS.--The Legislature finds that:

27 (a) Florida's schools are among the largest in the
28 nation.

29 (b) Smaller schools provide benefits of reduced
30 discipline problems and crime, reduced truancy and gang
31 participation, reduced dropout rates, improved teacher and

1 student attitudes, improved student self-perception, student
2 academic achievement equal to or superior to that of students
3 at larger schools, and increased parental involvement.

4 (c) Smaller schools can provide these benefits while
5 not increasing administrative and construction costs.

6 (2) DEFINITION.--As used in this section, "small
7 school" means:

8 (a) An elementary school with a student population of
9 not more than 500 students.

10 (b) A middle school with a student population of not
11 more than 700 students.

12 (c) A high school with a student population of not
13 more than 900 students.

14 (d) A school serving kindergarten through grade 8 with
15 a student population of not more than 700 students.

16 (e) A school serving kindergarten through grade 12
17 with a student population of not more than 900 students.

18
19 A school on a single campus which operates as a
20 school-within-a-school, as defined by s. 1003.02(4), shall be
21 considered a small school if each smaller unit located on the
22 single campus meets the requirements of this subsection.

23 (3) REQUIREMENTS.--

24 (a) Beginning July 1, 2003, all plans for new
25 educational facilities to be constructed within a school
26 district and reflected in the 5-year school district
27 facilities work plan shall be plans for small schools in order
28 to promote increased learning and more effective use of school
29 facilities.

30 (b) Small schools shall comply with all laws, rules,
31 and court orders relating to racial balance.

1 (4) EXCEPTIONS.--This section does not apply to plans
2 for new educational facilities already under architectural
3 contract on July 1, 2003.

4 Section 840. Section 1013.44, Florida Statutes, is
5 created to read:

6 1013.44 Low-energy use design; solar energy systems;
7 swimming pool heaters.--

8 (1)(a) Passive design elements and low-energy usage
9 features shall be included in the design and construction of
10 new educational facilities. Operable glazing consisting of at
11 least 5 percent of the floor area shall be placed in each
12 classroom located on the perimeter of the building. For a
13 relocatable classroom, the area of operable glazing and the
14 area of exterior doors, together, shall consist of at least 5
15 percent of the floor area. Operable glazing is not required in
16 community colleges, auxiliary facilities, music rooms, gyms,
17 locker and shower rooms, special laboratories requiring
18 special climate control, and large group instruction areas
19 having a capacity of more than 100 persons.

20 (b) In the remodeling and renovation of educational
21 facilities which have existing natural ventilation, adequate
22 sources of natural ventilation shall be retained, or a
23 combination of natural and low-energy usage mechanical
24 equipment shall be provided that will permit the use of the
25 facility without air-conditioning or heat when ambient
26 conditions are moderate. However, the Commissioner of
27 Education is authorized to waive this requirement when
28 environmental conditions, particularly noise and pollution
29 factors, preclude the effective use of natural ventilation.

30 (2) Each new educational facility for which the
31 projected demand for hot water exceeds 1,000 gallons a day

1 shall be constructed, whenever economically and physically
2 feasible, with a solar energy system as the primary energy
3 source for the domestic hot water system of the facility. The
4 solar energy system shall be sized so as to provide at least
5 65 percent of the estimated needs of the facility. Sizing
6 shall be determined by generally recognized simulation models,
7 such as F-chart and SOLCOST, or by sizing tables generated by
8 the Florida Solar Energy Center.

9 (3) If swimming and wading pools constructed as an
10 integral part of an educational facility or plant are heated,
11 such pools shall, whenever feasible, be heated by either a
12 waste heat recovery system or a solar energy system.

13 Section 841. Section 1013.45, Florida Statutes, is
14 created to read:

15 1013.45 Educational facilities contracting and
16 construction techniques.--

17 (1) Boards may employ procedures to contract for
18 construction of new facilities, or major additions to existing
19 facilities, that will include, but not be limited to:

20 (a) Competitive bids.

21 (b) Design-build pursuant to s. 287.055.

22 (c) Selecting a construction management entity,
23 pursuant to the process provided by s. 287.055, that would be
24 responsible for all scheduling and coordination in both design
25 and construction phases and is generally responsible for the
26 successful, timely, and economical completion of the
27 construction project. The construction management entity must
28 consist of or contract with licensed or registered
29 professionals for the specific fields or areas of construction
30 to be performed, as required by law. At the option of the
31 board, the construction management entity, after having been

1 selected, may be required to offer a guaranteed maximum price
2 or a guaranteed completion date; in which case, the
3 construction management entity must secure an appropriate
4 surety bond pursuant to s. 255.05 and must hold construction
5 subcontracts. The criteria for selecting a construction
6 management entity shall not unfairly penalize an entity that
7 has relevant experience in the delivery of construction
8 projects of similar size and complexity by methods of delivery
9 other than construction management.

10 (d) Selecting a program management entity, pursuant to
11 the process provided by s. 287.055, that would act as the
12 agent of the board and would be responsible for schedule
13 control, cost control, and coordination in providing or
14 procuring planning, design, and construction services. The
15 program management entity must consist of or contract with
16 licensed or registered professionals for the specific areas of
17 design or construction to be performed as required by law. The
18 program management entity may retain necessary design
19 professionals selected under the process provided in s.
20 287.055. At the option of the board, the program management
21 entity, after having been selected, may be required to offer a
22 guaranteed maximum price or a guaranteed completion date, in
23 which case, the program management entity must secure an
24 appropriate surety bond pursuant to s. 255.05 and must hold
25 design and construction subcontracts. The criteria for
26 selecting a program management entity shall not unfairly
27 penalize an entity that has relevant experience in the
28 delivery of construction programs of similar size and
29 complexity by methods of delivery other than program
30 management.

1 (e) Day-labor contracts not exceeding \$200,000 for
2 construction, renovation, remodeling, or maintenance of
3 existing facilities.

4 (2) For the purposes of this section, "day-labor
5 contract" means a project constructed using persons employed
6 directly by a board or by contracted labor.

7 (3) Contractors, design-build firms, contract
8 management entities, program management entities, or any other
9 person under contract to construct facilities or major
10 additions to facilities may use any construction techniques
11 allowed by contract and not prohibited by law, including, but
12 not limited to, those techniques known as fast-track
13 construction scheduling, use of components, and systems
14 building process.

15 (4) Except as otherwise provided in this section and
16 s. 481.229, the services of a registered architect must be
17 used for the development of plans for the erection,
18 enlargement, or alteration of any educational facility. The
19 services of a registered architect are not required for a
20 minor renovation project for which the construction cost is
21 less than \$50,000 or for the placement or hookup of
22 relocatable educational facilities that conform with standards
23 adopted under s. 1013.37. However, boards must provide
24 compliance with building code requirements and ensure that
25 these structures are adequately anchored for wind resistance
26 as required by law. Boards are encouraged to consider the
27 reuse of existing construction documents or design criteria
28 packages where such reuse is feasible and practical.
29 Notwithstanding s. 287.055, a board may purchase the
30 architectural services for the design of educational or
31 ancillary facilities under an existing contract agreement for

1 professional services held by a district school board in the
2 State of Florida, provided that the purchase is to the
3 economic advantage of the purchasing board, the services
4 conform to the standards prescribed by rules of the State
5 Board of Education, and such reuse is not without notice to,
6 and permission from, the architect of record whose plans or
7 design criteria are being reused. Plans shall be reviewed for
8 compliance with the state requirements for educational
9 facilities. Rules adopted under this section must establish
10 uniform prequalification, selection, bidding, and negotiation
11 procedures applicable to construction management contracts and
12 the design-build process. This section does not supersede any
13 small, woman-owned or minority-owned business enterprise
14 preference program adopted by a board. Except as otherwise
15 provided in this section, the negotiation procedures
16 applicable to construction management contracts and the
17 design-build process must conform to the requirements of s.
18 287.055. A board may not modify any rules regarding
19 construction management contracts or the design-build process.

20 Section 842. Part III.c. of chapter 1013, Florida
21 Statutes, shall be entitled "Contracting for Educational
22 Facilities" and shall consist of ss. 1013.46-1013.51.

23 Section 843. Section 1013.46, Florida Statutes, is
24 created to read:

25 1013.46 Advertising and awarding contracts;
26 prequalification of contractor.--

27 (1)(a) As soon as practicable after any bond issue has
28 been voted upon and authorized or funds have been made
29 available for the construction, remodeling, renovation,
30 demolition, or otherwise for the improvement, of any
31 educational or ancillary plant, and after plans for the work

1 have been approved, the board, if competitively bidding the
2 project pursuant to s. 1013.45, after advertising the same in
3 the manner prescribed by law or rule, shall award the contract
4 for the building or improvements to the lowest responsible
5 bidder. However, if after taking all deductive alternates, the
6 bid of the lowest responsible bidder exceeds the construction
7 budget for the project established at the phase III submittal,
8 the board may declare an emergency. After stating the reasons
9 why an emergency exists, the board may negotiate the
10 construction contract or modify the contract, including the
11 specifications, with the lowest responsible bidder and, if the
12 contract is modified, shall resubmit the documents to the
13 authorized review authority for review to confirm that the
14 project remains in compliance with building and fire codes.
15 The board may reject all bids received and may readvertise,
16 calling for new bids.

17 (b) Each board may declare an emergency pursuant to
18 this subsection. A situation created by fire, storm, or other
19 providential cause resulting in:

- 20 1. Imminent danger to life or safety; or
- 21 2. Overcrowding of students

22
23 constitutes an emergency.

24 (c) As an option, any county, municipality, or board
25 may set aside up to 10 percent of the total amount of funds
26 allocated for the purpose of entering into construction
27 capital project contracts with minority business enterprises,
28 as defined in s. 287.094. Such contracts shall be
29 competitively bid only among minority business enterprises.
30 The set-aside shall be used to redress present effects of past
31

1 discriminatory practices and shall be subject to periodic
2 reassessment to account for changing needs and circumstances.

3 (2) Boards shall prequalify bidders for construction
4 contracts according to rules prescribed by the State Board of
5 Education which require the prequalification of bidders of
6 educational facilities construction. Boards shall require that
7 all construction or capital improvement bids be accompanied by
8 evidence that the bidder holds an appropriate certificate or
9 license or that the prime contractor has a current valid
10 license.

11 Section 844. Section 1013.47, Florida Statutes, is
12 created to read:

13 1013.47 Substance of contract; contractors to give
14 bond; penalties.--Each board shall develop contracts
15 consistent with this chapter and statutes governing public
16 facilities. Such a contract must contain the drawings and
17 specifications of the work to be done and the material to be
18 furnished, the time limit in which the construction is to be
19 completed, the time and method by which payments are to be
20 made upon the contract, and the penalty to be paid by the
21 contractor for any failure to comply with the terms of the
22 contract. The board may require the contractor to pay a
23 penalty for any failure to comply with the terms of the
24 contract and may provide an incentive for early completion.
25 Upon accepting a satisfactory bid, the board shall enter into
26 a contract with the party or parties whose bid has been
27 accepted. The contractor shall furnish the board with a
28 performance and payment bond as set forth in s. 255.05. A
29 board or other public entity may not require a contractor to
30 secure a surety bond under s. 255.05 from a specific agent or
31 bonding company. Notwithstanding any other provision of this

1 section, if 25 percent or more of the costs of any
2 construction project is paid out of a trust fund established
3 pursuant to 31 U.S.C. s. 1243(a)(1), laborers and mechanics
4 employed by contractors or subcontractors on such construction
5 will be paid wages not less than those prevailing on similar
6 construction projects in the locality, as determined by the
7 Secretary of Labor in accordance with the Davis-Bacon Act, as
8 amended. A person, firm, or corporation that constructs any
9 part of any educational plant, or addition thereto, on the
10 basis of any unapproved plans or in violation of any plans
11 approved in accordance with the provisions of this chapter and
12 rules of the State Board of Education relating to building
13 standards or specifications is subject to forfeiture of bond
14 and unpaid compensation in an amount sufficient to reimburse
15 the board for any costs that will need to be incurred in
16 making any changes necessary to assure that all requirements
17 are met and is also guilty of a misdemeanor of the second
18 degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083,
19 for each separate violation.

20 Section 845. Section 1013.48, Florida Statutes, is
21 created to read:

22 1013.48 Changes in construction requirements after
23 award of contract.--The board may, at its option and by
24 written policy duly adopted and entered in its official
25 minutes, authorize the superintendent or president or other
26 designated individual to approve change orders in the name of
27 the board for preestablished amounts. Approvals shall be for
28 the purpose of expediting the work in progress and shall be
29 reported to the board and entered in its official minutes. For
30 accountability, the school district shall monitor and report
31

1 the impact of change orders on its district facilities work
2 program pursuant to s. 1013.35.

3 Section 846. Section 1013.49, Florida Statutes, is
4 created to read:

5 1013.49 Toxic substances in construction, repair, or
6 maintenance of educational facilities.--

7 (1) All toxic substances enumerated in the Florida
8 Substance List established pursuant to s. 442.103 that are to
9 be used in the construction, repair, or maintenance of
10 educational facilities have restricted usage provisions.

11 (2) Before any such substance may be used, the
12 contractor shall notify the district school superintendent or
13 public postsecondary institution president in writing at least
14 three working days prior to using the substance. The
15 notification shall contain:

- 16 (a) The name of the substance to be used;
17 (b) Where the substance is to be used; and
18 (c) When the substance is to be used.

19
20 A copy of a material safety data sheet as defined in s.
21 442.102 shall be attached to the notification for each such
22 substance.

23 Section 847. Section 1013.50, Florida Statutes, is
24 created to read:

25 1013.50 Final payment to contractor.--

26 (1) The final payment to the contractor shall not be
27 made until the construction project has been inspected by the
28 architect or other person designated by the board for that
29 purpose and until he or she has issued a written certificate
30 that the project has been constructed in accordance with the
31 approved plans and specifications and approved change orders

1 and until the board, acting on these recommendations, has
2 accepted the project. After acceptance by the board, a
3 duplicate copy of this written certificate, duly certified as
4 having been accepted by the board, as well as other related
5 data on contract costs and total costs per student station,
6 space inventory update, and other related building information
7 must be filed with the department for budget and cost
8 reporting purposes.

9 (2) Boards shall have full authority and
10 responsibility for all decisions regarding educational and
11 ancillary plant construction contracts, change orders, and
12 payments.

13 Section 848. Section 1013.51, Florida Statutes, is
14 created to read:

15 1013.51 Expenditures authorized for certain
16 infrastructure.--

17 (1)(a) Subject to exemption from the assessment of
18 fees pursuant to s. 1013.37(1), education boards, boards of
19 county commissioners, municipal boards, and other agencies and
20 boards of the state may expend funds, separately or
21 collectively, by contract or agreement, for the placement,
22 paving, or maintaining of any road, byway, or sidewalk if the
23 road, byway, or sidewalk is contiguous to or runs through the
24 property of any educational plant or for the maintenance or
25 improvement of the property of any educational plant or of any
26 facility on such property. Expenditures may also be made for
27 sanitary sewer, water, stormwater, and utility improvements
28 upon, or contiguous to, and for the installation, operation,
29 and maintenance of traffic control and safety devices upon, or
30 contiguous to, any existing or proposed educational plant.

31

1 (b) A board may pay its proportionate share of the
2 cost of onsite and offsite system improvements necessitated by
3 the educational facility development, but a board is not
4 required to pay for or install any improvements that exceed
5 those required to meet the onsite and offsite needs of a new
6 public educational facility or an expanded site. Development
7 exactions assessed against school boards or community college
8 districts may not exceed the proportionate share of the cost
9 of system improvements necessitated by the educational
10 facility development and may not address existing facility or
11 service backlogs or deficits.

12 (c) The boards of county commissioners, municipal
13 boards, and other agencies and boards of the state may plant
14 or maintain trees, flowers, shrubbery, and beautifying plants
15 upon the grounds of any educational plant, upon approval of
16 the superintendent or president or the designee of either of
17 them. Payment by a board for any improvement set forth in this
18 section shall be authorized in any amounts agreed to by the
19 board. Any payments so authorized to be made are not mandatory
20 unless the specific improvement and costs have been agreed to
21 prior to the improvement's being made.

22 (2) The provisions of any law, municipal ordinance, or
23 county ordinance to the contrary notwithstanding, the
24 provisions of this section regulate the levying of assessments
25 for special benefits on school or community college districts
26 and the directing of the payment thereof. Any municipal
27 ordinance or county ordinance making provision to the contrary
28 is void.

29 (3) Notwithstanding any other law, if a board agrees
30 to construct or upgrade water or sewer facilities, or
31 otherwise provide, construct, upgrade, or maintain offsite

1 infrastructure beyond its proportionate share of
2 responsibility, the local government that issues development
3 approvals shall assure that the board is reimbursed for the
4 additional costs incurred, to the extent that other
5 development occurs which demands use of such infrastructure.

6 (4) Expenditure for infrastructure for universities
7 shall be as authorized in s. 1013.30.

8 Section 849. Part III.d. of chapter 1013, Florida
9 Statutes, shall be entitled "Cooperative Development of
10 Educational Facilities" and shall consist of ss.
11 1013.52-1013.54.

12 Section 850. Section 1013.52, Florida Statutes, is
13 created to read:

14 1013.52 Cooperative development and joint use of
15 facilities by two or more boards.--

16 (1) Two or more boards, including district school
17 boards, community college boards of trustees, the Board of
18 Trustees for the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind,
19 and university boards of trustees, desiring to cooperatively
20 establish a common educational facility to accommodate
21 students shall:

22 (a) Jointly request a formal assessment by the
23 Commissioner of Education of the academic program need and the
24 need to build new joint-use facilities to house approved
25 programs. Completion of the assessment and approval of the
26 project by the State Board of Education or the Commissioner of
27 Education, as appropriate, should be done prior to conducting
28 an educational facilities survey.

29 (b) Demonstrate the need for construction of new
30 joint-use facilities involving postsecondary institutions by
31 those institutions presenting evidence of the presence of

1 sufficient actual full-time equivalent enrollments in the
2 locale in leased, rented, or borrowed spaces to justify the
3 requested facility for the programs identified in the formal
4 assessment rather than using projected or anticipated future
5 full-time equivalent enrollments as justification. If the
6 decision is made to construct new facilities to meet this
7 demonstrated need, then building plans should consider
8 full-time equivalent enrollment growth facilitated by this new
9 construction and subsequent new program offerings made
10 possible by the existence of the new facilities.

11 (c) Adopt and submit to the commissioner a joint
12 resolution of the participating boards indicating their
13 commitment to the utilization of the requested facility and
14 designating the locale of the proposed facility. The joint
15 resolution shall contain a statement of determination by the
16 participating boards that alternate options, including the use
17 of leased, rented, or borrowed space, were considered and
18 found less appropriate than construction of the proposed
19 facility. The joint resolution shall contain assurance that
20 the development of the proposed facility has been examined in
21 conjunction with the programs offered by neighboring public
22 educational facilities offering instruction at the same level.
23 The joint resolution also shall contain assurance that each
24 participating board shall provide for continuity of
25 educational progression. All joint resolutions shall be
26 submitted to the commissioner by August 1 for consideration of
27 funding by the subsequent Legislature.

28 (d) Submit requests for funding of joint-use
29 facilities projects involving state universities and community
30 colleges for approval by the Commissioner of Education. The
31 Commissioner of Education shall determine the priority for

1 funding these projects in relation to the priority of all
2 other capital outlay projects under their consideration. To be
3 eligible for funding from the Public Education Capital Outlay
4 and Debt Service Trust Fund under the provisions of this
5 section, projects involving both state universities and
6 community colleges shall appear on the 3-year capital outlay
7 priority lists of community colleges and of universities
8 required by s. 1013.64. Projects involving a state university,
9 community college, and a public school, and in which the
10 larger share of the proposed facility is for the use of the
11 state university or the community college, shall appear on the
12 3-year capital outlay priority lists of the community colleges
13 or of the universities, as applicable.

14 (e) Include in their joint resolution for the
15 joint-use facilities, comprehensive plans for the operation
16 and management of the facility upon completion. Institutional
17 responsibilities for specific functions shall be identified,
18 including designation of one participating board as sole owner
19 of the facility. Operational funding arrangements shall be
20 clearly defined.

21 (2) An educational plant survey must be conducted
22 within 90 days after submission of the joint resolution and
23 substantiating data describing the benefits to be obtained,
24 the programs to be offered, and the estimated cost of the
25 proposed project. Upon completion of the educational plant
26 survey, the participating boards may include the recommended
27 projects in their plan as provided in s. 1013.31. Upon
28 approval of the project by the commissioner, 25 percent of the
29 total cost of the project, or the pro rata share based on
30 space utilization of 25 percent of the cost, must be included
31 in the department's legislative capital outlay budget request

1 as provided in s. 1013.60 for educational plants. The
2 participating boards must include in their joint resolution a
3 commitment to finance the remaining funds necessary to
4 complete the planning, construction, and equipping of the
5 facility. Funds from the Public Education Capital Outlay and
6 Debt Service Trust Fund may not be expended on any project
7 unless specifically authorized by the Legislature.

8 (3) Included in all proposals for joint-use facilities
9 must be documentation that the proposed new campus or new
10 joint-use facility has been reviewed by the State Board of
11 Education and has been formally requested for authorization by
12 the Legislature.

13 (4) No district school board, community college, or
14 state university shall receive funding for more than one
15 approved joint-use facility per campus in any 3-year period.

16 Section 851. Section 1013.53, Florida Statutes, is
17 created to read:

18 1013.53 Cooperative development of educational
19 facilities in juvenile justice programs.--

20 (1) The Department of Juvenile Justice shall provide
21 early notice to school districts regarding the siting of new
22 juvenile justice facilities. School districts shall include
23 the projected number of students in the districts' annual
24 estimates. School districts must be consulted regarding the
25 types of students expected to be assigned to commitment
26 facilities for education planning and budgeting purposes.

27 (2) The Department of Juvenile Justice shall notify,
28 in writing, the Department of Education when a request for
29 proposals is issued for the construction or operation of a
30 commitment or detention facility anywhere in the state. The
31 Department of Juvenile Justice shall notify, in writing, the

1 appropriate school district when a request for proposals is
2 issued for the construction or operation of a commitment or
3 detention facility when a county or site is specifically
4 identified.

5 (3) The Department of Juvenile Justice shall also
6 notify the district school superintendent within 30 days
7 after:

8 (a) The award of a contract for the construction or
9 operation of a commitment or detention facility within that
10 school district.

11 (b) Obtaining a permit to begin construction of a new
12 detention or commitment facility within that school district.

13 Section 852. Section 1013.54, Florida Statutes, is
14 created to read:

15 1013.54 Cooperative development and use of satellite
16 facilities by private industry and district school boards.--

17 (1) Each district school board may submit, prior to
18 August 1 of each year, a request to the commissioner for funds
19 from the Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt Service
20 Trust Fund to construct, remodel, or renovate an educational
21 facility within the industrial environment. No district school
22 board may apply for more than one facility per year. Such
23 request shall contain the following provisions:

24 (a) A detailed description of the satellite site, the
25 site development necessary for new construction, remodeling,
26 or renovation for the accomplishment of the project, and the
27 facility to be constructed. The facility shall be located on a
28 site owned by the business and leased to the district school
29 board at no cost. However, the minimum agreement shall be for
30 a period of at least 5 years. The amounts provided by the
31 state and the district school board shall be considered full

1 consideration for the lease. If the lease agreement is
2 terminated early, the business shall reimburse the district
3 school board an amount determined by multiplying the amounts
4 contributed by the district school board and the state by a
5 fraction the numerator of which is the number of months
6 remaining in the original agreement and the denominator of
7 which is the total number of months of the agreement.
8 (b) A detailed description and analysis of the
9 educational programs to be offered and the benefits that will
10 accrue to the students through the instructional programs upon
11 completion of the facility.
12 (c) The estimated number of full-time students whose
13 regularly scheduled daily instructional program will utilize
14 the facility.
15 (d) The estimated cost of the facility and site
16 development not to exceed the department's average cost of new
17 construction adjusted to the respective county cost index. If
18 a site must be acquired, the estimated cost of the site shall
19 be provided.
20 (e) A resolution or other appropriate indication of
21 intent to participate in the funding and utilization of the
22 educational facility from private industry. Such indication
23 shall include a commitment by private industry to provide at
24 least one-half of the cost of the facility. The district
25 school board shall provide one-fourth of the cost of the
26 facility and, if approved, the state shall provide one-fourth
27 of the cost of the facility. Funds from the Public Education
28 Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund may not be expended
29 on any project unless specifically authorized by the
30 Legislature.
31

1 (f) The designation as to which agency is to assume
2 responsibility for the operation, maintenance, and control of
3 the proposed facility.

4 (g) Documentation by the district school board that a
5 long-term lease for the use of the educational facility for a
6 period of not less than 40 years or the life expectancy of the
7 permanent facility constructed thereon, whichever is longer,
8 has been obtained from private industry.

9 (2) The commissioner shall appoint a review committee
10 to make recommendations and prioritize requests. If the
11 project is approved by the commissioner, the commissioner
12 shall include up to one-fourth of the cost of the project in
13 the legislative capital outlay budget request, as provided in
14 s. 1013.60, for the funding of capital outlay projects
15 involving both educational and private industry. The
16 commissioner shall prioritize any such projects for each
17 fiscal year and, notwithstanding the provisions of s.
18 1013.64(3)(c), limit the recommended state funding amount not
19 to exceed 5 percent off the top of the total funds recommended
20 pursuant to s. 1013.64(2) and (3).

21 (3) Facilities funded pursuant to this section and all
22 existing satellite facilities shall be exempt from ad valorem
23 taxes as long as the facility is used exclusively for public
24 educational purposes.

25 Section 853. Part IV of chapter 1013, Florida
26 Statutes, shall be entitled "Funding for Educational
27 Facilities" and shall consist of ss. 1013.60-1013.82.

28 Section 854. Section 1013.60, Florida Statutes, is
29 created to read:

30 1013.60 Legislative capital outlay budget request.--
31

1 (1) The Commissioner of Education shall develop a
2 procedure deemed appropriate in arriving at the amounts
3 required to fund projects as reflected in the integrated,
4 comprehensive budget request required by this section. The
5 official estimates for funds accruing to the Public Education
6 Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund made by the revenue
7 estimating conference shall be used in determining the budget
8 request pursuant to this section. The commissioner, in
9 consultation with the appropriations committees of the
10 Legislature, shall provide annually an estimate of funds that
11 shall be utilized by community colleges and universities in
12 developing their required 3-year priority lists pursuant to s.
13 1013.64.

14 (2) The commissioner shall submit to the Governor and
15 to the Legislature an integrated, comprehensive budget request
16 for educational facilities construction and fixed capital
17 outlay needs for school districts, community colleges, and
18 universities, pursuant to the provisions of s. 1013.64 and
19 applicable provisions of chapter 216. Each community college
20 board of trustees and each university board of trustees shall
21 submit to the commissioner a 3-year plan and data required in
22 the development of the annual capital outlay budget. No
23 further disbursements shall be made from the Public Education
24 Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund to a board of
25 trustees that fails to timely submit the required data until
26 such board of trustees submits the data.

27 (3) The commissioner shall submit an integrated,
28 comprehensive budget request to the Executive Office of the
29 Governor and to the Legislature each fiscal year by the
30 submission date specified in s. 216.023(1). Notwithstanding
31

1 the provisions of s. 216.043, the integrated, comprehensive
2 budget request shall include:

3 (a) Recommendations for the priority of expenditure of
4 funds in the state system of public education, with reasons
5 for the recommended priorities, and other recommendations
6 which relate to the effectiveness of the educational
7 facilities construction program.

8 (b) All items in s. 1013.64.

9 Section 855. Section 1013.61, Florida Statutes, is
10 created to read:

11 1013.61 Annual capital outlay budget.--Each board
12 shall, each year, adopt a capital outlay budget for the
13 ensuing year in order that the capital outlay needs of the
14 board for the entire year may be well understood by the
15 public. This capital outlay budget shall be a part of the
16 annual budget and shall be based upon and in harmony with the
17 board's capital outlay plan. This budget shall designate the
18 proposed capital outlay expenditures by project for the year
19 from all fund sources. The board may not expend any funds on
20 any project not included in the budget, as amended. Each
21 district school board must prepare its tentative district
22 facilities work program as required by s. 1013.35 before
23 adopting the capital outlay budget.

24 Section 856. Section 1013.62, Florida Statutes, is
25 created to read:

26 1013.62 Charter schools capital outlay funding.--

27 (1) In each year in which funds are appropriated for
28 charter school capital outlay purposes, the Commissioner of
29 Education shall allocate the funds among eligible charter
30 schools. To be eligible for a funding allocation, a charter
31 school must meet the provisions of subsection (6), must have

1 received final approval from its sponsor pursuant to s.
2 1002.33 for operation during that fiscal year, and must serve
3 students in facilities that are not provided by the charter
4 school's sponsor. Prior to the release of capital outlay funds
5 to a school district on behalf of the charter school, the
6 Department of Education shall ensure that the district school
7 board and the charter school governing board enter into a
8 written agreement that includes provisions for the reversion
9 of any unencumbered funds and all equipment and property
10 purchased with public education funds to the ownership of the
11 district school board, as provided for in subsection (3), in
12 the event that the school terminates operations. Any funds
13 recovered by the state shall be deposited in the General
14 Revenue Fund. A charter school is not eligible for a funding
15 allocation if it was created by the conversion of a public
16 school and operates in facilities provided by the charter
17 school's sponsor for a nominal fee or at no charge or if it is
18 directly or indirectly operated by the school district. Unless
19 otherwise provided in the General Appropriations Act, the
20 funding allocation for each eligible charter school shall be
21 determined by multiplying the school's projected student
22 enrollment by one-fifteenth of the cost-per-student station
23 specified in s. 1013.64(6)(b) for an elementary, middle, or
24 high school, as appropriate. If the funds appropriated are not
25 sufficient, the commissioner shall prorate the available funds
26 among eligible charter schools. Funds shall be distributed on
27 the basis of the capital outlay full-time equivalent
28 membership by grade level, which shall be calculated by
29 averaging the results of the second and third enrollment
30 surveys. The Department of Education shall distribute capital
31 outlay funds monthly, beginning in the first quarter of the

1 fiscal year, based on one-twelfth of the amount the department
2 reasonably expects the charter school to receive during that
3 fiscal year. The commissioner shall adjust subsequent
4 distributions as necessary to reflect each charter school's
5 actual student enrollment as reflected in the second and third
6 enrollment surveys. The commissioner shall establish the
7 intervals and procedures for determining the projected and
8 actual student enrollment of eligible charter schools.

9 (2) A charter school's governing body may use charter
10 school capital outlay funds for any capital outlay purpose
11 that is directly related to the functioning of the charter
12 school, including the:

13 (a) Purchase of real property.

14 (b) Construction, renovation, repair, and maintenance
15 of school facilities.

16 (c) Purchase, lease-purchase, or lease of permanent or
17 relocatable school facilities.

18 (d) Purchase of vehicles to transport students to and
19 from the charter school.

20 (3) When a charter school is nonrenewed or terminated,
21 any unencumbered funds and all equipment and property
22 purchased with district public funds shall revert to the
23 ownership of the district school board, as provided for in s.
24 1002.33(8)(e) and (f). In the case of a charter lab school,
25 any unencumbered funds and all equipment and property
26 purchased with university public funds shall revert to the
27 ownership of the state university that issued the charter. The
28 reversion of such equipment, property, and furnishings shall
29 focus on recoverable assets, but not on intangible or
30 irrecoverable costs such as rental or leasing fees, normal
31 maintenance, and limited renovations. The reversion of all

1 property secured with public funds is subject to the complete
2 satisfaction of all lawful liens or encumbrances. If there are
3 additional local issues such as the shared use of facilities
4 or partial ownership of facilities or property, these issues
5 shall be agreed to in the charter contract prior to the
6 expenditure of funds.

7 (4) The Commissioner of Education shall specify
8 procedures for submitting and approving requests for funding
9 under this section and procedures for documenting
10 expenditures.

11 (5) The annual legislative budget request of the
12 Department of Education shall include a request for capital
13 outlay funding for charter schools. The request shall be based
14 on the projected number of students to be served in charter
15 schools who meet the eligibility requirements of this section.

16 (6) Unless authorized otherwise by the Legislature,
17 allocation and proration of charter school capital outlay
18 funds shall be made to eligible charter schools by the
19 Commissioner of Education in an amount and in a manner
20 authorized by subsection (1).

21 Section 857. Section 1013.63, Florida Statutes, is
22 created to read:

23 1013.63 University Concurrency Trust
24 Fund.--Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the general
25 revenue service charge deducted pursuant to s. 215.20 on
26 revenues raised by any local option motor fuel tax levied
27 pursuant to s. 336.025(1)(b), as created by chapter 93-206,
28 Laws of Florida, shall be deposited in the University
29 Concurrency Trust Fund, which is administered by the State
30 Board of Education. Moneys in such trust fund shall be for the
31 purpose of funding university offsite improvements required to

1 meet concurrency standards adopted under part II of chapter
2 163. In addition, in any year in which campus master plans are
3 updated pursuant to s. 1013.30, but no more frequently than
4 once every 5 years, up to 25 percent of the balance in the
5 trust fund for that year may be used to defray the costs
6 incurred in updating those campus master plans.

7 Section 858. Section 1013.64, Florida Statutes, is
8 created to read:

9 1013.64 Funds for comprehensive educational plant
10 needs; construction cost maximums for school district capital
11 projects.--Allocations from the Public Education Capital
12 Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund to the various boards for
13 capital outlay projects shall be determined as follows:

14 (1)(a) Funds for remodeling, renovation, maintenance,
15 repairs, and site improvement for existing satisfactory
16 facilities shall be given priority consideration by the
17 Legislature for appropriations allocated to the boards from
18 the total amount of the Public Education Capital Outlay and
19 Debt Service Trust Fund appropriated. These funds shall be
20 calculated pursuant to the following basic formula: the
21 building value times the building age over the sum of the
22 years' digits assuming a 50-year building life. For
23 relocatable facilities, a 20-year life shall be used.

24 "Building value" is calculated by multiplying each building's
25 total assignable square feet times the appropriate
26 net-to-gross conversion rate found in state board rules and
27 that product times the current average new construction cost.
28 "Building age" is calculated by multiplying the prior year's
29 building age times 1 minus the prior year's sum received from
30 this subsection divided by the prior year's building value. To
31 the net result shall be added the number 1. Each board shall

1 receive the percentage generated by the preceding formula of
2 the total amount appropriated for the purposes of this
3 section.

4 (b) Each board is prohibited from using the funds
5 received pursuant to this section to supplant funds in the
6 current fiscal year approved operating budget, and all
7 budgeted funds shall be expended at a rate not less than would
8 have been expended had the funds under this section not been
9 received.

10 (c) Each remodeling, renovation, maintenance, repair,
11 or site improvement project will expand or upgrade current
12 educational plants to prolong the useful life of the plant.

13 (d) Each board shall maintain fund accounting in a
14 manner which will permit a detailed audit of the funds
15 expended in this program.

16 (e) Remodeling projects shall be based on the
17 recommendations of a survey pursuant to s. 1013.31.

18 (f) At least one-tenth of a board's annual allocation
19 provided under this section shall be spent to correct unsafe,
20 unhealthy, or unsanitary conditions in its educational
21 facilities, as required by s. 1013.12, or a lesser amount
22 sufficient to correct all deficiencies cited in its annual
23 comprehensive safety inspection reports. This paragraph shall
24 not be construed to limit the amount a board may expend to
25 correct such deficiencies.

26 (g) When an existing educational plant is determined
27 to be unsatisfactory pursuant to the survey conducted under s.
28 1013.31, the board may, by resolution, designate the plant as
29 a historic educational facility and may use funds generated
30 for renovation and remodeling pursuant to this section to
31 restore the facility for use by the board. The board shall

1 agree to pay renovation and remodeling costs in excess of
2 funds which such facility would have generated through the
3 depreciation formula in paragraph (a) had the facility been
4 determined to be satisfactory. The board shall further agree
5 that the plant shall continue to house students. The board may
6 designate a plant as a historic educational facility only if
7 the Division of Historical Resources of the Department of
8 State or the appropriate historic preservation board under
9 chapter 266 certifies that:

10 1. The plant is listed or determined eligible for
11 listing in the National Register of Historic Places pursuant
12 to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended,
13 16 U.S.C. s. 470;

14 2. The plant is designated historic within a certified
15 local district pursuant to s. 48(g)(3)(B)(ii) of the Internal
16 Revenue Code; or

17 3. The division or historic preservation board
18 otherwise finds that the plant is historically significant.

19 (h) University boards of trustees may utilize funds
20 appropriated pursuant to this section for replacement of minor
21 facilities provided that such projects do not exceed \$1
22 million in cost or 10,000 gross square feet in size. Minor
23 facilities may not be replaced from funds provided pursuant to
24 this section unless the board determines that the cost of
25 repair or renovation is greater than or equal to the cost of
26 replacement.

27 (2)(a) The department shall establish, as a part of
28 the Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust
29 Fund, a separate account, in an amount determined by the
30 Legislature, to be known as the "Special Facility Construction
31 Account." The Special Facility Construction Account shall be

1 used to provide necessary construction funds to school
2 districts which have urgent construction needs but which lack
3 sufficient resources at present, and cannot reasonably
4 anticipate sufficient resources within the period of the next
5 3 years, for these purposes from currently authorized sources
6 of capital outlay revenue. A school district requesting
7 funding from the Special Facility Construction Account shall
8 submit one specific construction project, not to exceed one
9 complete educational plant, to the Special Facility
10 Construction Committee. No district shall receive funding for
11 more than one approved project in any 3-year period. The first
12 year of the 3-year period shall be the first year a district
13 receives an appropriation. The department shall encourage a
14 construction program that reduces the average size of schools
15 in the district. The request must meet the following criteria
16 to be considered by the committee:

17 1. The project must be deemed a critical need and must
18 be recommended for funding by the Special Facility
19 Construction Committee. Prior to developing plans for the
20 proposed facility, the district school board must request a
21 preapplication review by the Special Facility Construction
22 Committee or a project review subcommittee convened by the
23 committee to include two representatives of the department and
24 two staff from school districts not eligible to participate in
25 the program. Within 60 days after receiving the preapplication
26 review request, the committee or subcommittee must meet in the
27 school district to review the project proposal and existing
28 facilities. To determine whether the proposed project is a
29 critical need, the committee or subcommittee shall consider,
30 at a minimum, the capacity of all existing facilities within
31 the district as determined by the Florida Inventory of School

1 Houses; the district's pattern of student growth; the
2 district's existing and projected capital outlay full-time
3 equivalent student enrollment as determined by the department;
4 the district's existing satisfactory student stations; the use
5 of all existing district property and facilities; grade level
6 configurations; and any other information that may affect the
7 need for the proposed project.

8 2. The construction project must be recommended in the
9 most recent survey or surveys by the district under the rules
10 of the State Board of Education.

11 3. The construction project must appear on the
12 district's approved project priority list under the rules of
13 the State Board of Education.

14 4. The district must have selected and had approved a
15 site for the construction project in compliance with s.
16 1013.36 and the rules of the State Board of Education.

17 5. The district shall have developed a district school
18 board adopted list of facilities that do not exceed the norm
19 for net square feet occupancy requirements under the State
20 Requirements for Educational Facilities, using all possible
21 programmatic combinations for multiple use of space to obtain
22 maximum daily use of all spaces within the facility under
23 consideration.

24 6. Upon construction, the total cost per student
25 station, including change orders, must not exceed the cost per
26 student station as provided in subsection (6).

27 7. There shall be an agreement signed by the district
28 school board stating that it will advertise for bids within 30
29 days of receipt of its encumbrance authorization from the
30 department.

31

1 8. The district shall, at the time of the request and
2 for a continuing period of 3 years, levy the maximum millage
3 against their nonexempt assessed property value as allowed in
4 s. 1011.71(2) or shall raise an equivalent amount of revenue
5 from the school capital outlay surtax authorized under s.
6 212.055(6). Any district with a new or active project, funded
7 under the provisions of this subsection, shall be required to
8 budget no more than the value of 1.5 mills per year to the
9 project to satisfy the annual participation requirement in the
10 Special Facility Construction Account.

11 9. If a contract has not been signed 90 days after the
12 advertising of bids, the funding for the specific project
13 shall revert to the Special Facility New Construction Account
14 to be reallocated to other projects on the list. However, an
15 additional 90 days may be granted by the commissioner.

16 10. The department shall certify the inability of the
17 district to fund the survey-recommended project over a
18 continuous 3-year period using projected capital outlay
19 revenue derived from s. 9(d), Art. XII of the State
20 Constitution, as amended, paragraph (3)(a) of this section,
21 and s. 1011.71(2).

22 11. The district shall have on file with the
23 department an adopted resolution acknowledging its 3-year
24 commitment of all unencumbered and future revenue acquired
25 from s. 9(d), Art. XII of the State Constitution, as amended,
26 paragraph (3)(a) of this section, and s. 1011.71(2).

27 12. Final phase III plans must be certified by the
28 board as complete and in compliance with the building and life
29 safety codes prior to August 1.

30 (b) The Special Facility Construction Committee shall
31 be composed of the following: two representatives of the

1 Department of Education, a representative from the Governor's
2 office, a representative selected annually by the district
3 school boards, and a representative selected annually by the
4 superintendents.

5 (c) The committee shall review the requests submitted
6 from the districts, evaluate the ability of the project to
7 relieve critical needs, and rank the requests in priority
8 order. This statewide priority list for special facilities
9 construction shall be submitted to the Legislature in the
10 commissioner's annual capital outlay legislative budget
11 request at least 45 days prior to the legislative session.

12 (3)(a) Each district school board shall receive an
13 amount from the Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt
14 Service Trust Fund to be calculated by computing the capital
15 outlay full-time equivalent membership as determined by the
16 department. Such membership must include, but is not limited
17 to:

18 1. K-12 students, except hospital and homebound
19 part-time students; and

20 2. Students who are career and technical education
21 students, and adult disabled students and who are enrolled in
22 school district technical centers. The capital outlay
23 full-time equivalent membership shall be determined for
24 kindergarten through the 12th grade and for technical centers
25 by averaging the unweighted full-time equivalent student
26 membership for the second and third surveys and comparing the
27 results on a school-by-school basis with the Florida Inventory
28 for School Houses. The capital outlay full-time equivalent
29 membership by grade level organization shall be used in making
30 the following calculations: The capital outlay full-time
31 equivalent membership by grade level organization for the 4th

1 prior year must be used to compute the base-year allocation.
2 The capital outlay full-time equivalent membership by
3 grade-level organization for the prior year must be used to
4 compute the growth over the highest of the 3 years preceding
5 the prior year. From the total amount appropriated by the
6 Legislature pursuant to this subsection, 40 percent shall be
7 allocated among the base capital outlay full-time equivalent
8 membership and 60 percent among the growth capital outlay
9 full-time equivalent membership. The allocation within each of
10 these groups shall be prorated to the districts based upon
11 each district's percentage of base and growth capital outlay
12 full-time membership. The most recent 4-year capital outlay
13 full-time equivalent membership data shall be used in each
14 subsequent year's calculation for the allocation of funds
15 pursuant to this subsection. If a change, correction, or
16 recomputation of data during any year results in a reduction
17 or increase of the calculated amount previously allocated to a
18 district, the allocation to that district shall be adjusted
19 correspondingly. If such recomputation results in an increase
20 or decrease of the calculated amount, such additional or
21 reduced amounts shall be added to or reduced from the
22 district's future appropriations. However, no change,
23 correction, or recomputation of data shall be made subsequent
24 to 2 years following the initial annual allocation.

25 (b) Funds accruing to a district school board from the
26 provisions of this section shall be expended on needed
27 projects as shown by survey or surveys under the rules of the
28 State Board of Education.

29 (c) A district school board may lease relocatable
30 educational facilities for up to 3 years using nonbonded PECO
31

1 funds and for any time period using local capital outlay
2 millage.

3 (d) Funds distributed to the district school boards
4 shall be allocated solely based on the provisions of
5 paragraphs (1)(a) and (2)(a) and paragraph (a) of this
6 subsection. No individual school district projects shall be
7 funded off the top of funds allocated to district school
8 boards.

9 (4)(a) Community college boards of trustees and
10 university boards of trustees shall receive funds for projects
11 based on a 3-year priority list, to be updated annually, which
12 is submitted to the Legislature in the legislative budget
13 request at least 90 days prior to the legislative session. The
14 State Board of Education shall submit a 3-year priority list
15 for community colleges and a 3-year priority list for
16 universities. The lists shall reflect decisions by the State
17 Board of Education concerning program priorities that
18 implement the statewide plan for program growth and quality
19 improvement in education. No remodeling or renovation project
20 shall be included on the 3-year priority list unless the
21 project has been recommended pursuant to s. 1013.31 or is for
22 the purpose of correcting health and safety deficiencies. No
23 new construction project shall be included on the first year
24 of the 3-year priority list unless the educational
25 specifications have been approved by the commissioner for a
26 community college or university project, as applicable. The
27 funds requested for a new construction project in the first
28 year of the 3-year priority list shall be in conformance with
29 the scope of the project as defined in the educational
30 specifications. Any new construction project requested in the
31 first year of the 3-year priority list which is not funded by

1 the Legislature shall be carried forward to be listed first in
2 developing the updated 3-year priority list for the subsequent
3 year's capital outlay budget. Should the order of the priority
4 of the projects change from year to year, a justification for
5 such change shall be included with the updated priority list.

6 (b) Community college boards of trustees and
7 university boards of trustees may lease relocatable
8 educational facilities for up to 3 years using nonbonded PECO
9 funds.

10 (c) Community college boards of trustees and
11 university boards of trustees shall receive funds for
12 remodeling, renovation, maintenance and repairs, and site
13 improvement for existing satisfactory facilities pursuant to
14 subsection (1).

15 (5) District school boards shall identify each fund
16 source and the use of each proportionate to the project cost,
17 as identified in the bid document, to assure compliance with
18 this section. The data shall be submitted to the department,
19 which shall track this information as submitted by the boards.
20 PECO funds shall not be expended as indicated in the
21 following:

22 (a) District school boards shall provide landscaping
23 by local funding sources or initiatives. District school
24 boards are exempt from local landscape ordinances but may
25 comply with the local requirements if such compliance is less
26 costly than compliance with the landscape requirements of the
27 State Uniform Building Code for Public Educational Facilities.

28 (b) PECO funds shall not be used for the construction
29 of football fields, bleachers, site lighting for athletic
30 facilities, tennis courts, stadiums, racquetball courts, or
31 any other competition-type facilities not required for

1 physical education curriculum. Regional or intradistrict
2 football stadiums may be constructed with these funds provided
3 a minimum of two high schools and two middle schools are
4 assigned to the facility and the stadiums are survey
5 recommended. Sophisticated auditoria shall be limited to
6 magnet performing arts schools, with all other schools using
7 basic lighting and sound systems as determined by rule. Local
8 funds shall be used for enhancement of athletic and performing
9 arts facilities.

10 (6)(a) Each district school board must meet all
11 educational plant space needs of its elementary, middle, and
12 high schools before spending funds from the Public Education
13 Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund or the School
14 District and Community College District Capital Outlay and
15 Debt Service Trust Fund for any ancillary plant or any other
16 new construction, renovation, or remodeling of ancillary
17 space. Expenditures to meet such space needs may include
18 expenditures for site acquisition; new construction of
19 educational plants; renovation, remodeling, and maintenance
20 and repair of existing educational plants, including auxiliary
21 facilities; and the directly related costs of such services of
22 school district personnel. It is not the intent of the
23 Legislature to preclude the use of capital outlay funding for
24 the labor costs necessary to accomplish the authorized uses
25 for the capital outlay funding. Day-labor contracts or any
26 other educational facilities contracting and construction
27 techniques pursuant to s. 1013.45 are authorized.
28 Additionally, if a school district has salaried maintenance
29 staff whose duties consist solely of performing the labor
30 necessary to accomplish the authorized uses for the capital
31 outlay funding, such funding may be used for those salaries;

1 however, if a school district has salaried staff whose duties
2 consist partially of performing the labor necessary to
3 accomplish the authorized uses for the capital outlay funding,
4 the district shall prorate the portion of salary of each such
5 employee that is based on labor for authorized capital outlay
6 funding, and such funding may be used to pay that portion.

7 (b)1. A district school board must not use funds from
8 the Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust
9 Fund or the School District and Community College District
10 Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund for any new
11 construction of educational plant space with a total cost per
12 student station, including change orders, that equals more
13 than:

- 14 a. \$11,600 for an elementary school,
- 15 b. \$13,300 for a middle school, or
- 16 c. \$17,600 for a high school,

17
18 (1997) as adjusted annually by the Consumer Price Index.

19 2. A district school board must not use funds from the
20 Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund or
21 the School District and Community College District Capital
22 Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund for any new construction of
23 an ancillary plant that exceeds 70 percent of the average cost
24 per square foot of new construction for all schools.

25 (c) Except as otherwise provided, new construction
26 initiated by a district school board after June 30, 1997, must
27 not exceed the cost per student station as provided in
28 paragraph (b).

29 (d) The department shall compute for each calendar
30 year the statewide average construction costs for facilities
31 servicing each instructional level, for relocatable educational

1 facilities, for administrative facilities, and for other
2 ancillary and auxiliary facilities. The department shall
3 compute the statewide average costs per student station for
4 each instructional level. Cost per student station includes
5 contract costs, legal and administrative costs, fees of
6 architects and engineers, furniture and equipment, and site
7 improvement costs. Cost per student station does not include
8 the cost of purchasing or leasing the site for the
9 construction or the cost of related offsite improvements.

10 (e) The restrictions of this subsection on the cost
11 per student station of new construction do not apply to a
12 project funded entirely from proceeds received by districts
13 through provisions of ss. 212.055 and 1011.73 and s. 9, Art.
14 VII of the State Constitution, if the school board approves
15 the project by majority vote.

16 Section 859. Section 1013.65, Florida Statutes, is
17 created to read:

18 1013.65 Educational and ancillary plant construction
19 funds; Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust
20 Fund; allocation of funds.--

21 (1) The commissioner, through the department, shall
22 administer the Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt
23 Service Trust Fund. The commissioner shall allocate or
24 reallocate funds as authorized by the Legislature. Copies of
25 each allocation or reallocation shall be provided to members
26 of the State Board of Education and to the chairs of the House
27 of Representatives and Senate appropriations committees. The
28 commissioner shall provide for timely encumbrances of funds
29 for duly authorized projects. Encumbrances may include
30 proceeds to be received under a resolution approved by the
31 State Board of Education authorizing the issuance of public

1 education capital outlay bonds pursuant to s. 9(a)(2), Art.
2 XII of the State Constitution, s. 215.61, and other applicable
3 law. The commissioner shall provide for the timely
4 disbursement of moneys necessary to meet the encumbrance
5 authorizations of the boards. Records shall be maintained by
6 the department to identify legislative appropriations,
7 allocations, encumbrance authorizations, disbursements,
8 transfers, investments, sinking funds, and revenue receipts by
9 source. The Department of Education shall pay the
10 administrative costs of the Public Education Capital Outlay
11 and Debt Service Trust Fund from the funds which comprise the
12 trust fund.

13 (2)(a) The Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt
14 Service Trust Fund shall be comprised of the following
15 sources, which are hereby appropriated to the trust fund:

16 1. Proceeds, premiums, and accrued interest from the
17 sale of public education bonds and that portion of the
18 revenues accruing from the gross receipts tax as provided by
19 s. 9(a)(2), Art. XII of the State Constitution, as amended,
20 interest on investments, and federal interest subsidies.

21 2. General revenue funds appropriated to the fund for
22 educational capital outlay purposes.

23 3. All capital outlay funds previously appropriated
24 and certified forward pursuant to s. 216.301.

25 (b) Any funds required by law to be segregated or
26 maintained in separate accounts shall be segregated or
27 maintained in such manner that the relationship between
28 program and revenue source is retained. Nothing in this
29 subsection shall be construed so as to limit the use by the
30 Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund of
31 the resources of funds so segregated or maintained.

1 (3) Upon the request of each board, the department
2 shall distribute to the board an amount sufficient to cover
3 capital outlay disbursements anticipated from encumbrance
4 authorizations for the following month. For projects costing
5 in excess of \$50,000, contracts shall be approved and signed
6 before any disbursements are authorized.

7 (4) The department may authorize each board to enter
8 into contracts for a period exceeding 1 year, within amounts
9 appropriated and budgeted for fixed capital outlay needs; but
10 any contract so made shall be executory only for the value of
11 the services to be rendered, or agreed to be paid for, in
12 succeeding fiscal years. This subsection shall be incorporated
13 verbatim in all executory contracts of a board.

14 (5) No board shall, during any fiscal year, expend any
15 money, incur any liability, or enter into any contract which,
16 by its terms, involves expenditure of money in excess of the
17 amounts appropriated and budgeted or in excess of the cash
18 that will be available to meet the disbursement requirements.
19 Prior to entering into an executory, or any other, contract, a
20 board shall obtain certification from the department that
21 moneys will be available to meet the disbursement
22 requirements. Any contract, verbal or written, made in
23 violation of this subsection shall be null and void, and no
24 payment shall be made thereon.

25 (6) The State Board of Administration is authorized to
26 invest the trust funds of any state-supported retirement
27 system, and any other state funds available for loans, to the
28 trust fund at a rate of interest that is no less favorable
29 than would have been received had such moneys been invested in
30 accordance with authorized practices.

31

1 (7) Boards and entities authorized to participate in
2 the trust fund are district school boards, the community
3 college boards of trustees, the Trustees of the Florida School
4 for the Deaf and the Blind, and university boards of trustees
5 and other units of the state system of public education, and
6 other educational entities defined in s. 228.041 for which
7 funds are authorized by the Legislature.

8 (8) The department shall make a monthly report, by
9 project, of requests for encumbrance authorization from each
10 agency. Each project shall be tracked in the following manner:

11 (a) The date the request is received;

12 (b) The anticipated encumbrance date requested by the
13 agency;

14 (c) The date the project is eligible for encumbrance
15 authorization; and

16 (d) The date the encumbrance authorization is issued.

17 (9) The department shall make a monthly report:

18 (a) Showing the amount of cash disbursed to the agency
19 from each appropriated allocation and the amount of cash
20 disbursed by the agency to vendors or contractors from each
21 appropriated allocation, by month.

22 (b) Showing updated adjustments to the budget fiscal
23 year forecast for appropriations, encumbrances, disbursements,
24 and cash available for encumbrance status.

25 Section 860. Section 1013.66, Florida Statutes, is
26 created to read:

27 1013.66 Financing of approved capital projects.--

28 (1) Capital projects are to be financed in accordance
29 with s. 9(a)(2), Art. XII of the State Constitution, as
30 amended, or from other legally available state funds or
31

1 grants, donations, or matching funds, or by a combination of
2 such funds.

3 (2) The sum designated annually by the Legislature is
4 the maximum sum to be expended from funds accruing under s.
5 9(a)(2), Art. XII of the State Constitution, as amended, and
6 from funds accruing under s. 1013.65(2). However, funds
7 appropriated from this source and remaining unexpended from
8 previously authorized capital projects, along with grants,
9 donations, and matching funds from other sources, may be added
10 to such maximum sums for any item or category.

11 (3) No transfers between appropriations shall be made
12 without prior approval under the provisions of chapter 216.

13 (4) To the extent that appropriations authority for
14 entitlements from previous years was used for advanced
15 funding, that authority is hereby restored to the projects for
16 which appropriations were made by the Legislature in those
17 previous years.

18 Section 861. Section 1013.67, Florida Statutes, is
19 created to read:

20 1013.67 Commissioner to provide for encumbrances of
21 funds.--The Commissioner of Education shall provide for timely
22 encumbrances of funds for duly authorized projects.
23 Encumbrances may include proceeds to be received under a
24 resolution approved by the State Board of Education
25 authorizing the issuance of 1997 school capital outlay bonds
26 pursuant to s. 11(d), Art. VII of the State Constitution, s.
27 1013.70, and other applicable law.

28 Section 862. Section 1013.68, Florida Statutes, is
29 created to read:

30 1013.68 Classrooms First Program; uses.--
31

1 (1) The Commissioner of Education shall allocate funds
2 appropriated for the Classrooms First Program among the
3 district school boards. It is the intent of the Legislature
4 that this program be administered as nearly as practicable in
5 the same manner as the capital outlay program authorized under
6 s. 9(d), Art. XII of the State Constitution. Each district
7 school board's share of the annual appropriation for the
8 Classrooms First Program must be calculated according to the
9 following formula, but the share of each district shall, at a
10 minimum, be at least equal to the amount required for all
11 payments of the district relating to bonds issued by the state
12 on its behalf:

13 (a) Twenty-five percent of the appropriation shall be
14 prorated to the districts based on each district's percentage
15 of base capital outlay full-time equivalent membership; and 65
16 percent shall be based on each district's percentage of growth
17 capital outlay full-time equivalent membership as specified
18 for the allocation of funds from the Public Education Capital
19 Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund by s. 1013.64(3).

20 (b) Ten percent of the appropriation must be allocated
21 among district school boards according to the allocation
22 formula in s. 1013.64(1)(a).

23 (2) A district school board shall expend the funds
24 received pursuant to this section only to:

25 (a) Construct, renovate, remodel, repair, or maintain
26 educational facilities; or

27 (b) Pay debt service on bonds issued pursuant to this
28 section, the proceeds of which must be expended for new
29 construction, remodeling, renovation, and major repairs. Bond
30 proceeds shall be expended first for providing permanent
31 classroom facilities. Bond proceeds shall not be expended for

1 any other facilities until all unmet needs for permanent
2 classrooms and auxiliary facilities as defined in s. 1013.01
3 have been satisfied.

4
5 However, if more than 9 percent of a district's total square
6 feet is more than 50 years old, the district must spend at
7 least 25 percent of its allocation on the renovation, major
8 repair, or remodeling of existing schools, except that
9 districts with fewer than 10,000 full-time equivalent students
10 are exempt from this requirement.

11 (3) Each district school board that pledges moneys
12 under paragraph (2)(b) shall notify the Department of
13 Education of its election at a time set by the department. The
14 Department of Education shall review the proposal of each
15 district school board for compliance with this section and
16 shall forward all approved proposals to the Division of Bond
17 Finance with a request to issue bonds on behalf of the
18 approved school districts. The Division of Bond Finance shall
19 pool the pledges from all school districts making the election
20 in that year and shall issue the bonds on behalf of the
21 districts for a period not to exceed the distributions to be
22 received under s. 24.121(2). The bonds must be issued in
23 accordance with s. 11(d), Art. VII of the State Constitution,
24 and each project to be constructed with the proceeds of bonds
25 is hereby approved as provided in s. 11(f), Art. VII of the
26 State Constitution. The bonds shall be issued pursuant to the
27 State Bond Act to the extent not inconsistent with this
28 section.

29 (4) Bonds issued under this section must be validated
30 as prescribed by chapter 75. The complaint for the validation
31 must be filed in the circuit court of the county where the

1 seat of state government is situated; the notice required to
2 be published by s. 75.06 must be published only in the county
3 where the complaint is filed; and the complaint and order of
4 the circuit court must be served only on the state attorney of
5 the circuit in which the action is pending. The state
6 covenants with holders of bonds issued under this section that
7 it will not take any action that will materially and adversely
8 affect the rights of such holders so long as such bonds are
9 outstanding. The state does hereby additionally authorize the
10 establishment of a covenant in connection with the bonds which
11 provides that any additional funds received by the state from
12 new or enhanced lottery programs, video gaming, or other
13 similar activities will first be available for payments
14 relating to bonds pledging revenues available pursuant to s.
15 24.121(2), prior to use for any other purpose.

16 (5) A school district may only receive a distribution
17 for use pursuant to paragraph (2)(a) if the district school
18 board certifies to the Commissioner of Education that the
19 district has no unmet need for permanent classroom facilities
20 in its 5-year capital outlay work plan. If the work plan
21 contains such unmet needs, the district must use its
22 distribution for the payment of bonds pursuant to paragraph
23 (2)(b). If the district does not require its full bonded
24 distribution to eliminate such unmet need, it may bond only
25 that portion of its allocation necessary to meet the needs.

26 Section 863. Section 1013.69, Florida Statutes, is
27 created to read:

28 1013.69 Full bonding required to participate in
29 programs.--Any district with unused bonding capacity in its
30 Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund allocation that
31 certifies in its district facilities work program that it will

1 not be able to meet all of its need for new student stations
2 within existing revenues must fully bond its Capital Outlay
3 and Debt Service Trust Fund allocation before it may
4 participate in Classrooms First, the School Infrastructure
5 Thrift (SIT) Program, or the Effort Index Grants Program.

6 Section 864. Section 1013.70, Florida Statutes, is
7 created to read:

8 1013.70 The 1997 School Capital Outlay Bond
9 Program.--There is hereby established the 1997 School Capital
10 Outlay Bond Program.

11 (1) The issuance of revenue bonds payable from the
12 first lottery revenues transferred to the Educational
13 Enhancement Trust Fund each fiscal year, as provided by s.
14 24.121(2), is authorized to finance or refinance the
15 construction, acquisition, reconstruction, or renovation of
16 educational facilities. Such bonds shall be issued pursuant to
17 and in compliance with the provisions of s. 11(d), Art. VII of
18 the State Constitution, the provisions of the State Bond Act,
19 ss. 215.57-215.83, as amended, and the provisions of this
20 section. The state does hereby covenant with the holders of
21 such revenue bonds that it will not take any action which will
22 materially and adversely affect the rights of such holders so
23 long as bonds authorized by this section are outstanding. The
24 state does hereby additionally authorize the establishment of
25 a covenant in connection with the bonds which provides that
26 any additional funds received by the state from new or
27 enhanced lottery programs, video gaming, or other similar
28 activities will first be available for payments relating to
29 bonds pledging revenues available pursuant to s. 24.121(2),
30 prior to use for any other purpose.

31

1 (2) The bonds shall be issued by the Division of Bond
2 Finance of the State Board of Administration on behalf of the
3 Department of Education in such amount as shall be requested
4 by resolution of the State Board of Education. However, debt
5 service and other amounts payable with respect to the bonds
6 issued pursuant to this section shall not exceed \$35 million
7 in any state fiscal year.

8 (3) Proceeds available from bond sales shall be
9 deposited in the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund within the
10 Department of Education.

11 (4) The facilities to be financed with the proceeds of
12 such bonds are designated as state fixed capital outlay
13 projects for purposes of s. 11(d), Art. VII of the State
14 Constitution and the specific facilities to be financed shall
15 be determined by the Department of Education in accordance
16 with state law and appropriations from the Educational
17 Enhancement Trust Fund. Each educational facility to be
18 financed with the proceeds of the bonds issued pursuant to
19 this section is hereby approved as required by s. 11(f), Art.
20 VII of the State Constitution.

21 (5) Bonds issued pursuant to this section shall be
22 validated in the manner provided by chapter 75. The complaint
23 for such validation shall be filed in the circuit court of the
24 county where the seat of state government is situated, the
25 notice required to be published by s. 75.06 shall be published
26 only in the county where the complaint is filed, and the
27 complaint and order of the circuit court shall be served only
28 on the state attorney of the circuit in which the action is
29 pending.

30 Section 865. Section 1013.71, Florida Statutes, is
31 created to read:

1 1013.71 Lottery Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust
2 Fund.--

3 (1)(a) The Lottery Capital Outlay and Debt Service
4 Trust Fund is hereby created, to be administered by the
5 Department of Education. Funds shall be credited to the trust
6 fund from legislative appropriations and interest earnings.
7 The purpose of the trust fund is to maintain and account for
8 lottery funds appropriated for fixed capital outlay and debt
9 service separately from lottery funds appropriated for current
10 operations.

11 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 216.301 and
12 pursuant to s. 216.351, any balance in the trust fund at the
13 end of any fiscal year shall remain in the trust fund and
14 shall be available for carrying out the purposes of the trust
15 fund.

16 (2) Lottery funds appropriated for fixed capital
17 outlay and debt service, along with any interest earned
18 thereon, shall be transferred from the Educational Enhancement
19 Trust Fund to the Lottery Capital Outlay and Debt Service
20 Trust Fund.

21 (3) Pursuant to the provisions of s. 19(f)(3), Art.
22 III of the State Constitution, the trust fund is not subject
23 to termination under s. 19(f)(2), Art. III of the State
24 Constitution.

25 Section 866. Section 1013.72, Florida Statutes, is
26 created to read:

27 1013.72 SIT Program award eligibility; maximum cost
28 per student station of educational facilities; frugality
29 incentives; recognition awards.--

30 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature that district
31 school boards that seek awards of SIT Program funds use due

1 diligence and sound business practices in the design,
2 construction, and use of educational facilities.

3 (2) A school district may seek an award from the SIT
4 Program, pursuant to this section and s. 1013.42, based on the
5 district's new construction of educational facilities if the
6 cost per student station is less than:

7 (a) \$11,600 for an elementary school,

8 (b) \$13,300 for a middle school, or

9 (c) \$17,600 for a high school,

10
11 (1997) as adjusted annually by the Consumer Price Index. The
12 award shall be up to 50 percent of such savings, as
13 recommended by the Office of Educational Facilities and SMART
14 Schools Clearinghouse.

15 (3) A school district may seek a SMART school of the
16 year recognition award for building the highest quality
17 functional, frugal school. The commissioner may present a
18 trophy or plaque and a cash award to the school recommended by
19 the Office of Educational Facilities and SMART Schools
20 Clearinghouse for a SMART school of the year recognition
21 award.

22 Section 867. Section 1013.73, Florida Statutes, is
23 created to read:

24 1013.73 Effort index grants for school district
25 facilities.--

26 (1) The Legislature hereby allocates for effort index
27 grants the sum of \$300 million from the funds appropriated
28 from the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund by s. 46, chapter
29 97-384, Laws of Florida, contingent upon the sale of school
30 capital outlay bonds. From these funds, the Commissioner of
31 Education shall allocate to the four school districts deemed

1 eligible for an effort index grant by the SMART Schools
2 Clearinghouse the sums of \$7,442,890 to the Clay County School
3 District, \$62,755,920 to the Dade County School District,
4 \$1,628,590 to the Hendry County School District, and \$414,950
5 to the Madison County School District. The remaining funds
6 shall be allocated among the remaining district school boards
7 that qualify for an effort index grant by meeting the local
8 capital outlay effort criteria in paragraph (a) or paragraph
9 (b).

10 (a) Between July 1, 1995, and June 30, 1999, the
11 school district received direct proceeds from the
12 one-half-cent sales surtax for public school capital outlay
13 authorized by s. 212.055(6) or from the local government
14 infrastructure sales surtax authorized by s. 212.055(2).

15 (b) The school district met two of the following
16 criteria:

17 1. Levied the full 2 mills of nonvoted discretionary
18 capital outlay authorized by s. 1011.71(2) during 1995-1996,
19 1996-1997, 1997-1998, and 1998-1999.

20 2. Levied a cumulative voted millage for capital
21 outlay and debt service equal to 2.5 mills for fiscal years
22 1995 through 1999.

23 3. Received proceeds of school impact fees greater
24 than \$500 per dwelling unit which were in effect on July 1,
25 1998.

26 4. Received direct proceeds from either the
27 one-half-cent sales surtax for public school capital outlay
28 authorized by s. 212.055(6) or from the local government
29 infrastructure sales surtax authorized by s. 212.055(2).

30 (2) It is the intent of the Legislature that this
31 program be administered as nearly as is practicable in the

1 same manner as the capital outlay program authorized under s.
2 9(d), Art. XII of the State Constitution. Each district school
3 board's share of the appropriation for the effort index grants
4 must be calculated according to the following formula using
5 the same basis as the Classrooms First allocation formula, but
6 the share of each district shall, at a minimum, be at least
7 equal to the amount required for all payments of the district
8 relating to bonds issued by the state on its behalf:

9 (a) Twenty-five percent of the appropriation shall be
10 prorated to the districts based on each district's percentage
11 of base capital outlay full-time-equivalent membership; and 65
12 percent shall be based on each district's percentage of growth
13 capital outlay full-time-equivalent membership as specified
14 for the allocation of funds from the Public Education Capital
15 Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund by s. 1013.64(3).

16 (b) Ten percent of the appropriation must be allocated
17 among district school boards according to the allocation
18 formula in s. 1013.64(1)(a).

19 (3) A district school board shall expend the funds
20 received under this section only to:

21 (a) Construct, renovate, remodel, repair, or maintain
22 educational facilities; or

23 (b) Pay debt service on bonds issued under this
24 section, the proceeds of which must be expended for new
25 construction, remodeling, renovation, and major repairs. Bond
26 proceeds shall be expended first for providing permanent
27 classroom facilities and related auxiliary facilities. Bond
28 proceeds may not be expended for any other facilities until
29 all unmet needs for permanent classrooms and auxiliary
30 facilities as defined in s. 1013.01 have been satisfied.

31

1 However, if more than 9 percent of a district's total square
2 feet is more than 50 years old, the district must spend at
3 least 25 percent of its allocation on the renovation, major
4 repair, or remodeling of existing schools, except that
5 districts having fewer than 10,000 full-time equivalent
6 students are exempt from this requirement.

7 (4) Each district school board that pledges moneys
8 under paragraph (3)(b) shall notify the Department of
9 Education of its election at a time set by the department. The
10 Department of Education shall review the proposal of each
11 district school board for compliance with this section and
12 shall forward all approved proposals to the Division of Bond
13 Finance with a request to issue bonds on behalf of the
14 approved school districts.

15 (5) A district school board that chooses to pledge
16 allocations from the Classrooms First Program for the issuance
17 of bonds must encumber those bond proceeds before pledging
18 funds for the payment of debt service on bonds issued pursuant
19 to this section.

20 (6) A school district may receive a distribution for
21 use pursuant to paragraph (3)(a) only if the district school
22 board certifies to the Commissioner of Education that the
23 district has no unmet need for permanent classroom facilities
24 in its 5-year capital outlay work plan. If the work plan
25 contains such unmet needs, the district must use its
26 distribution for the payment of bonds under paragraph (2)(b).
27 If the district does not require its full bonded distribution
28 to eliminate such unmet needs, it may bond only that portion
29 of its allocation necessary to meet the needs.

30 Section 868. Section 1013.74, Florida Statutes, is
31 created to read:

1 1013.74 University authorization for fixed capital
2 outlay projects.--

3 (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 216,
4 including s. 216.351, a university may accomplish fixed
5 capital outlay projects consistent with the provisions of this
6 section. Projects authorized by this section shall not require
7 educational plant survey approval as prescribed in chapter
8 235.

9 (2) The following types of projects may be
10 accomplished pursuant to this section:

11 (a) Construction of any new buildings, or remodeling
12 of existing buildings, when funded from nonstate sources such
13 as federal grant funds, private gifts, grants, or lease
14 arrangements if such grants or gifts are given for the
15 specific purpose of construction;

16 (b) The replacement of any buildings destroyed by fire
17 or other calamity;

18 (c) Construction of projects financed as provided in
19 ss. 1010.60-1010.619 or 1013.71;

20 (d) Construction of new facilities or remodeling of
21 existing facilities to meet needs for research, provided that
22 such projects are financed pursuant to s. 1004.22; or

23 (e) Construction of facilities or remodeling of
24 existing facilities to meet needs as determined by the
25 university, provided that the amount of funds for any such
26 project does not exceed \$1 million, and the trust funds, other
27 than the funds used to accomplish projects contemplated in
28 this subsection, are authorized and available for such
29 purposes.

30 (3) Other than those projects currently authorized, no
31 project proposed by a university which is to be funded from

1 Capital Improvement Trust Fund fees or building fees shall be
2 submitted to the State Board of Education for approval without
3 prior consultation with the student government association of
4 that university. The State Board of Education shall promulgate
5 rules which are consistent with this requirement.
6 (4) The university board of trustees shall, in
7 consultation with local and state emergency management
8 agencies, assess existing facilities to identify the extent to
9 which each campus has public hurricane evacuation shelter
10 space. The board shall submit to the Governor and the
11 Legislature by August 1 of each year a 5-year capital
12 improvements program that identifies new or retrofitted
13 facilities that will incorporate enhanced hurricane resistance
14 standards and that can be used as public hurricane evacuation
15 shelters. Enhanced hurricane resistance standards include
16 fixed passive protection for window and door applications to
17 provide mitigation protection, security protection with
18 egress, and energy efficiencies that meet standards required
19 in the 130-mile-per-hour wind zone areas. The board must also
20 submit proposed facility retrofit projects to the Department
21 of Community Affairs for assessment and inclusion in the
22 annual report prepared in accordance with s. 252.385(3). Until
23 a regional planning council region in which a campus is
24 located has sufficient public hurricane evacuation shelter
25 space, any campus building for which a design contract is
26 entered into subsequent to July 1, 2001, and which has been
27 identified by the board, with the concurrence of the local
28 emergency management agency or the Department of Community
29 Affairs, to be appropriate for use as a public hurricane
30 evacuation shelter, must be constructed in accordance with
31 public shelter standards.

1 Section 869. Section 1013.75, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1013.75 Cooperative funding of career and technical
4 educational facilities.--

5 (1) Each district school board operating a designated
6 technical center may submit, prior to August 1 of each year, a
7 request to the commissioner for funds from the Public
8 Education Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund to plan,
9 construct, and equip a career and technical educational
10 facility identified as being critical to the economic
11 development and the workforce needs of the school district.

12 Prior to submitting a request, each school district shall:

13 (a) Adopt and submit to the commissioner a resolution
14 indicating its commitment to fund the planning, construction,
15 and equipping of the proposed facility at 40 percent of the
16 requested project amount. The resolution shall also designate
17 the locale of the proposed facility. If funds from a private
18 or noneducational public entity are to be committed to the
19 project, then a joint resolution shall be required.

20 (b) Except as provided in paragraph (5)(b), levy the
21 maximum millage against the nonexempt assessed property value
22 as provided in s. 1011.71(2).

23 (c) Certify to the Office of Workforce and Economic
24 Development that the project has been survey recommended.

25 (d) Certify to the Office of Workforce and Economic
26 Development that final phase III construction documents comply
27 with applicable building codes and life safety codes.

28 (e) Sign an agreement that the district school board
29 shall advertise for bids within 90 days of receiving an
30 encumbrance authorization from the department.

31

1 (f) If a construction contract has not been signed 90
2 days after the advertising of bids, certify to the Office of
3 Workforce and Economic Development and the department the
4 cause for delay. Upon request, an additional 90 days may be
5 granted by the commissioner.

6 (2) The Office of Workforce and Economic Development
7 shall establish the need for additional career and technical
8 education programs and the continuation of existing programs
9 before facility construction or renovation related to career
10 and technical education can be included in the educational
11 plant survey. Information used by the Office of Workforce and
12 Economic Development to establish facility needs shall
13 include, but not be limited to, labor market needs analysis
14 and information submitted by the school districts.

15 (3) The total cost of the proposed facility shall be
16 determined by the district school board using established
17 state board averages for determining new construction cost.

18 (4)(a) A career and technical education construction
19 committee shall be composed of the following: three
20 representatives from the Department of Education and one
21 representative from the Executive Office of the Governor.

22 (b) The committee shall review and evaluate the
23 requests submitted from the school districts and rank the
24 requests in priority order in accordance with statewide
25 critical needs. This statewide priority list shall be
26 submitted to the commissioner.

27 (c) The commissioner's legislative capital outlay
28 budget request may include up to 2 percent of the new
29 construction allocation to public schools for career and
30 technical capital outlay projects recommended by the career
31 and technical education construction committee.

1 (5)(a) Upon approval of a project, the commissioner
2 shall include up to 60 percent of the total cost of the
3 project in the legislative capital outlay budget request as
4 provided in s. 1013.60 for educational plants. The
5 participating district school board shall provide 40 percent
6 of the total cost of the project. When practical, the district
7 school board shall solicit and encourage a private or
8 noneducational public entity to commit to finance a portion of
9 the funds to complete the planning, construction, and
10 equipping of the facility. If a site does not exist, the
11 purchase price or, if donated, the assessed value of a site
12 may be included in meeting the funding requirements of the
13 district school board, a private or noneducational public
14 entity, or the educational agency. The value of existing
15 sites, intended to satisfy any portion of the funding
16 requirement of a private or noneducational public entity,
17 shall be determined by an independent appraiser under contract
18 with the board. The size of the site to adequately provide for
19 the implementation of the proposed educational programs shall
20 be determined by the board. Funds from the Public Education
21 Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund may not be expended
22 on any project unless specifically authorized by the
23 Legislature.

24 (b) In the event that a school district is not levying
25 the maximum millage against the nonexempt assessed property
26 value pursuant to paragraph (1)(b), state and school district
27 funding pursuant to paragraph (a) shall be reduced by the same
28 proportion as the millage actually being levied bears to the
29 maximum allowable millage.

30 Section 870. Section 1013.76, Florida Statutes, is
31 created to read:

1 1013.76 Multiyear capital improvement contracts.--Any
2 provision of chapters 1010 and 1011 to the contrary
3 notwithstanding, school districts are authorized to award
4 capital improvement contracts involving expenditures to be
5 incurred for a period of more than 1 year on the basis of
6 voter-authorized and unissued general obligation bonding
7 authority, provided that sufficient funds are available to,
8 and budgeted by, the school district to pay actual
9 disbursements during any fiscal year.

10 Section 871. Section 1013.77, Florida Statutes, is
11 created to read:

12 1013.77 Direct-support organization; use of property;
13 board of directors; audit.--

14 (1) DEFINITIONS.--For the purposes of this section,
15 the term:

16 (a) "District school board direct-support
17 organization" means an organization that:

- 18 1. Is approved by the district school board;
19 2. Is a Florida corporation not for profit,
20 incorporated under the provisions of chapter 617 and approved
21 by the Department of State; and
22 3. Is organized and operated exclusively to receive,
23 hold, invest, and administer property and to make expenditures
24 to or for the benefit of public prekindergarten through 12th
25 grade education and adult career and technical and community
26 education programs in this state.

27 (b) "Personal services" includes full-time or
28 part-time personnel, as well as payroll processing.

29 (2) USE OF PROPERTY.--A district school board:

30 (a) Is authorized to permit the use of property,
31 facilities, and personal services of the district by a

1 direct-support organization, subject to the provisions of this
2 section.

3 (b) Shall prescribe by rule conditions with which a
4 district school board direct-support organization must comply
5 in order to use property, facilities, or personal services of
6 the district. Adoption of such rules shall be coordinated with
7 the Department of Education. The rules shall provide for
8 budget and audit review and oversight by the district school
9 board and the department.

10 (c) Shall not permit the use of property, facilities,
11 or personal services of a direct-support organization if such
12 organization does not provide equal employment opportunities
13 to all persons, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age,
14 or national origin.

15 (3) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.--The board of directors of the
16 district school board direct-support organization shall be
17 approved by the district school board.

18 (4) ANNUAL AUDIT.--Each direct-support organization
19 shall provide for an annual financial audit of its accounts
20 and records, to be conducted by an independent certified
21 public accountant in accordance with rules adopted by the
22 Auditor General pursuant to s. 11.45(8) and the Commissioner
23 of Education. The annual audit report shall be submitted
24 within 9 months after the fiscal year's end to the district
25 school board and the Auditor General. The Commissioner of
26 Education, the Auditor General, and the Office of Program
27 Policy Analysis and Government Accountability have the
28 authority to require and receive from the organization or the
29 district auditor any records relative to the operation of the
30 organization. The identity of donors and all information
31 identifying donors and prospective donors are confidential and

1 exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1), and that anonymity
2 shall be maintained in the auditor's report. All other records
3 and information shall be considered public records for the
4 purposes of chapter 119.

5 Section 872. Section 1013.78, Florida Statutes, is
6 created to read:

7 1013.78 Approval required for certain
8 university-related facility acquisitions.--

9 (1) No university or university direct-support
10 organization shall construct, accept, or purchase facilities
11 for which the state will be asked for operating funds unless
12 there has been prior approval for construction or acquisition
13 granted by the Legislature.

14 (2) Legislative approval shall not be required for
15 renovations, remodeling, replacement of existing facilities or
16 construction of minor projects as defined in s. 1013.64.

17 Section 873. Section 1013.79, Florida Statutes, is
18 created to read:

19 1013.79 University Facility Enhancement Challenge
20 Grant Program.--

21 (1) The Legislature recognizes that the universities
22 do not have sufficient physical facilities to meet the current
23 demands of their instructional and research programs. It
24 further recognizes that, to strengthen and enhance
25 universities, it is necessary to provide facilities in
26 addition to those currently available from existing revenue
27 sources. It further recognizes that there are sources of
28 private support that, if matched with state support, can
29 assist in constructing much-needed facilities and strengthen
30 the commitment of citizens and organizations in promoting
31 excellence throughout the state universities. Therefore, it is

1 the intent of the Legislature to establish a trust fund to
2 provide the opportunity for each university to receive and
3 match challenge grants for instructional and research-related
4 capital facilities within the university.

5 (2) There is hereby established the Alec P. Courtelis
6 University Facility Enhancement Challenge Grant Program for
7 the purpose of assisting universities build high priority
8 instructional and research-related capital facilities,
9 including common areas connecting such facilities. The
10 associated foundations that serve the universities shall
11 solicit gifts from private sources to provide matching funds
12 for capital facilities. For the purposes of this act, private
13 sources of funds shall not include any federal, state, or
14 local government funds that a university may receive.

15 (3) There is established the Alec P. Courtelis Capital
16 Facilities Matching Trust Fund for the purpose of providing
17 matching funds from private contributions for the development
18 of high priority instructional and research-related capital
19 facilities, including common areas connecting such facilities,
20 within a university. The Legislature shall appropriate funds
21 to be transferred to the trust fund. The Public Education
22 Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund, Capital
23 Improvement Trust Fund, Division of Sponsored Research Trust
24 Fund, and Contracts and Grants Trust Fund shall not be used as
25 the source of the state match for private contributions. All
26 appropriated funds deposited into the trust fund shall be
27 invested pursuant to the provisions of s. 18.125. Interest
28 income accruing to that portion of the trust fund shall
29 increase the total funds available for the challenge grant
30 program. Interest income accruing from the private donations
31 shall be returned to the participating foundation upon

1 completion of the project. The State Board of Education shall
2 administer the trust fund and all related construction
3 activities.

4 (4) No project shall be initiated unless all private
5 funds for planning, construction, and equipping the facility
6 have been received and deposited in the trust fund and the
7 state's share for the minimum amount of funds needed to begin
8 the project has been appropriated by the Legislature. The
9 Legislature may appropriate the state's matching funds in one
10 or more fiscal years for the planning, construction, and
11 equipping of an eligible facility. However, these requirements
12 shall not preclude the university from expending available
13 funds from private sources to develop a prospectus, including
14 preliminary architectural schematics and/or models, for use in
15 its efforts to raise private funds for a facility.
16 Additionally, any private sources of funds expended for this
17 purpose are eligible for state matching funds should the
18 project materialize as provided for in this section.

19 (5) To be eligible to participate in the Alec P.
20 Courtelis Capital Facilities Matching Trust Fund, a university
21 shall raise a contribution equal to one-half of the total cost
22 of a facilities construction project from private
23 nongovernmental sources which shall be matched by a state
24 appropriation equal to the amount raised for a facilities
25 construction project subject to the General Appropriations
26 Act.

27 (6) If the state's share of the required match is
28 insufficient to meet the requirements of subsection (5), the
29 university shall renegotiate the terms of the contribution
30 with the donors. If the project is terminated, each private
31

1 donation, plus accrued interest, reverts to the foundation for
2 remittance to the donor.

3 (7) By September 1 of each year, the State Board of
4 Education shall transmit to the Legislature a list of projects
5 which meet all eligibility requirements to participate in the
6 Alec P. Courtelis Capital Facilities Matching Trust Fund and a
7 budget request which includes the recommended schedule
8 necessary to complete each project.

9 (8) In order for a project to be eligible under this
10 program, it must be included in the university 5-year Capital
11 Improvement Plan and must receive prior approval from the
12 State Board of Education and the Legislature.

13 (9) No university's project shall be removed from the
14 approved 3-year PECO priority list because of its successful
15 participation in this program until approved by the
16 Legislature and provided for in the General Appropriations
17 Act. When such a project is completed and removed from the
18 list, all other projects shall move up on the 3-year PECO
19 priority list. A university shall not use PECO funds,
20 including the Capital Improvement Trust Fund fee and the
21 building fee, to complete a project under this section.

22 (10) Any project funds that are unexpended after a
23 project is completed shall revert to the Capital Facilities
24 Matching Trust Fund. Fifty percent of such unexpended funds
25 shall be reserved for the university which originally received
26 the private contribution for the purpose of providing private
27 matching funds for future facility construction projects as
28 provided in this section. The balance of such unexpended funds
29 shall be available to any state university for future facility
30 construction projects conducted pursuant to this section.

31

1 (11) The surveys, architectural plans, facility, and
2 equipment shall be the property of the State of Florida. A
3 facility constructed pursuant to this section may be named in
4 honor of a donor at the option of the university and the State
5 Board of Education. No facility shall be named after a living
6 person without prior approval by the Legislature.

7 Section 874. Section 1013.81, Florida Statutes, is
8 created to read:

9 1013.81 Community college indebtedness; bonds and tax
10 anticipation certificates; payment.--

11 (1) The indebtedness incurred for the benefit of
12 community colleges and represented by bonds or motor vehicle
13 tax anticipation certificates issued from time to time by the
14 State Board of Education, hereinafter called "state board,"
15 pursuant to s. 18, Art. XII of the State Constitution of 1885
16 on behalf of the several former county boards of public
17 instruction shall not be considered by the state board in
18 determining the amount of bonds or motor vehicle tax
19 anticipation certificates which the state board may issue from
20 time to time on behalf of the several school districts under
21 the provisions of s. 9(d), Art. XII of the State Constitution,
22 as amended at the general election held on November 7, 1972,
23 hereinafter called "school capital outlay amendment." Such
24 indebtedness incurred on behalf of community colleges, as
25 described above, shall be considered by the state board in
26 determining the amount of bonds or motor vehicle tax
27 anticipation certificates which the state board may issue from
28 time to time on behalf of the several community college
29 districts under the provisions of the school capital outlay
30 amendment.

1 (2) The debt service requirements on the indebtedness
2 incurred for the benefit of community colleges and represented
3 by bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates issued
4 from time to time by the state board on behalf of the several
5 former county boards of public instruction, as described in
6 subsection (1), shall be paid from funds distributable
7 pursuant to the school capital outlay amendment to the credit
8 of the several community college districts, and not from funds
9 distributable pursuant to the school capital outlay amendment
10 to the credit of the several school districts.

11 (3) Nothing herein shall be construed to authorize the
12 state board to affect adversely or impair the contractual
13 rights created and vested by reason of the prior issuance of
14 bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates by the
15 state board.

16 Section 875. Section 1013.82, Florida Statutes, is
17 created to read:

18 1013.82 Contracts of institutions for supplies,
19 utility services, and building construction exempt from
20 operation of county or municipal ordinance or charter.--

21 (1) University boards of trustees are authorized to
22 contract for supplies, utility services, and building
23 construction without regulation or restriction by municipal or
24 county charter or ordinance. Contractual arrangements shall be
25 in the best interests of the state and shall give
26 consideration to rates, adequacy of service, and the
27 dependability of the contractor.

28 (2) Any municipal or county charter, ordinance, or
29 regulation that serves to restrict or prohibit the intent of
30 subsection (1) shall be inoperative.

31

1 Section 876. Section 11.061, Florida Statutes, is
2 amended to read:

3 11.061 State, state university, and community college
4 employee lobbyists; registration; recording attendance;
5 penalty; exemptions.--

6 (1) Any person employed by any executive, judicial, or
7 quasi-judicial department of the state or community college or
8 state university of the state who seeks to encourage the
9 passage, defeat, or modification of any legislation by
10 personal appearance or attendance before the House of
11 Representatives or the Senate, or any committee thereof,
12 shall, prior thereto, register as a lobbyist with the joint
13 legislative office on a form to be provided by the joint
14 legislative office in the same manner as any other lobbyist is
15 required to register, whether by rule of either house or
16 otherwise. This shall not preclude any person from contacting
17 her or his legislator regarding any matter during hours other
18 than the established business hours of the person's respective
19 agency, state university, or community college.

20 (2)(a) Each state, state university, or community
21 college employee or employee of a community college registered
22 pursuant to the provisions of this section shall:

23 1. Record with the chair of the committee any
24 attendance before any committee during established business
25 hours of the agency, state university, or community college
26 employing the person.

27 2. Record with the joint legislative office any
28 attendance in the legislative chambers, committee rooms,
29 legislative offices, legislative hallways, and other areas in
30 the immediate vicinity during the established business hours
31

1 of the agency, state university, or community college
2 employing the person.

3 (b) Any person who appears before a committee or
4 subcommittee of the House of Representatives or the Senate at
5 the request of the committee or subcommittee chair as a
6 witness or for informational purposes shall be exempt from the
7 provisions of this subsection.

8 (3) Any state, state university, or community college
9 ~~employee or employee of a community college~~ who violates any
10 provision of this section by not registering with the joint
11 legislative office as a lobbyist or by failing to record hours
12 spent as a lobbyist in areas and activities as set forth in
13 this section during the established business hours of the
14 agency, state university, or community college employing the
15 person shall have deducted from her or his salary an amount
16 equivalent to her or his hourly wage times the number of hours
17 that she or he was in violation of this section.

18 (4) Any person employed by any executive, judicial, or
19 quasi-judicial department of the state or by any community
20 college or state university ~~of the state~~ whose position is
21 designated in that department's budget as being used during
22 all, or a portion of, the fiscal year for lobbying shall
23 comply with the provisions of subsection (1), but shall be
24 exempt from the provisions of subsections (2) and (3).

25 Section 877. Paragraph (c) of subsection (5) of
26 section 11.40, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

27 11.40 Legislative Auditing Committee.--

28 (5) Following notification by the Auditor General, the
29 Department of Banking and Finance, or the Division of Bond
30 Finance of the State Board of Administration of the failure of
31 a local governmental entity, district school board, charter

1 school, or charter technical career center to comply with the
2 applicable provisions within s. 11.45(5)-(7), s. 218.32(1), or
3 s. 218.38, the Legislative Auditing Committee may schedule a
4 hearing. If a hearing is scheduled, the committee shall
5 determine if the entity should be subject to further state
6 action. If the committee determines that the entity should be
7 subject to further state action, the committee shall:

8 (c) In the case of a charter school or charter
9 technical career center, notify the appropriate sponsoring
10 entity, which may terminate the charter pursuant to ss.
11 1002.33 ~~228-056~~ and 1002.34 ~~228-505~~.

12 Section 878. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) and
13 subsection (8) of section 11.45, Florida Statutes, are amended
14 to read:

15 11.45 Definitions; duties; authorities; reports;
16 rules.--

17 (3) AUTHORITY FOR AUDITS AND OTHER ENGAGEMENTS.--

18 (a) The Auditor General may, pursuant to his or her
19 own authority, or at the direction of the Legislative Auditing
20 Committee, conduct audits or other engagements as determined
21 appropriate by the Auditor General of:

22 1. The accounts and records of any governmental entity
23 created or established by law.

24 2. The information technology programs, activities,
25 functions, or systems of any governmental entity created or
26 established by law.

27 3. The accounts and records of any charter school
28 created or established by law.

29 4. The accounts and records of any direct-support
30 organization or citizen support organization created or
31 established by law. The Auditor General is authorized to

1 require and receive any records from the direct-support
2 organization or citizen support organization, or from its
3 independent auditor.

4 5. The public records associated with any
5 appropriation made by the General Appropriations Act to a
6 nongovernmental agency, corporation, or person. All records of
7 a nongovernmental agency, corporation, or person with respect
8 to the receipt and expenditure of such an appropriation shall
9 be public records and shall be treated in the same manner as
10 other public records are under general law.

11 6. State financial assistance provided to any nonstate
12 entity.

13 7. The Tobacco Settlement Financing Corporation
14 created pursuant to s. 215.56005.

15 8. The Florida On-Line High School created pursuant to
16 s. 1002.37 ~~228-082~~.

17 9. Any purchases of federal surplus lands for use as
18 sites for correctional facilities as described in s. 253.037.

19 10. Enterprise Florida, Inc., including any of its
20 boards, advisory committees, or similar groups created by
21 Enterprise Florida, Inc., and programs. The audit report may
22 not reveal the identity of any person who has anonymously made
23 a donation to Enterprise Florida, Inc., pursuant to this
24 subparagraph. The identity of a donor or prospective donor to
25 Enterprise Florida, Inc., who desires to remain anonymous and
26 all information identifying such donor or prospective donor
27 are confidential and exempt from the provisions of s.
28 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. Such
29 anonymity shall be maintained in the auditor's report.

30 11. The Florida Development Finance Corporation or the
31 capital development board or the programs or entities created

1 by the board. The audit or report may not reveal the identity
2 of any person who has anonymously made a donation to the board
3 pursuant to this subparagraph. The identity of a donor or
4 prospective donor to the board who desires to remain anonymous
5 and all information identifying such donor or prospective
6 donor are confidential and exempt from the provisions of s.
7 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. Such
8 anonymity shall be maintained in the auditor's report.

9 12. The records pertaining to the use of funds from
10 voluntary contributions on a motor vehicle registration
11 application or on a driver's license application authorized
12 pursuant to ss. 320.023 and 322.081.

13 13. The records pertaining to the use of funds from
14 the sale of specialty license plates described in chapter 320.

15 14. The transportation corporations under contract
16 with the Department of Transportation that are acting on
17 behalf of the state to secure and obtain rights-of-way for
18 urgently needed transportation systems and to assist in the
19 planning and design of such systems pursuant to ss.
20 339.401-339.421.

21 15. The acquisitions and divestitures related to the
22 Florida Communities Trust Program created pursuant to chapter
23 380.

24 16. The Florida Water Pollution Control Financing
25 Corporation created pursuant to s. 403.1837.

26 17. The Florida Partnership for School Readiness
27 created pursuant to s. 411.01.

28 18. The Occupational Access and Opportunity Commission
29 created pursuant to s. 413.83.

30 19. The Florida Special Disability Trust Fund
31 Financing Corporation created pursuant to s. 440.49.

1 20. Workforce Florida, Inc., or the programs or
2 entities created by Workforce Florida, Inc., created pursuant
3 to s. 445.004.

4 21. The corporation defined in s. 455.32 that is under
5 contract with the Department of Business and Professional
6 Regulation to provide administrative, investigative,
7 examination, licensing, and prosecutorial support services in
8 accordance with the provisions of s. 455.32 and the practice
9 act of the relevant profession.

10 22. The Florida Engineers Management Corporation
11 created pursuant to chapter 471.

12 23. The Investment Fraud Restoration Financing
13 Corporation created pursuant to chapter 517.

14 24. The books and records of any permitholder that
15 conducts race meetings or jai alai exhibitions under chapter
16 550.

17 25. The corporation defined in part II of chapter 946,
18 known as the Prison Rehabilitative Industries and Diversified
19 Enterprises, Inc., or PRIDE Enterprises.

20 (8) RULES OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL.--The Auditor
21 General, in consultation with the Board of Accountancy, shall
22 adopt rules for the form and conduct of all financial audits
23 performed by independent certified public accountants pursuant
24 to ss. 215.981, 218.39, 1004.28, 1004.70, and 1013.77~~237.40,~~
25 ~~240.299, and 240.331~~. The rules for audits of local
26 governmental entities and district school boards must include,
27 but are not limited to, requirements for the reporting of
28 information necessary to carry out the purposes of the Local
29 Government Financial Emergencies Act as stated in s. 218.501.

30 Section 879. Notwithstanding subsection (7) of section
31 3 of chapter 2000-321, Laws of Florida, section 20.15, Florida

1 Statutes, shall not stand repealed on January 7, 2003, as
2 scheduled by that act, but is reenacted and amended to read:

3 20.15 Department of Education.--There is created a
4 Department of Education.

5 (1) STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.--In accordance with s.
6 2, Art. IX of the State Constitution, the State Board of
7 Education is a body corporate and must supervise the system of
8 free public education as is provided by law. The State Board
9 of Education is the head of the Department of Education ~~the~~
10 ~~chief policymaking body of public education in the state as~~
11 ~~specified in chapter 229. The Governor is chair of the board,~~
12 ~~and the Commissioner of Education is the secretary and~~
13 ~~executive officer and in the absence of the Governor shall~~
14 ~~serve as chair.~~

15 (2) COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION.--The Commissioner of
16 Education is appointed by the State Board of Education and
17 serves as the Executive Director of the Department of
18 Education ~~head of the Department of Education is the~~
19 ~~Commissioner of Education who shall be elected by vote of the~~
20 ~~qualified electors of the state pursuant to s. 5, Art. IV of~~
21 ~~the State Constitution.~~

22 ~~(a) The Commissioner of Education shall appoint a~~
23 ~~Deputy Commissioner for Educational Programs who has such~~
24 ~~powers, duties, responsibilities, and functions as are~~
25 ~~necessary to ensure the greatest possible coordination,~~
26 ~~efficiency, and effectiveness of kindergarten through~~
27 ~~12th-grade education and vocational and continuing education~~
28 ~~programs, including workforce development.~~

29 ~~(b) The Commissioner of Education shall appoint a~~
30 ~~Deputy Commissioner for Planning, Budgeting, and Management~~
31 ~~who has such powers, duties, responsibilities, and functions~~

1 ~~as are necessary to ensure the greatest possible coordination~~
2 ~~of policies, programs, and procedures for the statewide system~~
3 ~~of education and the department.~~

4 ~~(c) The Commissioner of Education shall appoint a~~
5 ~~Deputy Commissioner for Technology and Administration who has~~
6 ~~such powers, duties, responsibilities, and functions as are~~
7 ~~necessary to ensure the greatest possible coordination and~~
8 ~~development of technological supports for the education system~~
9 ~~and efficient administration of the department.~~

10 (3) DIVISIONS.--The following divisions of the
11 Department of Education are established:

12 (a) Division of Community Colleges.

13 (b) Division of Public Schools ~~and Community~~
14 ~~Education.~~

15 (c) Division of Colleges and Universities.

16 (d) Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Workforce
17 ~~Development.~~

18 ~~(e) Division of Professional Educators.~~

19 ~~(f) Division of Administration.~~

20 ~~(g) Division of Financial Services.~~

21 ~~(h) Division of Support Services.~~

22 ~~(i) Division of Technology.~~

23 ~~(e)(j)~~ Division of Blind Services.

24 (4) DIRECTORS.--~~The Board of Regents is the director~~
25 ~~of the Division of Universities, and the State Board of~~
26 ~~Community Colleges is the director of the Division of~~
27 ~~Community Colleges, pursuant to chapter 240.~~The directors of
28 all ~~other~~ divisions shall be appointed by the commissioner
29 subject to approval by the state board.

30 (5) POWERS AND DUTIES.--The State Board of Education
31 and the Commissioner of Education+

1 (a) shall assign to the divisions ~~Division of Public~~
2 ~~Schools and Community Education~~ such powers, duties,
3 responsibilities, and functions as are necessary to ensure the
4 greatest possible coordination, efficiency, and effectiveness
5 of education for students in K-20 education ~~prekindergarten~~
6 ~~through 12th grade, for secondary school vocational education,~~
7 ~~and for community education.~~

8 (b) ~~Shall assign to the Division of Workforce~~
9 ~~Development such powers, duties, responsibilities, and~~
10 ~~functions as are necessary to ensure the greatest possible~~
11 ~~coordination, efficiency, and effectiveness of workforce~~
12 ~~development education.~~

13 (c) ~~Shall assign to the State Board of Community~~
14 ~~Colleges such powers, duties, responsibilities, and functions~~
15 ~~as are necessary to ensure the coordination, efficiency, and~~
16 ~~effectiveness of community colleges, except those duties~~
17 ~~specifically assigned to the Commissioner of Education in ss.~~
18 ~~229.512 and 229.551, the duties concerning physical facilities~~
19 ~~in chapter 235, and the duties assigned to the Division of~~
20 ~~Workforce Development in chapter 239.~~

21 (6) COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES.--Notwithstanding anything
22 contained in law to the contrary, the commissioner of
23 ~~Education~~ shall appoint all members of all councils and
24 committees of the Department of Education, except the
25 Commission for Independent Education and Board of Regents, the
26 ~~State Board of Community Colleges, the community college~~
27 ~~district boards of trustees, the Postsecondary Education~~
28 ~~Planning Commission, the Education Practices Commission, the~~
29 ~~Education Standards Commission, the State Board of Independent~~
30 ~~Colleges and Universities, and the State Board of Nonpublic~~
31 ~~Career Education.~~

1 (7) BOARDS.--Notwithstanding anything contained in law
2 to the contrary, all members of the university Board of
3 ~~Regents, the State Board of Community Colleges, and the~~
4 community college ~~district~~ boards of trustees must be
5 appointed according to chapter 1001 240.

6 Section 880. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (1),
7 paragraph (d) of subsection (3), and paragraph (a) of
8 subsection (5) of section 23.1225, Florida Statutes, are
9 amended to read:

10 23.1225 Mutual aid agreements.--

11 (1) The term "mutual aid agreement," as used in this
12 part, refers to one of the following types of agreement:

13 (a) A voluntary cooperation written agreement between
14 two or more law enforcement agencies, or between one or more
15 law enforcement agencies and either a school board that
16 employs school safety officers or a state university that
17 employs or appoints university police officers in accordance
18 with s. 1012.97 240-268, which agreement permits voluntary
19 cooperation and assistance of a routine law enforcement nature
20 across jurisdictional lines. The agreement must specify the
21 nature of the law enforcement assistance to be rendered, the
22 agency or entity that shall bear any liability arising from
23 acts undertaken under the agreement, the procedures for
24 requesting and for authorizing assistance, the agency or
25 entity that has command and supervisory responsibility, a time
26 limit for the agreement, the amount of any compensation or
27 reimbursement to the assisting agency or entity, and any other
28 terms and conditions necessary to give it effect. Examples of
29 law enforcement activities that may be addressed in a
30 voluntary cooperation written agreement include, but are not
31 limited to, establishing a joint city-county task force on

1 narcotics smuggling, authorizing school safety officers to
2 enforce laws in an area within 1,000 feet of a school or
3 school board property, or establishing a joint city-county
4 traffic enforcement task force.

5 (b) A requested operational assistance written
6 agreement between two or more law enforcement agencies, or
7 between one or more law enforcement agencies and either a
8 school board that employs school safety officers or a state
9 university that employs or appoints university police officers
10 in accordance with s. 1012.97 ~~240.268~~, which agreement is for
11 the rendering of assistance in a law enforcement emergency.
12 The agreement must specify the nature of the law enforcement
13 assistance to be rendered, the agency or entity that shall
14 bear any liability arising from acts undertaken under the
15 agreement, the procedures for requesting and for authorizing
16 assistance, the agency or entity that has command and
17 supervisory responsibility, a time limit for the agreement,
18 the amount of any compensation or reimbursement to the
19 assisting agency or entity, and any other terms and conditions
20 necessary to give it effect. An example of the use of a
21 requested operational assistance written agreement is to meet
22 a request for assistance due to a civil disturbance or other
23 emergency as defined in s. 252.34.

24 (3) A mutual aid agreement may be entered into by:

25 (d) A state university that employs or appoints
26 university police officers in accordance with s. 1012.97
27 ~~240.268~~.

28 (5) In the event of a disaster or emergency such that
29 a state of emergency is declared by the Governor pursuant to
30 chapter 252, the requirement that a requested operational
31 assistance agreement be a written agreement for rendering of

1 assistance in a law enforcement emergency may be waived by the
2 participating agencies for a period of up to 90 days from the
3 declaration of the disaster.

4 (a) When a law enforcement agency, a school board
5 employing school safety officers, or a state university
6 employing or appointing university police officers in
7 accordance with s. 1012.97 ~~240.268~~ lends assistance pursuant
8 to this subsection, all powers, privileges, and immunities
9 listed in s. 23.127, except with regard to interstate mutual
10 aid agreements, apply to the agency or entity, provided that
11 the law enforcement, school board, or university employees
12 rendering services are being requested and coordinated by the
13 affected local law enforcement executive in charge of law
14 enforcement operations.

15 Section 881. Subsection (2) and paragraphs (c) and (d)
16 of subsection (5) of section 24.121, Florida Statutes, are
17 amended to read:

18 24.121 Allocation of revenues and expenditure of funds
19 for public education.--

20 (2) Each fiscal year, at least 38 percent of the gross
21 revenue from the sale of lottery tickets and other earned
22 revenue, excluding application processing fees, shall be
23 deposited in the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund, which is
24 hereby created in the State Treasury to be administered by the
25 Department of Education. The Department of the Lottery shall
26 transfer moneys to the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund at
27 least once each quarter. Funds in the Educational Enhancement
28 Trust Fund shall be used to the benefit of public education in
29 accordance with the provisions of this act. Notwithstanding
30 any other provision of law, a maximum of \$180 million of
31 lottery revenues transferred to the Educational Enhancement

1 Trust Fund in fiscal year 1997-1998 and for 30 years
2 thereafter shall be reserved as needed and used to meet the
3 requirements of the documents authorizing the bonds issued by
4 the state pursuant to s. 1013.68 ~~235.187~~ or s. 1013.70
5 ~~235.2195~~ or distributed to school districts for the Classrooms
6 First Program as provided in s. 1013.68 ~~235.187~~. Such lottery
7 revenues are hereby pledged to the payment of debt service on
8 bonds issued by the state pursuant to s. 1013.68 ~~235.187~~ or s.
9 1013.70 ~~235.2195~~. Debt service payable on bonds issued by the
10 state pursuant to s. 1013.68 ~~235.187~~ or s. 1013.70 ~~235.2195~~
11 shall be payable from the first lottery revenues transferred
12 to the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund in each fiscal year.
13 Amounts distributable to school districts that request the
14 issuance of bonds pursuant to s. 1013.68(3)~~235.187(3)~~ are
15 hereby pledged to such bonds pursuant to s. 11(d), Art. VII of
16 the State Constitution. The amounts distributed through the
17 Classrooms First Program shall equal \$145 million in each
18 fiscal year. These funds are intended to provide up to \$2.5
19 billion for public school facilities.

20 (5)

21 (c) A portion of such net revenues, as determined
22 annually by the Legislature, shall be distributed to each
23 school district and shall be made available to each public
24 school in the district for enhancing school performance
25 through development and implementation of a school improvement
26 plan pursuant to s. 1001.42(16)~~230.23(16)~~. A portion of these
27 moneys, as determined annually in the General Appropriations
28 Act, must be allocated to each school in an equal amount for
29 each student enrolled. These moneys may be expended only on
30 programs or projects selected by the school advisory council
31 or by a parent advisory committee created pursuant to this

1 paragraph. If a school does not have a school advisory
2 council, the district advisory council must appoint a parent
3 advisory committee composed of parents of students enrolled in
4 that school, which committee is representative of the ethnic,
5 racial, and economic community served by the school, to advise
6 the school's principal on the programs or projects to be
7 funded. A principal may not override the recommendations of
8 the school advisory council or the parent advisory committee.
9 These moneys may not be used for capital improvements, nor may
10 they be used for any project or program that has a duration of
11 more than 1 year; however, a school advisory council or parent
12 advisory committee may independently determine that a program
13 or project formerly funded under this paragraph should receive
14 funds in a subsequent year.

15 (d) No funds shall be released for any purpose from
16 the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund to any school district
17 in which one or more schools do not have an approved school
18 improvement plan pursuant to s. 1001.42(16)~~230.23(16)~~ or do
19 not comply with school advisory council membership composition
20 requirements pursuant to s. 229.58(1). Effective July 1, 2002,
21 the Commissioner of Education shall withhold disbursements
22 from the trust fund to any school district that fails to adopt
23 the performance-based salary schedule required by s.
24 1012.22(1)~~230.23(5)~~.

25 Section 882. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of
26 section 39.0015, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

27 39.0015 Child abuse prevention training in the
28 district school system.--

29 (5) PREVENTION TRAINING CENTERS; FUNCTIONS; SELECTION
30 PROCESS; MONITORING AND EVALUATION.--

31

1 (a) Each training center shall perform the following
2 functions:

3 1. Act as a clearinghouse to provide information on
4 prevention curricula which meet the requirements of this
5 section and the requirements of s. ss-39.001 and ~~231.17~~.

6 2. Assist the local school district in selecting a
7 prevention program model which meets the needs of the local
8 community.

9 3. At the request of the local school district, design
10 and administer training sessions to develop or expand local
11 primary prevention and training programs.

12 4. Provide assistance to local school districts,
13 including, but not limited to, all of the following:
14 administration, management, program development, multicultural
15 staffing, and community education, in order to better meet the
16 requirements of this section and of s. ss-39.001 and ~~231.17~~.

17 5. At the request of the department or the local
18 school district, provide ongoing program development and
19 training to achieve all of the following:

20 a. Meet the special needs of children, including, but
21 not limited to, the needs of disabled and high-risk children.

22 b. Conduct an outreach program to inform the
23 surrounding communities of the existence of primary prevention
24 and training programs and of funds to conduct such programs.

25 6. Serve as a resource to the Department of Children
26 and Family Services and its districts.

27 Section 883. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of
28 section 39.407, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

29 39.407 Medical, psychiatric, and psychological
30 examination and treatment of child; physical or mental
31 examination of parent or person requesting custody of child.--

1 (3)
2 (c) The judge may also order such child to be
3 evaluated by a district school board educational needs
4 assessment team. The educational needs assessment provided by
5 the district school board educational needs assessment team
6 shall include, but not be limited to, reports of intelligence
7 and achievement tests, screening for learning disabilities and
8 other handicaps, and screening for the need for alternative
9 education as defined in s. 1001.42 ~~230.23~~.

10 Section 884. Subsection (1) of section 61.13015,
11 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

12 61.13015 Petition for suspension or denial of
13 professional licenses and certificates.--

14 (1) An obligee may petition the court which entered
15 the support order or the court which is enforcing the support
16 order for an order to suspend or deny the license or
17 certificate issued pursuant to chapters ~~231~~, 409, 455, 456,
18 ~~and~~ 559, and 1012 of any obligor with a delinquent support
19 obligation. However, no petition may be filed until the
20 obligee has exhausted all other available remedies. The
21 purpose of this section is to promote the public policy of s.
22 409.2551.

23 Section 885. Subsection (2) of section 105.061,
24 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

25 105.061 Electors qualified to vote.--

26 (2) The election of members of a school board shall be
27 by vote of the qualified electors as prescribed in chapter
28 1001 ~~230~~.

29 Section 886. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of
30 section 110.1228, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

31

1 110.1228 Participation by small counties, small
2 municipalities, and district school boards located in small
3 counties.--

4 (1) As used in this section, the term:

5 (a) "District school board" means a district school
6 board located in a small county or a district school board
7 that receives funding pursuant to s. 1011.62(6) ~~236.081(6)~~.

8 Section 887. Paragraphs (b), (c), (f), (g), and (h) of
9 subsection (2) of section 110.123, Florida Statutes, are
10 amended to read:

11 110.123 State group insurance program.--

12 (2) DEFINITIONS.--As used in this section, the term:

13 (b) "Enrollee" means all state officers and employees,
14 retired state officers and employees, surviving spouses of
15 deceased state officers and employees, and terminated
16 employees or individuals with continuation coverage who are
17 enrolled in an insurance plan offered by the state group
18 insurance program."Enrollee" includes all state university
19 officers and employees, retired state university officers and
20 employees, surviving spouses of deceased state university
21 officers and employees, and terminated state university
22 employees or individuals with continuation coverage who are
23 enrolled in an insurance plan offered by the state group
24 insurance program.

25 (c) "Full-time state employees" includes all full-time
26 employees of all branches or agencies of state government
27 holding salaried positions and paid by state warrant or from
28 agency funds, and employees paid from regular salary
29 appropriations for 8 months' employment, including university
30 personnel on academic contracts, but in no case shall "state
31 employee" or "salaried position" include persons paid from

1 other-personal-services (OPS) funds. "Full-time employees"
2 includes all full-time employees of the state universities.
3 (f) "Part-time state employee" means any employee of
4 any branch or agency of state government paid by state warrant
5 from salary appropriations or from agency funds, and who is
6 employed for less than the normal full-time workweek
7 established by the department or, if on academic contract or
8 seasonal or other type of employment which is less than
9 year-round, is employed for less than 8 months during any
10 12-month period, but in no case shall "part-time" employee
11 include a person paid from other-personal-services (OPS)
12 funds. "Part-time state employee" includes any part-time
13 employee of the state universities.
14 (g) "Retired state officer or employee" or "retiree"
15 means any state or state university officer or ~~state~~ employee
16 who retires under a state retirement system or a state
17 optional annuity or retirement program or is placed on
18 disability retirement, and who was insured under the state
19 group insurance program at the time of retirement, and who
20 begins receiving retirement benefits immediately after
21 retirement from state or state university office or
22 employment.
23 (h) "State agency" or "agency" means any branch,
24 department, or agency of state government. "State agency" or
25 "agency" includes any state university for purposes of this
26 section only.
27 Section 888. Subsection (1) of section 110.151,
28 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
29 110.151 State officers' and employees' child care
30 services.--
31

1 (1) The Department of Management Services shall
2 approve, administer, and coordinate child care services for
3 state officers' and employees' children or dependents. Duties
4 shall include, but not be limited to, reviewing and approving
5 requests from state agencies for child care services;
6 providing technical assistance on child care program startup
7 and operation; and assisting other agencies in conducting
8 needs assessments, designing centers, and selecting service
9 providers. Primary emphasis for child care services shall be
10 given to children who are not subject to compulsory school
11 attendance pursuant to part II of chapter 1003 ~~chapter 232~~,
12 and, to the extent possible, emphasis shall be placed on child
13 care for children aged 2 and under.

14 Section 889. Subsection (5) of section 110.181,
15 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

16 110.181 Florida State Employees' Charitable
17 Campaign.--

18 (5) PARTICIPATION OF STATE UNIVERSITIES.--Each
19 university may elect to participate in the Florida State
20 Employees' Charitable Campaign, upon timely notice to the
21 department. Each university may also conduct annual
22 charitable fundraising drives for employees under the
23 authority granted in s. 1001.74(19) ~~240.209(3)(f)~~.

24 Section 890. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of
25 section 110.205, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

26 110.205 Career service; exemptions.--

27 (2) EXEMPT POSITIONS.--The exempt positions that are
28 not covered by this part include the following:

29 (d) All officers and employees of the state
30 universities ~~University System~~ and the Correctional Education
31 Program within the Department of Corrections, and the academic

1 personnel and academic administrative personnel of the Florida
2 School for the Deaf and the Blind. In accordance with the
3 provisions of s. 1002.36 ~~chapter 242~~, the salaries for
4 academic personnel and academic administrative personnel of
5 the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind shall be set by
6 the board of trustees for the school, subject only to the
7 approval of the State Board of Education. The salaries for all
8 instructional personnel and all administrative and
9 noninstructional personnel of the Correctional Education
10 Program shall be set by the Department of Corrections, subject
11 to the approval of the Department of Management Services.

12 Section 891. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (1)
13 of section 112.1915, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

14 112.1915 Teachers and school administrators; death
15 benefits.--Any other provision of law to the contrary
16 notwithstanding:

17 (1) As used in this section, the term:

18 (b) "Teacher" means any instructional staff personnel
19 as described in s. 1012.01(2) ~~228.041(9)~~.

20 (c) "School administrator" means any school
21 administrator as described in s. 1012.01(3) ~~228.041(10)(c)~~.

22 Section 892. Paragraph (h) of subsection (12) of
23 section 112.313, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

24 112.313 Standards of conduct for public officers,
25 employees of agencies, and local government attorneys.--

26 (12) EXEMPTION.--The requirements of subsections (3)
27 and (7) as they pertain to persons serving on advisory boards
28 may be waived in a particular instance by the body which
29 appointed the person to the advisory board, upon a full
30 disclosure of the transaction or relationship to the
31 appointing body prior to the waiver and an affirmative vote in

1 favor of waiver by two-thirds vote of that body. In instances
2 in which appointment to the advisory board is made by an
3 individual, waiver may be effected, after public hearing, by a
4 determination by the appointing person and full disclosure of
5 the transaction or relationship by the appointee to the
6 appointing person. In addition, no person shall be held in
7 violation of subsection (3) or subsection (7) if:

8 (h) The transaction is made pursuant to s. 1004.22
9 ~~240.229~~ or s. 1004.23 ~~240.241~~ and is specifically approved by
10 the president and the chair of the university board of
11 trustees Chancellor. The chair of the university board of
12 trustees Chancellor shall submit to the Governor and the
13 Legislature by March 1 of each year a report of the
14 transactions approved pursuant to this paragraph during the
15 preceding year.

16 Section 893. Subsection (6) of section 120.52, Florida
17 Statutes, is amended to read:

18 120.52 Definitions.--As used in this act:

19 (6) "Educational unit" means a local school district,
20 a community college district, the Florida School for the Deaf
21 and the Blind, or a state university unit of the State
22 ~~University System other than the Board of Regents~~.

23 Section 894. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of
24 section 120.55, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

25 120.55 Publication.--

26 (1) The Department of State shall:

27 (a)1. Publish in a permanent compilation entitled
28 "Florida Administrative Code" all rules adopted by each
29 agency, citing the specific rulemaking authority pursuant to
30 which each rule was adopted, all history notes as authorized
31 in s. 120.545(9), and complete indexes to all rules contained

1 in the code. Supplementation shall be made as often as
2 practicable, but at least monthly. The department may
3 contract with a publishing firm for the publication, in a
4 timely and useful form, of the Florida Administrative Code;
5 however, the department shall retain responsibility for the
6 code as provided in this section. This publication shall be
7 the official compilation of the administrative rules of this
8 state. The Department of State shall retain the copyright
9 over the Florida Administrative Code.

10 2. Rules general in form but applicable to only one
11 school district, community college district, or county, or a
12 part thereof, or state university rules relating to internal
13 personnel or business and finance shall not be published in
14 the Florida Administrative Code. Exclusion from publication in
15 the Florida Administrative Code shall not affect the validity
16 or effectiveness of such rules.

17 3. At the beginning of the section of the code dealing
18 with an agency that files copies of its rules with the
19 department, the department shall publish the address and
20 telephone number of the executive offices of each agency, the
21 manner by which the agency indexes its rules, a listing of all
22 rules of that agency excluded from publication in the code,
23 and a statement as to where those rules may be inspected.

24 4. Forms shall not be published in the Florida
25 Administrative Code; but any form which an agency uses in its
26 dealings with the public, along with any accompanying
27 instructions, shall be filed with the committee before it is
28 used. Any form or instruction which meets the definition of
29 "rule" provided in s. 120.52 shall be incorporated by
30 reference into the appropriate rule. The reference shall
31 specifically state that the form is being incorporated by

1 reference and shall include the number, title, and effective
2 date of the form and an explanation of how the form may be
3 obtained.

4 Section 895. Paragraphs (a), (c), (e), (g), (i), and
5 (j) of subsection (1) of section 120.81, Florida Statutes, are
6 amended to read:

7 120.81 Exceptions and special requirements; general
8 areas.--

9 (1) EDUCATIONAL UNITS.--

10 (a) Notwithstanding s. 120.536(1) and the flush left
11 provisions of s. 120.52(8), district school boards may adopt
12 rules to implement their general powers under s. 1001.41
13 ~~230.22~~.

14 (c) Notwithstanding s. 120.52(15), any tests, test
15 scoring criteria, or testing procedures relating to student
16 assessment which are developed or administered by the
17 Department of Education pursuant to s. 1003.43 ~~229.57~~, s.
18 1003.438, s. 1008.22 ~~232.245~~, or s. 1008.25 ~~232.246~~, or s.
19 ~~232.247~~, or any other statewide educational tests required by
20 law, are not rules.

21 (e) Educational units, other than the state
22 universities ~~units of the State University System~~ and the
23 Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, shall not be
24 required to make filings with the committee of the documents
25 required to be filed by s. 120.54 or s. 120.55(1)(a)4.

26 (g) Sections 120.569 and 120.57 do not apply to any
27 proceeding in which the substantial interests of a student are
28 determined by a state university ~~the State University System~~
29 or a community college ~~district~~. ~~The Board of Regents shall~~
30 ~~establish a committee, at least half of whom shall be~~
31 ~~appointed by the Council of Student Body Presidents, which~~

1 ~~shall establish rules and guidelines ensuring fairness and due~~
2 ~~process in judicial proceedings involving students in the~~
3 ~~State University System.~~

4 (i) For purposes of s. 120.68, a district school board
5 whose decision is reviewed under the provisions of s. 1012.33
6 ~~231.36~~ and whose final action is modified by a superior
7 administrative decision shall be a party entitled to judicial
8 review of the final action.

9 (j) Notwithstanding s. 120.525(2), the agenda for a
10 special meeting of a district school board under authority of
11 s. 1001.372(1)~~230.16~~ shall be prepared upon the calling of
12 the meeting, but not less than 48 hours prior to the meeting.

13 Section 896. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of
14 section 121.051, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

15 121.051 Participation in the system.--

16 (2) OPTIONAL PARTICIPATION.--

17 (c) Employees of ~~members of the Florida~~ community
18 colleges ~~College System~~ or charter technical career centers
19 sponsored by members of the ~~Florida~~ community colleges ~~College~~
20 ~~System~~, as designated in s. 1000.21(3) ~~240.3031~~, who are
21 members of the Regular Class of the Florida Retirement System
22 and who comply with the criteria set forth in this paragraph
23 and in s. 1012.875 ~~240.3195~~ may elect, in lieu of
24 participating in the Florida Retirement System, to withdraw
25 from the Florida Retirement System altogether and participate
26 in a lifetime monthly annuity program, to be known as the
27 State Community College System Optional Retirement Program,
28 which may be provided by the employing agency under s.
29 1012.875 ~~240.3195~~. Pursuant thereto:

30 1. Through June 30, 2001, the cost to the employer for
31 such annuity shall equal the normal cost portion of the

1 employer retirement contribution which would be required if
2 the employee were a member of the Regular Class defined
3 benefit program, plus the portion of the contribution rate
4 required by s. 112.363(8) that would otherwise be assigned to
5 the Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy Trust Fund. Effective
6 July 1, 2001, each employer shall contribute on behalf of each
7 participant in the optional program an amount equal to 10.43
8 percent of the participant's gross monthly compensation. The
9 employer shall deduct an amount to provide for the
10 administration of the optional retirement program. The
11 employer providing such annuity shall contribute an additional
12 amount to the Florida Retirement System Trust Fund equal to
13 the unfunded actuarial accrued liability portion of the
14 Regular Class contribution rate.

15 2. The decision to participate in such an optional
16 retirement program shall be irrevocable for as long as the
17 employee holds a position eligible for participation. Any
18 service creditable under the Florida Retirement System shall
19 be retained after the member withdraws from the Florida
20 Retirement System; however, additional service credit in the
21 Florida Retirement System shall not be earned while a member
22 of the optional retirement program.

23 3. Participation in an optional annuity program shall
24 be limited to those employees who satisfy the following
25 eligibility criteria:

26 a. The employee must be otherwise eligible for
27 membership in the Regular Class of the Florida Retirement
28 System, as provided in s. 121.021(11) and (12).

29 b. The employee must be employed in a full-time
30 position classified in the Accounting Manual for Florida's
31 Public Community Colleges as:

1 (I) Instructional; or
2 (II) Executive Management, Instructional Management,
3 or Institutional Management, if a community college determines
4 that recruiting to fill a vacancy in the position is to be
5 conducted in the national or regional market, and:

6 (A) The duties and responsibilities of the position
7 include either the formulation, interpretation, or
8 implementation of policies; or

9 (B) The duties and responsibilities of the position
10 include the performance of functions that are unique or
11 specialized within higher education and that frequently
12 involve the support of the mission of the community college.

13 c. The employee must be employed in a position not
14 included in the Senior Management Service Class of the Florida
15 Retirement System, as described in s. 121.055.

16 4. Participants in the program are subject to the same
17 reemployment limitations, renewed membership provisions, and
18 forfeiture provisions as are applicable to regular members of
19 the Florida Retirement System under ss. 121.091(9), 121.122,
20 and 121.091(5), respectively.

21 5. Eligible community college employees shall be
22 compulsory members of the Florida Retirement System until,
23 pursuant to the procedures set forth in s. 1012.875 ~~240.3195~~,
24 the first day of the next full calendar month following the
25 filing of both a written election to withdraw and a completed
26 application for an individual contract or certificate with the
27 program administrator and receipt of such election by the
28 division.

29 Section 897. Paragraph (a) of subsection (13) of
30 section 121.091, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

31

1 121.091 Benefits payable under the system.--Benefits
2 may not be paid under this section unless the member has
3 terminated employment as provided in s. 121.021(39)(a) or
4 begun participation in the Deferred Retirement Option Program
5 as provided in subsection (13), and a proper application has
6 been filed in the manner prescribed by the department. The
7 department may cancel an application for retirement benefits
8 when the member or beneficiary fails to timely provide the
9 information and documents required by this chapter and the
10 department's rules. The department shall adopt rules
11 establishing procedures for application for retirement
12 benefits and for the cancellation of such application when the
13 required information or documents are not received.

14 (13) DEFERRED RETIREMENT OPTION PROGRAM.--In general,
15 and subject to the provisions of this section, the Deferred
16 Retirement Option Program, hereinafter referred to as the
17 DROP, is a program under which an eligible member of the
18 Florida Retirement System may elect to participate, deferring
19 receipt of retirement benefits while continuing employment
20 with his or her Florida Retirement System employer. The
21 deferred monthly benefits shall accrue in the System Trust
22 Fund on behalf of the participant, plus interest compounded
23 monthly, for the specified period of the DROP participation,
24 as provided in paragraph (c). Upon termination of employment,
25 the participant shall receive the total DROP benefits and
26 begin to receive the previously determined normal retirement
27 benefits. Participation in the DROP does not guarantee
28 employment for the specified period of DROP.

29 (a) Eligibility of member to participate in the
30 DROP.--All active Florida Retirement System members in a
31 regularly established position, and all active members of

1 either the Teachers' Retirement System established in chapter
2 238 or the State and County Officers' and Employees'
3 Retirement System established in chapter 122 which systems are
4 consolidated within the Florida Retirement System under s.
5 121.011, are eligible to elect participation in the DROP
6 provided that:

7 1. The member is not a renewed member of the Florida
8 Retirement System under s. 121.122, or a member of the State
9 Community College System Optional Retirement Program under s.
10 121.051, the Senior Management Service Optional Annuity
11 Program under s. 121.055, or the optional retirement program
12 for the State University System under s. 121.35.

13 2. Except as provided in subparagraph 6., election to
14 participate is made within 12 months immediately following the
15 date on which the member first reaches normal retirement date,
16 or, for a member who reaches normal retirement date based on
17 service before he or she reaches age 62, or age 55 for Special
18 Risk Class members, election to participate may be deferred to
19 the 12 months immediately following the date the member
20 attains 57, or age 52 for Special Risk Class members. For a
21 member who first reached normal retirement date or the
22 deferred eligibility date described above prior to the
23 effective date of this section, election to participate shall
24 be made within 12 months after the effective date of this
25 section. A member who fails to make an election within such
26 12-month limitation period shall forfeit all rights to
27 participate in the DROP. The member shall advise his or her
28 employer and the division in writing of the date on which the
29 DROP shall begin. Such beginning date may be subsequent to the
30 12-month election period, but must be within the 60-month
31 limitation period as provided in subparagraph (b)1. When

1 establishing eligibility of the member to participate in the
2 DROP for the 60-month maximum participation period, the member
3 may elect to include or exclude any optional service credit
4 purchased by the member from the total service used to
5 establish the normal retirement date. A member with dual
6 normal retirement dates shall be eligible to elect to
7 participate in DROP within 12 months after attaining normal
8 retirement date in either class.

9 3. The employer of a member electing to participate in
10 the DROP, or employers if dually employed, shall acknowledge
11 in writing to the division the date the member's participation
12 in the DROP begins and the date the member's employment and
13 DROP participation will terminate.

14 4. Simultaneous employment of a participant by
15 additional Florida Retirement System employers subsequent to
16 the commencement of participation in the DROP shall be
17 permissible provided such employers acknowledge in writing a
18 DROP termination date no later than the participant's existing
19 termination date or the 60-month limitation period as provided
20 in subparagraph (b)1.

21 5. A DROP participant may change employers while
22 participating in the DROP, subject to the following:

23 a. A change of employment must take place without a
24 break in service so that the member receives salary for each
25 month of continuous DROP participation. If a member receives
26 no salary during a month, DROP participation shall cease
27 unless the employer verifies a continuation of the employment
28 relationship for such participant pursuant to s.
29 121.021(39)(b).

30
31

1 b. Such participant and new employer shall notify the
2 division on forms required by the division as to the identity
3 of the new employer.

4 c. The new employer shall acknowledge, in writing, the
5 participant's DROP termination date, which may be extended but
6 not beyond the original 60-month period provided in
7 subparagraph (b)1., shall acknowledge liability for any
8 additional retirement contributions and interest required if
9 the participant fails to timely terminate employment, and
10 shall be subject to the adjustment required in
11 sub-subparagraph (c)5.d.

12 6. Effective July 1, 2001, for instructional personnel
13 as defined in s. 1012.01(2)~~228.041(9)(a)-(d)~~, election to
14 participate in the DROP shall be made at any time following
15 the date on which the member first reaches normal retirement
16 date. The member shall advise his or her employer and the
17 division in writing of the date on which the Deferred
18 Retirement Option Program shall begin. When establishing
19 eligibility of the member to participate in the DROP for the
20 60-month maximum participation period, as provided in
21 subparagraph (b)1., the member may elect to include or exclude
22 any optional service credit purchased by the member from the
23 total service used to establish the normal retirement date. A
24 member with dual normal retirement dates shall be eligible to
25 elect to participate in either class.

26 Section 898. Subsection (2) of section 145.131,
27 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

28 145.131 Repeal of other laws relating to compensation;
29 exceptions.--

30 (2) The compensation of any official whose salary is
31 fixed by this chapter shall be the subject of general law

1 only, except that the compensation of certain school
2 superintendents may be set by school boards in accordance with
3 the provisions of s. 1001.47 ~~230.303~~.

4 Section 899. Subsection (2) of section 145.19, Florida
5 Statutes, is amended to read:

6 145.19 Annual percentage increases based on increase
7 for state career service employees; limitation.--

8 (2) Each fiscal year, the salaries of all officials
9 listed in this chapter and ss. 1001.395 ~~230.202~~ and 1001.47
10 ~~230.303~~ shall be adjusted by the annual factor. The Department
11 of Management Services shall certify the annual factor and the
12 cumulative annual factors. The adjusted salary rate shall be
13 the product, rounded to the nearest dollar, of the salary rate
14 granted by the appropriate section of this chapter multiplied
15 first by the initial factor, then by the cumulative annual
16 factor, and finally by the annual factor. Any special
17 qualification salary received under this chapter shall be
18 added to such adjusted salary rate, which special
19 qualification salary shall be \$2,000, but shall not exceed
20 \$2,000.

21 Section 900. Section 153.77, Florida Statutes, is
22 amended to read:

23 153.77 District bonds as securities for public
24 bodies.--All revenue bonds, general obligation bonds, or
25 assessment bonds issued pursuant to this law shall be and
26 constitute legal investments for state, county, municipal, and
27 all other public funds and for banks, savings banks, insurance
28 companies, executors, administrators, trustees, and all other
29 fiduciaries and shall also be and constitute securities
30 eligible as collateral security for all state, county,
31 municipal, or other public funds, subject to the restrictions

1 and limitations of chapters 18, 136, ~~237~~, 518, 655, 657, 658,
2 ~~and~~ 660-665, and 1011.

3 Section 901. Subsection (22) of section 159.27,
4 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

5 159.27 Definitions.--The following words and terms,
6 unless the context clearly indicates a different meaning,
7 shall have the following meanings:

8 (22) "Educational facility" means:

9 (a) Property, limited to a structure suitable for use
10 as a dormitory or other housing facility or a dining facility,
11 that is operated in the public sector and used for or useful
12 in connection with the operation of an institution for higher
13 education, as defined in s. 243.20(8), which offers the
14 baccalaureate or a higher degree and that is constructed in
15 compliance with applicable codes as determined by appropriate
16 state agencies.

17 (b) Property that comprises the buildings and
18 equipment, structures, and special education use areas that
19 are built, installed, or established to serve primarily the
20 educational purposes of operating any nonprofit private
21 preschool, kindergarten, elementary school, middle school, or
22 high school that is established under chapter 617 or chapter
23 623, or that is owned or operated by an organization described
24 in s. 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, or
25 operating any preschool, kindergarten, elementary school,
26 middle school, or high school that is owned or operated as
27 part of the state's system of public education, including, but
28 not limited to, a charter school or a developmental research
29 school operated under chapter 1002 ~~228~~. The requirements of
30 this part for the financing of projects through local agencies
31 shall also apply to such schools. Bonds issued under the

1 provisions of this part for such schools shall not be deemed
2 to constitute a debt, liability, or obligation of the state or
3 any political subdivision thereof, or a pledge of the faith
4 and credit of the state or of any such political subdivision,
5 but shall be payable solely from the revenues provided
6 therefor.

7 Section 902. Paragraph (h) of subsection (6) and
8 paragraph (a) of subsection (12) of section 163.3177, Florida
9 Statutes, are amended to read:

10 163.3177 Required and optional elements of
11 comprehensive plan; studies and surveys.--

12 (6) In addition to the requirements of subsections
13 (1)-(5), the comprehensive plan shall include the following
14 elements:

15 (h)1. An intergovernmental coordination element
16 showing relationships and stating principles and guidelines to
17 be used in the accomplishment of coordination of the adopted
18 comprehensive plan with the plans of school boards and other
19 units of local government providing services but not having
20 regulatory authority over the use of land, with the
21 comprehensive plans of adjacent municipalities, the county,
22 adjacent counties, or the region, and with the state
23 comprehensive plan, as the case may require and as such
24 adopted plans or plans in preparation may exist. This element
25 of the local comprehensive plan shall demonstrate
26 consideration of the particular effects of the local plan,
27 when adopted, upon the development of adjacent municipalities,
28 the county, adjacent counties, or the region, or upon the
29 state comprehensive plan, as the case may require.

30 a. The intergovernmental coordination element shall
31 provide for procedures to identify and implement joint

1 planning areas, especially for the purpose of annexation,
2 municipal incorporation, and joint infrastructure service
3 areas.

4 b. The intergovernmental coordination element shall
5 provide for recognition of campus master plans prepared
6 pursuant to s. 1013.30 ~~240.155~~.

7 c. The intergovernmental coordination element may
8 provide for a voluntary dispute resolution process as
9 established pursuant to s. 186.509 for bringing to closure in
10 a timely manner intergovernmental disputes. A local
11 government may develop and use an alternative local dispute
12 resolution process for this purpose.

13 2. The intergovernmental coordination element shall
14 further state principles and guidelines to be used in the
15 accomplishment of coordination of the adopted comprehensive
16 plan with the plans of school boards and other units of local
17 government providing facilities and services but not having
18 regulatory authority over the use of land. In addition, the
19 intergovernmental coordination element shall describe joint
20 processes for collaborative planning and decisionmaking on
21 population projections and public school siting, the location
22 and extension of public facilities subject to concurrency, and
23 siting facilities with countywide significance, including
24 locally unwanted land uses whose nature and identity are
25 established in an agreement. Within 1 year of adopting their
26 intergovernmental coordination elements, each county, all the
27 municipalities within that county, the district school board,
28 and any unit of local government service providers in that
29 county shall establish by interlocal or other formal agreement
30 executed by all affected entities, the joint processes

31

1 described in this subparagraph consistent with their adopted
2 intergovernmental coordination elements.

3 3. To foster coordination between special districts
4 and local general-purpose governments as local general-purpose
5 governments implement local comprehensive plans, each
6 independent special district must submit a public facilities
7 report to the appropriate local government as required by s.
8 189.415.

9 4. The state land planning agency shall establish a
10 schedule for phased completion and transmittal of plan
11 amendments to implement subparagraphs 1., 2., and 3. from all
12 jurisdictions so as to accomplish their adoption by December
13 31, 1999. A local government may complete and transmit its
14 plan amendments to carry out these provisions prior to the
15 scheduled date established by the state land planning agency.
16 The plan amendments are exempt from the provisions of s.
17 163.3187(1).

18 (12) A public school facilities element adopted to
19 implement a school concurrency program shall meet the
20 requirements of this subsection.

21 (a) A public school facilities element shall be based
22 upon data and analyses that address, among other items, how
23 level-of-service standards will be achieved and maintained.
24 Such data and analyses must include, at a minimum, such items
25 as: the 5-year school district facilities work program adopted
26 pursuant to s. 1013.35 ~~235.185~~; the educational plant survey
27 and an existing educational and ancillary plant map or map
28 series; information on existing development and development
29 anticipated for the next 5 years and the long-term planning
30 period; an analysis of problems and opportunities for existing
31 schools and schools anticipated in the future; an analysis of

1 opportunities to collocate future schools with other public
2 facilities such as parks, libraries, and community centers; an
3 analysis of the need for supporting public facilities for
4 existing and future schools; an analysis of opportunities to
5 locate schools to serve as community focal points; projected
6 future population and associated demographics, including
7 development patterns year by year for the upcoming 5-year and
8 long-term planning periods; and anticipated educational and
9 ancillary plants with land area requirements.

10 Section 903. Paragraph (k) of subsection (2) of
11 section 163.3191, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

12 163.3191 Evaluation and appraisal of comprehensive
13 plan.--

14 (2) The report shall present an evaluation and
15 assessment of the comprehensive plan and shall contain
16 appropriate statements to update the comprehensive plan,
17 including, but not limited to, words, maps, illustrations, or
18 other media, related to:

19 (k) The coordination of the comprehensive plan with
20 existing public schools and those identified in the applicable
21 5-year school district facilities work program adopted
22 pursuant to s. 1013.35 ~~235-185~~. The assessment shall address,
23 where relevant, the success or failure of the coordination of
24 the future land use map and associated planned residential
25 development with public schools and their capacities, as well
26 as the joint decisionmaking processes engaged in by the local
27 government and the school board in regard to establishing
28 appropriate population projections and the planning and siting
29 of public school facilities. If the issues are not relevant,
30 the local government shall demonstrate that they are not
31 relevant.

1 Section 904. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of
2 section 195.096, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

3 195.096 Review of assessment rolls.--

4 (3)

5 (b) When necessary for compliance with s. 1011.62
6 ~~236.081~~, and for those counties not being studied in the
7 current year, the department shall project value-weighted mean
8 levels of assessment for each county. The department shall
9 make its projection based upon the best information available,
10 utilizing professionally accepted methodology, and shall
11 separately allocate changes in total assessed value to:

12 1. New construction, additions, and deletions.

13 2. Changes in the value of the dollar.

14 3. Changes in the market value of property other than
15 those attributable to changes in the value of the dollar.

16 4. Changes in the level of assessment.

17
18 In lieu of the statistical and analytical measures published
19 pursuant to paragraph (a), the department shall publish
20 details concerning the computation of estimated assessment
21 levels and the allocation of changes in assessed value for
22 those counties not subject to an in-depth review.

23 Section 905. Subsection (5) of section 196.012,
24 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

25 196.012 Definitions.--For the purpose of this chapter,
26 the following terms are defined as follows, except where the
27 context clearly indicates otherwise:

28 (5) "Educational institution" means a federal, state,
29 parochial, church, or private school, college, or university
30 conducting regular classes and courses of study required for
31 eligibility to certification by, accreditation to, or

1 membership in the State Department of Education of Florida,
2 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, or the Florida
3 Council of Independent Schools; a nonprofit private school the
4 principal activity of which is conducting regular classes and
5 courses of study accepted for continuing postgraduate dental
6 education credit by a board of the Division of Medical Quality
7 Assurance; educational direct-support organizations created
8 pursuant to ss. 1001.24, 1004.28, and 1004.70 ~~229.8021,~~
9 ~~240.299, and 240.331~~; facilities located on the property of
10 eligible entities which will become owned by those entities on
11 a date certain; and institutions of higher education, as
12 defined under and participating in the Higher Educational
13 Facilities Financing Act.

14 Section 906. Subsection (4) of section 196.031,
15 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

16 196.031 Exemption of homesteads.--

17 (4) The property appraisers of the various counties
18 shall each year compile a list of taxable property and its
19 value removed from the assessment rolls of each school
20 district as a result of the excess of exempt value above that
21 amount allowed for nonschool levies as provided in subsections
22 (1) and (3), as well as a statement of the loss of tax revenue
23 to each school district from levies other than the minimum
24 financial effort required pursuant to s. 1011.60(6) ~~236.02(6)~~,
25 and shall deliver a copy thereof to the Department of Revenue
26 upon certification of the assessment roll to the tax
27 collector.

28 Section 907. Section 196.1983, Florida Statutes, is
29 amended to read:

30 196.1983 Charter school exemption from ad valorem
31 taxes.--Any facility, or portion thereof, used to house a

1 charter school whose charter has been approved by the sponsor
2 and the governing board pursuant to s. 1002.33(9) ~~228.056(9)~~
3 shall be exempt from ad valorem taxes. For leasehold
4 properties, the landlord must certify by affidavit to the
5 charter school that the lease payments shall be reduced to the
6 extent of the exemption received. The owner of the property
7 shall disclose to a charter school the full amount of the
8 benefit derived from the exemption and the method for ensuring
9 that the charter school receives such benefit. The charter
10 school shall receive the full benefit derived from the
11 exemption through either an annual or monthly credit to the
12 charter school's lease payments.

13 Section 908. Paragraphs (a), (b), and (d) of
14 subsection (3) of section 200.001, Florida Statutes, are
15 amended to read:

16 200.001 Millages; definitions and general
17 provisions.--

18 (3) School millages shall be composed of five
19 categories of millage rates, as follows:

20 (a) Nonvoted required school operating millage, which
21 shall be that nonvoted millage rate set by the county school
22 board for current operating purposes and imposed pursuant to
23 s. 1011.60(6) ~~236.02(6)~~.

24 (b) Nonvoted discretionary school operating millage,
25 which shall be that nonvoted millage rate set by the county
26 school board for operating purposes other than the rate
27 imposed pursuant to s. 1011.60(6) ~~236.02(6)~~ and other than the
28 rate authorized in s. 1011.71(2) ~~236.25(2)~~.

29 (d) Nonvoted district school capital improvement
30 millage, which shall be that millage rate set by the district
31

1 school board for capital improvements as authorized in s.
2 1011.71(2)~~236.25(2)~~.

3 Section 909. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2),
4 paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection (3), paragraph (a) of
5 subsection (9), subsection (10), and paragraph (b) of
6 subsection (12) of section 200.065, Florida Statutes, are
7 amended to read:

8 200.065 Method of fixing millage.--

9 (2) No millage shall be levied until a resolution or
10 ordinance has been approved by the governing board of the
11 taxing authority which resolution or ordinance must be
12 approved by the taxing authority according to the following
13 procedure:

14 (a)1. Upon preparation of a tentative budget, but
15 prior to adoption thereof, each taxing authority shall compute
16 a proposed millage rate necessary to fund the tentative budget
17 other than the portion of the budget to be funded from sources
18 other than ad valorem taxes. In computing proposed or final
19 millage rates, each taxing authority shall utilize not less
20 than 95 percent of the taxable value certified pursuant to
21 subsection (1).

22 2. The tentative budget of the county commission shall
23 be prepared and submitted in accordance with s. 129.03.

24 3. The tentative budget of the school district shall
25 be prepared and submitted in accordance with chapter 1011 ~~237~~,
26 provided that the date of submission shall not be later than
27 24 days after certification of value pursuant to subsection
28 (1).

29 4. Taxing authorities other than the county and school
30 district shall prepare and consider tentative and final
31 budgets in accordance with this section and applicable

1
2 The ...(name of school district)... will soon consider
3 a measure to increase its property tax levy.
4 Last year's property tax levy:
5 A. Initially proposed tax levy.....\$XX,XXX,XXX
6 B. Less tax reductions due to Value Adjustment Board
7 and other assessment changes.....(\$XX,XXX,XXX)
8 C. Actual property tax levy.....\$XX,XXX,XXX
9 This year's proposed tax levy.....\$XX,XXX,XXX
10 A portion of the tax levy is required under state law
11 in order for the school board to receive \$...(amount A)... in
12 state education grants. The required portion has ...(increased
13 or decreased)... by ...(amount B)... percent and represents
14 approximately ...(amount C)... of the total proposed taxes.
15 The remainder of the taxes is proposed solely at the
16 discretion of the school board.
17 All concerned citizens are invited to a public hearing
18 on the tax increase to be held on ...(date and time)... at
19 ...(meeting place)....
20 A DECISION on the proposed tax increase and the budget
21 will be made at this hearing.
22
23 1. AMOUNT A shall be an estimate, provided by the
24 Department of Education, of the amount to be received in the
25 current fiscal year by the district from state appropriations
26 for the Florida Education Finance Program.
27 2. AMOUNT B shall be the percent increase over the
28 rolled-back rate necessary to levy only the required local
29 effort in the current fiscal year, computed as though in the
30 preceding fiscal year only the required local effort was
31 levied.

1 3. AMOUNT C shall be the quotient of required
2 local-effort millage divided by the total proposed nonvoted
3 millage, rounded to the nearest tenth and stated in words;
4 however, the stated amount shall not exceed nine-tenths.

5
6 (d) For school districts which have proposed a millage
7 rate in excess of 100 percent of the rolled-back rate computed
8 pursuant to subsection (1) and which propose to levy as
9 nonvoted millage only the minimum amount required pursuant to
10 s. 1011.60(6)~~236.02(6)~~, the advertisement shall be the same
11 as provided in paragraph (c), except that the second and third
12 paragraphs shall be replaced with the following paragraph:

13
14 This increase is required under state law in order for
15 the school board to receive \$...(amount A)... in state
16 education grants.

17
18 (9)(a) In addition to the notice required in
19 subsection (3), a district school board shall publish a second
20 notice of intent to levy additional taxes under s. 1011.71(2)
21 ~~236.25(2)~~. Such notice shall specify the projects or number
22 of school buses anticipated to be funded by such additional
23 taxes and shall be published in the size, within the time
24 periods, adjacent to, and in substantial conformity with the
25 advertisement required under subsection (3). The projects
26 shall be listed in priority within each category as follows:
27 construction and remodeling; maintenance, renovation, and
28 repair; motor vehicle purchases; new and replacement
29 equipment; payments for educational facilities and sites due
30 under a lease-purchase agreement; payments for renting and
31 leasing educational facilities and sites; payments of loans

1 approved pursuant to ss. 1011.14 ~~237.161~~ and 1011.15 ~~237.162~~;
2 payment of costs of compliance with environmental statutes and
3 regulations; and payment of costs of leasing relocatable
4 educational facilities. The additional notice shall be in the
5 following form, except that if the district school board is
6 proposing to levy the same millage under s. 1011.71(2)
7 ~~236.25(2)~~ which it levied in the prior year, the words
8 "continue to" shall be inserted before the word "impose" in
9 the first sentence, and except that the second sentence of the
10 second paragraph shall be deleted if the district is
11 advertising pursuant to paragraph (3)(e):

12
13 NOTICE OF TAX FOR SCHOOL
14 CAPITAL OUTLAY
15

16 The ...(name of school district)... will soon consider
17 a measure to impose a ...(number)... mill property tax for the
18 capital outlay projects listed herein.

19 This tax is in addition to the school board's proposed
20 tax of ...(number)... mills for operating expenses and is
21 proposed solely at the discretion of the school board. THE
22 PROPOSED COMBINED SCHOOL BOARD TAX INCREASE FOR BOTH OPERATING
23 EXPENSES AND CAPITAL OUTLAY IS SHOWN IN THE ADJACENT NOTICE.

24 The capital outlay tax will generate approximately
25 \$...(amount)..., to be used for the following projects:

26
27 ...(list of capital outlay projects)...

28
29 All concerned citizens are invited to a public hearing
30 to be held on ...(date and time)... at ...(meeting place)....
31

1 A DECISION on the proposed CAPITAL OUTLAY TAXES will be
2 made at this hearing.

3
4 (10) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph
5 (2)(b) and s. 200.069(4)(c) to the contrary, the proposed
6 millage rates provided to the property appraiser by the taxing
7 authority, except for millage rates adopted by referendum, for
8 rates authorized by s. 1011.71 ~~236.25~~, and for rates required
9 by law to be in a specified millage amount, shall be adjusted
10 in the event that a review notice is issued pursuant to s.
11 193.1142(4) and the taxable value on the approved roll is at
12 variance with the taxable value certified pursuant to
13 subsection (1). The adjustment shall be made by the property
14 appraiser, who shall notify the taxing authorities affected by
15 the adjustment within 5 days of the date the roll is approved
16 pursuant to s. 193.1142(4). The adjustment shall be such as
17 to provide for no change in the dollar amount of taxes levied
18 from that initially proposed by the taxing authority.

19 (12)

20 (b) Within 30 days of the deadline for certification
21 of compliance required by s. 200.068, the department shall
22 notify any taxing authority in violation of this section that
23 it is subject to paragraph (c). Except for revenues from voted
24 levies or levies imposed pursuant to s. 1011.60(6) ~~236.02(6)~~,
25 the revenues of any taxing authority in violation of this
26 section collected in excess of the rolled-back rate shall be
27 held in escrow until the process required by paragraph (c) is
28 completed and approved by the department. The department shall
29 direct the tax collector to so hold such funds.

1 Section 910. Subsection (3) and paragraph (a) of
2 subsection (4) of section 200.069, Florida Statutes, are
3 amended to read:

4 200.069 Notice of proposed property taxes and non-ad
5 valorem assessments.--Pursuant to s. 200.065(2)(b), the
6 property appraiser, in the name of the taxing authorities and
7 local governing boards levying non-ad valorem assessments
8 within his or her jurisdiction and at the expense of the
9 county, shall prepare and deliver by first-class mail to each
10 taxpayer to be listed on the current year's assessment roll a
11 notice of proposed property taxes, which notice shall be in
12 substantially the following form. Notwithstanding the
13 provisions of s. 195.022, no county officer shall use a form
14 other than that provided by the department for this purpose,
15 except as provided in s. 200.065(13).

16 (3) There shall be under each column heading an entry
17 for the county; the school district levy required pursuant to
18 s. 1011.60(6)~~236.02(6)~~; other operating school levies; the
19 municipality or municipal service taxing unit or units in
20 which the parcel lies, if any; the water management district
21 levying pursuant to s. 373.503; the independent special
22 districts in which the parcel lies, if any; and for all voted
23 levies for debt service applicable to the parcel, if any.

24 (4) For each entry listed in subsection (3), there
25 shall appear on the notice the following:

26 (a) In the first column, a brief, commonly used name
27 for the taxing authority or its governing body. The entry in
28 the first column for the levy required pursuant to s.
29 1011.60(6)~~236.02(6)~~ shall be "By State Law." The entry for
30 other operating school district levies shall be "By Local
31 Board." Both school levy entries shall be indented and

1 preceded by the notation "Public Schools:". For each voted
2 levy for debt service, the entry shall be "Voter Approved Debt
3 Payments."

4 Section 911. Subsection (2) of section 201.24, Florida
5 Statutes, is amended to read:

6 201.24 Obligations of municipalities, political
7 subdivisions, and agencies of the state.--There shall be
8 exempt from all taxes imposed by this chapter:

9 (2) Any assignment, transfer, or other disposition, or
10 any document, which arises out of a rental, lease, or
11 lease-purchase for real property agreement entered pursuant to
12 s. 1013.15(2) or (4)~~235.056(2) or (3)~~.

13 Section 912. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of
14 section 210.20, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

15 210.20 Employees and assistants; distribution of
16 funds.--

17 (2) As collections are received by the division from
18 such cigarette taxes, it shall pay the same into a trust fund
19 in the State Treasury designated "Cigarette Tax Collection
20 Trust Fund" which shall be paid and distributed as follows:

21 (b) Beginning January 1, 1999, and continuing for 10
22 years thereafter, the division shall from month to month
23 certify to the Comptroller the amount derived from the
24 cigarette tax imposed by s. 210.02, less the service charges
25 provided for in s. 215.20 and less 0.9 percent of the amount
26 derived from the cigarette tax imposed by s. 210.02 which
27 shall be deposited into the Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco
28 Trust Fund, specifying an amount equal to 2.59 percent of the
29 net collections, and that amount shall be paid to the Board of
30 Directors of the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research
31 Institute, established under s. 1004.43 ~~240.512~~, by warrant

1 drawn by the Comptroller upon the State Treasury. These funds
2 are hereby appropriated monthly out of the Cigarette Tax
3 Collection Trust Fund, to be used for the purpose of
4 constructing, furnishing, and equipping a cancer research
5 facility at the University of South Florida adjacent to the H.
6 Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute. In fiscal
7 years 1999-2000 and thereafter with the exception of fiscal
8 year 2008-2009, the appropriation to the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer
9 Center and Research Institute authorized by this paragraph
10 shall not be less than the amount which would have been paid
11 to the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute for
12 fiscal year 1998-1999 had payments been made for the entire
13 fiscal year rather than for a 6-month period thereof.

14 Section 913. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of
15 section 212.04, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

16 212.04 Admissions tax; rate, procedure, enforcement.--

17 (2)(a)1. No tax shall be levied on admissions to
18 athletic or other events sponsored by elementary schools,
19 junior high schools, middle schools, high schools, community
20 colleges, public or private colleges and universities, deaf
21 and blind schools, facilities of the youth services programs
22 of the Department of Children and Family Services, and state
23 correctional institutions when only student, faculty, or
24 inmate talent is used. However, this exemption shall not apply
25 to admission to athletic events sponsored by a ~~an institution~~
26 ~~within the state university System~~, and the proceeds of the
27 tax collected on such admissions shall be retained and used by
28 each institution to support women's athletics as provided in
29 s. 1006.71(2)(c) ~~240.533(3)(c)~~.

30 2.a. No tax shall be levied on dues, membership fees,
31 and admission charges imposed by not-for-profit sponsoring

1 organizations. To receive this exemption, the sponsoring
2 organization must qualify as a not-for-profit entity under the
3 provisions of s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of
4 1954, as amended.

5 b. No tax shall be levied on admission charges to an
6 event sponsored by a governmental entity, sports authority, or
7 sports commission when held in a convention hall, exhibition
8 hall, auditorium, stadium, theater, arena, civic center,
9 performing arts center, or publicly owned recreational
10 facility and when 100 percent of the risk of success or
11 failure lies with the sponsor of the event and 100 percent of
12 the funds at risk for the event belong to the sponsor, and
13 student or faculty talent is not exclusively used. As used in
14 this sub-subparagraph, the terms "sports authority" and
15 "sports commission" mean a nonprofit organization that is
16 exempt from federal income tax under s. 501(c)(3) of the
17 Internal Revenue Code and that contracts with a county or
18 municipal government for the purpose of promoting and
19 attracting sports-tourism events to the community with which
20 it contracts.

21 3. No tax shall be levied on an admission paid by a
22 student, or on the student's behalf, to any required place of
23 sport or recreation if the student's participation in the
24 sport or recreational activity is required as a part of a
25 program or activity sponsored by, and under the jurisdiction
26 of, the student's educational institution, provided his or her
27 attendance is as a participant and not as a spectator.

28 4. No tax shall be levied on admissions to the
29 National Football League championship game, on admissions to
30 any semifinal game or championship game of a national
31

1 collegiate tournament, or on admissions to a Major League
2 Baseball all-star game.

3 5. A participation fee or sponsorship fee imposed by a
4 governmental entity as described in s. 212.08(6) for an
5 athletic or recreational program is exempt when the
6 governmental entity by itself, or in conjunction with an
7 organization exempt under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
8 Code of 1954, as amended, sponsors, administers, plans,
9 supervises, directs, and controls the athletic or recreational
10 program.

11 6. Also exempt from the tax imposed by this section to
12 the extent provided in this subparagraph are admissions to
13 live theater, live opera, or live ballet productions in this
14 state which are sponsored by an organization that has received
15 a determination from the Internal Revenue Service that the
16 organization is exempt from federal income tax under s.
17 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, if
18 the organization actively participates in planning and
19 conducting the event, is responsible for the safety and
20 success of the event, is organized for the purpose of
21 sponsoring live theater, live opera, or live ballet
22 productions in this state, has more than 10,000 subscribing
23 members and has among the stated purposes in its charter the
24 promotion of arts education in the communities which it
25 serves, and will receive at least 20 percent of the net
26 profits, if any, of the events which the organization sponsors
27 and will bear the risk of at least 20 percent of the losses,
28 if any, from the events which it sponsors if the organization
29 employs other persons as agents to provide services in
30 connection with a sponsored event. Prior to March 1 of each
31 year, such organization may apply to the department for a

1 certificate of exemption for admissions to such events
2 sponsored in this state by the organization during the
3 immediately following state fiscal year. The application shall
4 state the total dollar amount of admissions receipts collected
5 by the organization or its agents from such events in this
6 state sponsored by the organization or its agents in the year
7 immediately preceding the year in which the organization
8 applies for the exemption. Such organization shall receive the
9 exemption only to the extent of \$1.5 million multiplied by the
10 ratio that such receipts bear to the total of such receipts of
11 all organizations applying for the exemption in such year;
12 however, in no event shall such exemption granted to any
13 organization exceed 6 percent of such admissions receipts
14 collected by the organization or its agents in the year
15 immediately preceding the year in which the organization
16 applies for the exemption. Each organization receiving the
17 exemption shall report each month to the department the total
18 admissions receipts collected from such events sponsored by
19 the organization during the preceding month and shall remit to
20 the department an amount equal to 6 percent of such receipts
21 reduced by any amount remaining under the exemption. Tickets
22 for such events sold by such organizations shall not reflect
23 the tax otherwise imposed under this section.

24 7. Also exempt from the tax imposed by this section
25 are entry fees for participation in freshwater fishing
26 tournaments.

27 8. Also exempt from the tax imposed by this section
28 are participation or entry fees charged to participants in a
29 game, race, or other sport or recreational event if spectators
30 are charged a taxable admission to such event.

31

1 9. No tax shall be levied on admissions to any
2 postseason collegiate football game sanctioned by the National
3 Collegiate Athletic Association.

4 Section 914. Effective July 1, 2003, paragraph (a) of
5 subsection (2) of section 212.04, Florida Statutes, as amended
6 by section 4 of chapter 2000-345, Laws of Florida, is amended
7 to read:

8 212.04 Admissions tax; rate, procedure, enforcement.--

9 (2)(a)1. No tax shall be levied on admissions to
10 athletic or other events sponsored by elementary schools,
11 junior high schools, middle schools, high schools, community
12 colleges, public or private colleges and universities, deaf
13 and blind schools, facilities of the youth services programs
14 of the Department of Children and Family Services, and state
15 correctional institutions when only student, faculty, or
16 inmate talent is used. However, this exemption shall not apply
17 to admission to athletic events sponsored by a ~~an institution~~
18 ~~within the state university System~~, and the proceeds of the
19 tax collected on such admissions shall be retained and used by
20 each institution to support women's athletics as provided in
21 s. 1006.71(2)(c) ~~240.533(3)(c)~~.

22 2. No tax shall be levied on dues, membership fees,
23 and admission charges imposed by not-for-profit sponsoring
24 organizations. To receive this exemption, the sponsoring
25 organization must qualify as a not-for-profit entity under the
26 provisions of s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of
27 1954, as amended.

28 3. No tax shall be levied on an admission paid by a
29 student, or on the student's behalf, to any required place of
30 sport or recreation if the student's participation in the
31 sport or recreational activity is required as a part of a

1 program or activity sponsored by, and under the jurisdiction
2 of, the student's educational institution, provided his or her
3 attendance is as a participant and not as a spectator.

4 4. No tax shall be levied on admissions to the
5 National Football League championship game, on admissions to
6 any semifinal game or championship game of a national
7 collegiate tournament, or on admissions to a Major League
8 Baseball all-star game.

9 5. A participation fee or sponsorship fee imposed by a
10 governmental entity as described in s. 212.08(6) for an
11 athletic or recreational program is exempt when the
12 governmental entity by itself, or in conjunction with an
13 organization exempt under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
14 Code of 1954, as amended, sponsors, administers, plans,
15 supervises, directs, and controls the athletic or recreational
16 program.

17 6. Also exempt from the tax imposed by this section to
18 the extent provided in this subparagraph are admissions to
19 live theater, live opera, or live ballet productions in this
20 state which are sponsored by an organization that has received
21 a determination from the Internal Revenue Service that the
22 organization is exempt from federal income tax under s.
23 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, if
24 the organization actively participates in planning and
25 conducting the event, is responsible for the safety and
26 success of the event, is organized for the purpose of
27 sponsoring live theater, live opera, or live ballet
28 productions in this state, has more than 10,000 subscribing
29 members and has among the stated purposes in its charter the
30 promotion of arts education in the communities which it
31 serves, and will receive at least 20 percent of the net

1 profits, if any, of the events which the organization sponsors
2 and will bear the risk of at least 20 percent of the losses,
3 if any, from the events which it sponsors if the organization
4 employs other persons as agents to provide services in
5 connection with a sponsored event. Prior to March 1 of each
6 year, such organization may apply to the department for a
7 certificate of exemption for admissions to such events
8 sponsored in this state by the organization during the
9 immediately following state fiscal year. The application shall
10 state the total dollar amount of admissions receipts collected
11 by the organization or its agents from such events in this
12 state sponsored by the organization or its agents in the year
13 immediately preceding the year in which the organization
14 applies for the exemption. Such organization shall receive the
15 exemption only to the extent of \$1.5 million multiplied by the
16 ratio that such receipts bear to the total of such receipts of
17 all organizations applying for the exemption in such year;
18 however, in no event shall such exemption granted to any
19 organization exceed 6 percent of such admissions receipts
20 collected by the organization or its agents in the year
21 immediately preceding the year in which the organization
22 applies for the exemption. Each organization receiving the
23 exemption shall report each month to the department the total
24 admissions receipts collected from such events sponsored by
25 the organization during the preceding month and shall remit to
26 the department an amount equal to 6 percent of such receipts
27 reduced by any amount remaining under the exemption. Tickets
28 for such events sold by such organizations shall not reflect
29 the tax otherwise imposed under this section.
30
31

1 7. Also exempt from the tax imposed by this section
2 are entry fees for participation in freshwater fishing
3 tournaments.

4 8. Also exempt from the tax imposed by this section
5 are participation or entry fees charged to participants in a
6 game, race, or other sport or recreational event if spectators
7 are charged a taxable admission to such event.

8 9. No tax shall be levied on admissions to any
9 postseason collegiate football game sanctioned by the National
10 Collegiate Athletic Association.

11 Section 915. Section 212.0602, Florida Statutes, is
12 amended to read:

13 212.0602 Education; limited exemption.--To facilitate
14 investment in education and job training, there is also exempt
15 from the taxes levied under this chapter, subject to the
16 provisions of this section, the purchase or lease of
17 materials, equipment, and other items or the license in or
18 lease of real property by any entity, institution, or
19 organization that is primarily engaged in teaching students to
20 perform any of the activities or services described in s.
21 212.031(1)(a)9., that conducts classes at a fixed location
22 located in this state, that is licensed under chapter 1005
23 ~~246~~, and that has at least 500 enrolled students. Any entity,
24 institution, or organization meeting the requirements of this
25 section shall be deemed to qualify for the exemptions in ss.
26 212.031(1)(a)9. and 212.08(5)(f) and (12), and to qualify for
27 an exemption for its purchase or lease of materials,
28 equipment, and other items used for education or demonstration
29 of the school's curriculum, including supporting operations.
30 Nothing in this section shall preclude an entity described in
31

1 this section from qualifying for any other exemption provided
2 for in this chapter.

3 Section 916. Paragraph (q) of subsection (5) of
4 section 212.08, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

5 212.08 Sales, rental, use, consumption, distribution,
6 and storage tax; specified exemptions.--The sale at retail,
7 the rental, the use, the consumption, the distribution, and
8 the storage to be used or consumed in this state of the
9 following are hereby specifically exempt from the tax imposed
10 by this chapter.

11 (5) EXEMPTIONS; ACCOUNT OF USE.--

12 (q) Community contribution tax credit for donations.--

13 1. Authorization.--Beginning July 1, 2001, persons who
14 are registered with the department under s. 212.18 to collect
15 or remit sales or use tax and who make donations to eligible
16 sponsors are eligible for tax credits against their state
17 sales and use tax liabilities as provided in this paragraph:

18 a. The credit shall be computed as 50 percent of the
19 person's approved annual community contribution;

20 b. The credit shall be granted as a refund against
21 state sales and use taxes reported on returns and remitted in
22 the 12 months preceding the date of application to the
23 department for the credit as required in sub-subparagraph 3.c.
24 If the annual credit is not fully used through such refund
25 because of insufficient tax payments during the applicable
26 12-month period, the unused amount may be included in an
27 application for a refund made pursuant to sub-subparagraph
28 3.c. in subsequent years against the total tax payments made
29 for such year. Carryover credits may be applied for a 3-year
30 period without regard to any time limitation that would
31 otherwise apply under s. 215.26;

1 c. No person shall receive more than \$200,000 in
2 annual tax credits for all approved community contributions
3 made in any one year;

4 d. All proposals for the granting of the tax credit
5 shall require the prior approval of the Office of Tourism,
6 Trade, and Economic Development;

7 e. The total amount of tax credits which may be
8 granted for all programs approved under this paragraph, s.
9 220.183, and s. 624.5105 is \$10 million annually; and

10 f. A person who is eligible to receive the credit
11 provided for in this paragraph, s. 220.183, or s. 624.5105 may
12 receive the credit only under the one section of the person's
13 choice.

14 2. Eligibility requirements.--

15 a. A community contribution by a person must be in the
16 following form:

17 (I) Cash or other liquid assets;

18 (II) Real property;

19 (III) Goods or inventory; or

20 (IV) Other physical resources as identified by the
21 Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development.

22 b. All community contributions must be reserved
23 exclusively for use in a project. As used in this
24 sub-subparagraph, the term "project" means any activity
25 undertaken by an eligible sponsor which is designed to
26 construct, improve, or substantially rehabilitate housing that
27 is affordable to low-income or very-low-income households as
28 defined in s. 420.9071(19) and (28); designed to provide
29 commercial, industrial, or public resources and facilities; or
30 designed to improve entrepreneurial and job-development
31 opportunities for low-income persons. A project may be the

1 investment necessary to increase access to high-speed
2 broadband capability in rural communities with enterprise
3 zones, including projects that result in improvements to
4 communications assets that are owned by a business. A project
5 may include the provision of museum educational programs and
6 materials that are directly related to any project approved
7 between January 1, 1996, and December 31, 1999, and located in
8 an enterprise zone as referenced in s. 290.00675. This
9 paragraph does not preclude projects that propose to construct
10 or rehabilitate housing for low-income or very-low-income
11 households on scattered sites. The Office of Tourism, Trade,
12 and Economic Development may reserve up to 50 percent of the
13 available annual tax credits for housing for very-low-income
14 households pursuant to s. 420.9071(28) for the first 6 months
15 of the fiscal year. With respect to housing, contributions may
16 be used to pay the following eligible low-income and
17 very-low-income housing-related activities:

18 (I) Project development impact and management fees for
19 low-income or very-low-income housing projects;

20 (II) Down payment and closing costs for eligible
21 persons, as defined in s. 420.9071(19) and (28);

22 (III) Administrative costs, including housing
23 counseling and marketing fees, not to exceed 10 percent of the
24 community contribution, directly related to low-income or
25 very-low-income projects; and

26 (IV) Removal of liens recorded against residential
27 property by municipal, county, or special district local
28 governments when satisfaction of the lien is a necessary
29 precedent to the transfer of the property to an eligible
30 person, as defined in s. 420.9071(19) and (28), for the
31

1 purpose of promoting home ownership. Contributions for lien
2 removal must be received from a nonrelated third party.

3 c. The project must be undertaken by an "eligible
4 sponsor," which includes:

5 (I) A community action program;

6 (II) A nonprofit community-based development
7 organization whose mission is the provision of housing for
8 low-income or very-low-income households or increasing
9 entrepreneurial and job-development opportunities for
10 low-income persons;

11 (III) A neighborhood housing services corporation;

12 (IV) A local housing authority created under chapter
13 421;

14 (V) A community redevelopment agency created under s.
15 163.356;

16 (VI) The Florida Industrial Development Corporation;

17 (VII) A historic preservation district agency or
18 organization;

19 (VIII) A regional workforce board;

20 (IX) A direct-support organization as provided in s.
21 1009.983 ~~240.551~~;

22 (X) An enterprise zone development agency created
23 under s. 290.0056;

24 (XI) A community-based organization incorporated under
25 chapter 617 which is recognized as educational, charitable, or
26 scientific pursuant to s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
27 Code and whose bylaws and articles of incorporation include
28 affordable housing, economic development, or community
29 development as the primary mission of the corporation;

30 (XII) Units of local government;

31 (XIII) Units of state government; or

1 (XIV) Any other agency that the Office of Tourism,
2 Trade, and Economic Development designates by rule.

3
4 In no event may a contributing person have a financial
5 interest in the eligible sponsor.

6 d. The project must be located in an area designated
7 an enterprise zone or a Front Porch Florida Community pursuant
8 to s. 14.2015(9)(b), unless the project increases access to
9 high-speed broadband capability for rural communities with
10 enterprise zones but is physically located outside the
11 designated rural zone boundaries. Any project designed to
12 construct or rehabilitate housing for low-income or
13 very-low-income households as defined in s. 420.0971(19) and
14 (28) is exempt from the area requirement of this
15 sub-subparagraph.

16 3. Application requirements.--

17 a. Any eligible sponsor seeking to participate in this
18 program must submit a proposal to the Office of Tourism,
19 Trade, and Economic Development which sets forth the name of
20 the sponsor, a description of the project, and the area in
21 which the project is located, together with such supporting
22 information as is prescribed by rule. The proposal must also
23 contain a resolution from the local governmental unit in which
24 the project is located certifying that the project is
25 consistent with local plans and regulations.

26 b. Any person seeking to participate in this program
27 must submit an application for tax credit to the Office of
28 Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development which sets forth the
29 name of the sponsor, a description of the project, and the
30 type, value, and purpose of the contribution. The sponsor
31 shall verify the terms of the application and indicate its

1 receipt of the contribution, which verification must be in
2 writing and accompany the application for tax credit. The
3 person must submit a separate tax credit application to the
4 office for each individual contribution that it makes to each
5 individual project.

6 c. Any person who has received notification from the
7 Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development that a tax
8 credit has been approved must apply to the department to
9 receive the refund. Application must be made on the form
10 prescribed for claiming refunds of sales and use taxes and be
11 accompanied by a copy of the notification. A person may submit
12 only one application for refund to the department within any
13 12-month period.

14 4. Administration.--

15 a. The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic
16 Development may adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and
17 120.54 necessary to administer this paragraph, including rules
18 for the approval or disapproval of proposals by a person.

19 b. The decision of the Office of Tourism, Trade, and
20 Economic Development must be in writing, and, if approved, the
21 notification shall state the maximum credit allowable to the
22 person. Upon approval, the office shall transmit a copy of the
23 decision to the Department of Revenue.

24 c. The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic
25 Development shall periodically monitor all projects in a
26 manner consistent with available resources to ensure that
27 resources are used in accordance with this paragraph; however,
28 each project must be reviewed at least once every 2 years.

29 d. The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic
30 Development shall, in consultation with the Department of
31 Community Affairs, the Florida Housing Finance Corporation,

1 and the statewide and regional housing and financial
2 intermediaries, market the availability of the community
3 contribution tax credit program to community-based
4 organizations.

5 5. Expiration.--This paragraph expires June 30, 2005;
6 however, any accrued credit carryover that is unused on that
7 date may be used until the expiration of the 3-year carryover
8 period for such credit.

9 Section 917. Subsection (6) of section 213.053,
10 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

11 213.053 Confidentiality and information sharing.--

12 (6) Any information received by the Department of
13 Revenue in connection with the administration of taxes,
14 including, but not limited to, information contained in
15 returns, reports, accounts, or declarations filed by persons
16 subject to tax, shall be made available by the department to
17 the Auditor General or his or her authorized agent, the
18 director of the Office of Program Policy Analysis and
19 Government Accountability or his or her authorized agent, the
20 Comptroller or his or her authorized agent, the Insurance
21 Commissioner or his or her authorized agent, the Treasurer or
22 his or her authorized agent, or a property appraiser or tax
23 collector or their authorized agents pursuant to s.
24 195.084(1), in the performance of their official duties, or to
25 designated employees of the Department of Education solely for
26 determination of each school district's price level index
27 pursuant to s. 1011.62(2)~~236.081(2)~~; however, no information
28 shall be disclosed to the Auditor General or his or her
29 authorized agent, the director of the Office of Program Policy
30 Analysis and Government Accountability or his or her
31 authorized agent, the Comptroller or his or her authorized

1 agent, the Insurance Commissioner or his or her authorized
2 agent, the Treasurer or his or her authorized agent, or to a
3 property appraiser or tax collector or their authorized
4 agents, or to designated employees of the Department of
5 Education if such disclosure is prohibited by federal law. The
6 Auditor General or his or her authorized agent, the director
7 of the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government
8 Accountability or his or her authorized agent, the Comptroller
9 or his or her authorized agent, the Treasurer or his or her
10 authorized agent, and the property appraiser or tax collector
11 and their authorized agents, or designated employees of the
12 Department of Education shall be subject to the same
13 requirements of confidentiality and the same penalties for
14 violation of the requirements as the department. For the
15 purpose of this subsection, "designated employees of the
16 Department of Education" means only those employees directly
17 responsible for calculation of price level indices pursuant to
18 s. 1011.62(2)~~236.081(2)~~. It does not include the supervisors
19 of such employees or any other employees or elected officials
20 within the Department of Education.

21 Section 918. Paragraph (j) of subsection (4) of
22 section 215.20, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

23 215.20 Certain income and certain trust funds to
24 contribute to the General Revenue Fund.--

25 (4) The income of a revenue nature deposited in the
26 following described trust funds, by whatever name designated,
27 is that from which the deductions authorized by subsection (3)
28 shall be made:

29 (j) The Educational Certification and Service Trust
30 Fund created by s. 1012.59 ~~231.30~~.

31

1 The enumeration of the foregoing moneys or trust funds shall
2 not prohibit the applicability thereto of s. 215.24 should the
3 Governor determine that for the reasons mentioned in s. 215.24
4 the money or trust funds should be exempt herefrom, as it is
5 the purpose of this law to exempt income from its force and
6 effect when, by the operation of this law, federal matching
7 funds or contributions or private grants to any trust fund
8 would be lost to the state.

9 Section 919. Subsection (2) of section 215.82, Florida
10 Statutes, is amended to read:

11 215.82 Validation; when required.--

12 (2) Any bonds issued pursuant to this act which are
13 validated shall be validated in the manner provided by chapter
14 75. In actions to validate bonds to be issued in the name of
15 the State Board of Education under s. 9(a) and (d), Art. XII
16 of the State Constitution and bonds to be issued pursuant to
17 chapter 259, the Land Conservation Act of 1972, the complaint
18 shall be filed in the circuit court of the county where the
19 seat of state government is situated, the notice required to
20 be published by s. 75.06 shall be published only in the county
21 where the complaint is filed, and the complaint and order of
22 the circuit court shall be served only on the state attorney
23 of the circuit in which the action is pending. In any action
24 to validate bonds issued pursuant to ss. 1010.61-1010.619 ~~part~~
25 ~~of chapter 243~~ or issued pursuant to s. 9(a)(1), Art. XII of
26 the State Constitution or issued pursuant to s. 215.605 or s.
27 338.227, the complaint shall be filed in the circuit court of
28 the county where the seat of state government is situated, the
29 notice required to be published by s. 75.06 shall be published
30 in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the
31 complaint is filed and in two other newspapers of general

1 circulation in the state, and the complaint and order of the
2 circuit court shall be served only on the state attorney of
3 the circuit in which the action is pending; provided, however,
4 that if publication of notice pursuant to this section would
5 require publication in more newspapers than would publication
6 pursuant to s. 75.06, such publication shall be made pursuant
7 to s. 75.06.

8 Section 920. Subsection (7) of section 216.181,
9 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

10 216.181 Approved budgets for operations and fixed
11 capital outlay.--

12 (7) The Executive Office of the Governor may, for the
13 purpose of improved contract administration, authorize the
14 consolidation of two or more fixed capital outlay
15 appropriations for an agency, and the Chief Justice of the
16 Supreme Court for the judicial branch, except for projects
17 authorized under chapter 1013 235, provided the original scope
18 and purpose of each project are not changed.

19 Section 921. Subsection (3) of section 216.301,
20 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

21 216.301 Appropriations; undisbursed balances.--

22 (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (2),
23 the unexpended balance of any appropriation for fixed capital
24 outlay subject to but not under the terms of a binding
25 contract or a general construction contract prior to February
26 1 of the second fiscal year, or the third fiscal year if it is
27 for an educational facility as defined in chapter 1013 235 or
28 a construction project of the Board of Regents, of the
29 appropriation shall revert on February 1 of such year to the
30 fund from which appropriated and shall be available for
31 reappropriation. The Executive Office of the Governor shall,

1 not later than February 20 of each year, furnish the
2 Comptroller, the legislative appropriations committees, and
3 the Auditor General a report listing in detail the items and
4 amounts reverting under the authority of this subsection,
5 including the fund to which reverted and the agency affected.

6 Section 922. Paragraphs (e) and (f) of subsection (1)
7 of section 218.39, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

8 218.39 Annual financial audit reports.--

9 (1) If, by the first day in any fiscal year, a local
10 governmental entity, district school board, charter school, or
11 charter technical career center has not been notified that a
12 financial audit for that fiscal year will be performed by the
13 Auditor General, each of the following entities shall have an
14 annual financial audit of its accounts and records completed
15 within 12 months after the end of its fiscal year by an
16 independent certified public accountant retained by it and
17 paid from its public funds:

18 (e) Each charter school established under s. 1002.33
19 ~~228.056~~.

20 (f) Each charter technical center established under s.
21 1002.34 ~~228.505~~.

22 Section 923. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of
23 section 220.183, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

24 220.183 Community contribution tax credit.--

25 (2) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.--

26 (c) The project must be undertaken by an "eligible
27 sponsor," defined here as:

28 1. A community action program;

29 2. A nonprofit community-based development

30 organization whose mission is the provision of housing for
31 low-income or very-low-income households or increasing

1 entrepreneurial and job-development opportunities for
2 low-income persons;
3 3. A neighborhood housing services corporation;
4 4. A local housing authority, created pursuant to
5 chapter 421;
6 5. A community redevelopment agency, created pursuant
7 to s. 163.356;
8 6. The Florida Industrial Development Corporation;
9 7. An historic preservation district agency or
10 organization;
11 8. A regional workforce board;
12 9. A direct-support organization as provided in s.
13 1009.983 ~~240.551~~;
14 10. An enterprise zone development agency created
15 pursuant to s. 290.0056;
16 11. A community-based organization incorporated under
17 chapter 617 which is recognized as educational, charitable, or
18 scientific pursuant to s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
19 Code and whose bylaws and articles of incorporation include
20 affordable housing, economic development, or community
21 development as the primary mission of the corporation;
22 12. Units of local government;
23 13. Units of state government; or
24 14. Such other agency as the Office of Tourism, Trade,
25 and Economic Development may, from time to time, designate by
26 rule.
27
28 In no event shall a contributing business firm have a
29 financial interest in the eligible sponsor.
30 Section 924. Subsection (1) of section 222.22, Florida
31 Statutes, is amended to read:

1 222.22 Exemption of moneys in the Prepaid College
2 Trust Fund or in a Medical Savings Account from legal
3 process.--

4 (1)(a) Moneys paid into or out of the Florida Prepaid
5 College Trust Fund by or on behalf of a purchaser or qualified
6 beneficiary pursuant to an advance payment contract made under
7 part IV of chapter 1009 s. 240.551, which contract has not
8 been terminated, are not liable to attachment, garnishment, or
9 legal process in the state in favor of any creditor of the
10 purchaser or beneficiary of such advance payment contract.

11 (b) Moneys paid into or out of the Prepaid College
12 Trust Fund by or on behalf of a benefactor or designated
13 beneficiary pursuant to a participation agreement made under
14 s. 1009.981 240.553, which agreement has not been terminated,
15 are not liable to attachment, garnishment, or legal process in
16 the state in favor of any creditor of the purchaser or
17 beneficiary of such participation agreement.

18 Section 925. Subsection (4) of section 250.115,
19 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

20 250.115 Department of Military Affairs direct-support
21 organization.--

22 (4) ACTIVITIES; RESTRICTIONS.--Any transaction or
23 agreement between the direct-support organization organized
24 pursuant to this section and another direct-support
25 organization or center of technology innovation designated
26 under s. 1004.77 240.3335 must be approved by the Adjutant
27 General.

28 Section 926. Section 255.0515, Florida Statutes, is
29 amended to read:

30 255.0515 Bids for state contracts; substitution of
31 subcontractors.--With respect to state contracts let pursuant

1 to competitive bidding, whether under chapter 1013 235,
2 relating to educational facilities, or this chapter, relating
3 to public buildings, the contractor shall not remove or
4 replace subcontractors listed in the bid subsequent to the
5 lists being made public at the bid opening, except upon good
6 cause shown.

7 Section 927. Section 255.0516, Florida Statutes, is
8 amended to read:

9 255.0516 Bid protests by educational boards.--With
10 respect to state contracts and bids pursuant to competitive
11 bidding, whether under chapter 1013 235, relating to
12 educational facilities, or under this chapter, relating to
13 public buildings, if a school board, a community college board
14 of trustees, or a state university board of trustees ~~the Board~~
15 ~~of Regents~~ uses procedures pursuant to chapter 120 for bid
16 protests, the board may require the protestor to post a bond
17 amounting to:

18 (1) Twenty-five thousand dollars or 2 percent of the
19 lowest accepted bid, whichever is greater, for projects valued
20 over \$500,000; and

21 (2) Five percent of the lowest accepted bid for all
22 other projects,

23
24 conditioned upon payment of all costs and fees which may be
25 adjudged against the protestor in the administrative hearing.
26 If at the hearing the agency prevails, it shall recover all
27 costs and attorney's fees from the protestor; if the protestor
28 prevails, the protestor shall recover from the agency all
29 costs and attorney's fees.

30 Section 928. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of
31 section 265.2861, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1 265.2861 Cultural Institutions Program; trust fund.--

2 (1) CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS TRUST FUND.--There is
3 created a Cultural Institutions Trust Fund to be administered
4 by the Department of State for the purposes set forth in this
5 section and to support the following programs as follows:

6 (e)1. For the officially designated Art Museum of the
7 State of Florida described in s. 1004.45 ~~240.711~~, \$2.2
8 million, and for state-owned cultural facilities assigned to
9 the Department of State, which receive a portion of any
10 operating funds from the Department of State and one of the
11 primary purposes of which is the presentation of fine arts or
12 performing arts, \$500,000.

13 2. For fiscal year 2001-2002 only, the provisions of
14 subparagraph 1. relating to state-owned cultural facilities
15 shall not be applicable. This subparagraph expires July 1,
16 2002.

17
18 The trust fund shall consist of moneys appropriated by the
19 Legislature, moneys deposited pursuant to s. 607.1901(2), and
20 moneys contributed to the fund from any other source.

21 Section 929. Paragraph (d) of subsection (5) of
22 section 265.603, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

23 265.603 Definitions relating to Cultural Endowment
24 Program.--The following terms and phrases when used in ss.
25 265.601-265.607 shall have the meaning ascribed to them in
26 this section, except where the context clearly indicates a
27 different meaning:

28 (5) "Sponsoring organization" means a cultural
29 organization which:

30 (d) Is primarily and directly responsible for
31 conducting, creating, producing, presenting, staging, or

1 sponsoring a cultural exhibit, performance, or event. This
2 provision includes museums owned and operated by political
3 subdivisions of the state, except those constituted pursuant
4 to s. 1004.67 ~~240.317~~.

5 Section 930. Subsection (8) of section 267.173,
6 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

7 267.173 Historic preservation in West Florida; goals;
8 contracts for historic preservation; powers and duties.--

9 (8) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the
10 University of West Florida and its direct-support organization
11 are eligible to match state funds in the Trust Fund for Major
12 Gifts established pursuant to s. 1011.94 ~~240.2605~~.

13 Section 931. Subsections (4), (5), (7), and (9) of
14 section 267.1732, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

15 267.1732 Direct-support organization.--

16 (4) The university may authorize a direct-support
17 organization to use its property (except money), facilities,
18 and personal services, subject to the provisions of this
19 section and s. 1004.28 ~~240.299~~. A direct-support organization
20 that does not provide equal employment opportunities to all
21 persons regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, or
22 national origin may not use the property, facilities, or
23 personal services of the university. For the purposes of this
24 subsection, the term "personal services" includes full-time
25 personnel and part-time personnel as well as payroll
26 processing.

27 (5) The university shall establish policies and may
28 adopt rules pursuant to s. 1004.28 ~~240.299~~ prescribing the
29 procedures by which the direct-support organization is
30 governed and any conditions with which a direct-support
31

1 organization must comply to use property, facilities, or
2 personal services of the university.

3 (7) The direct-support organization shall provide for
4 an annual financial and compliance audit of its financial
5 accounts and records by an independent certified public
6 accountant in accordance with s. 251.981 and generally
7 accepted accounting standards. The annual audit report must be
8 submitted to the university for review and approval. The
9 university, the Auditor General, and others authorized in s.
10 1004.28 ~~240.299~~ shall have the authority to require and
11 receive from the direct-support organization, or from its
12 independent auditor, any detail or supplemental data relative
13 to the operation of the organization. Upon approval, the
14 university shall certify the audit report to the Auditor
15 General for review.

16 (9) Provisions governing direct-support organizations
17 in s. 1004.28 ~~240.99~~ and not provided in this section shall
18 apply to the direct-support organization.

19 Section 932. Subsection (9) of section 282.005,
20 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

21 282.005 Legislative findings and intent.--The
22 Legislature finds that:

23 (9) To ensure the best management of the state's
24 information technology and notwithstanding other provisions of
25 law to the contrary, the functions of information technology
26 are ~~hereby~~ assigned to the university boards of trustees ~~Board~~
27 ~~of Regents as the agency responsible~~ for the development and
28 implementation of ~~policy~~, planning, management, rulemaking,
29 standards, and guidelines for the state universities ~~State~~
30 ~~University System~~; to the community college boards of trustees
31 ~~State Board of Community Colleges as the agency responsible~~

1 for establishing and developing rules ~~and policies~~ for the
2 community colleges ~~Florida Community College System~~; to the
3 Supreme Court, for the judicial branch; to each state attorney
4 and public defender; and to the State Technology Office for
5 the executive branch of state government.

6 Section 933. Subsections (1) and (3) of section
7 282.103, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

8 282.103 SUNCOM Network; exemptions from the required
9 use.--

10 (1) There is created within the State Technology
11 Office the SUNCOM Network which shall be developed to serve as
12 the state communications system for providing local and
13 long-distance communications services to state agencies,
14 political subdivisions of the state, municipalities, state
15 universities, and nonprofit corporations pursuant to ss.
16 282.101-282.111. The SUNCOM Network shall be developed to
17 transmit all types of communications signals, including, but
18 not limited to, voice, data, video, image, and radio. State
19 agencies shall cooperate and assist in the development and
20 joint use of communications systems and services.

21 (3) All state agencies and state universities are
22 required to use the SUNCOM Network for agency and state
23 university communications services as the services become
24 available; however, no agency or university is relieved of
25 responsibility for maintaining communications services
26 necessary for effective management of its programs and
27 functions. If a SUNCOM Network service does not meet the
28 communications requirements of an agency or university, the
29 agency or university shall notify the State Technology Office
30 in writing and detail the requirements for that communications
31 service. If the office is unable to meet an agency's or

1 university's requirements by enhancing SUNCOM Network service,
2 the office may grant the agency or university an exemption
3 from the required use of specified SUNCOM Network services.

4 Section 934. Subsection (4) of section 282.105,
5 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

6 282.105 Use of state SUNCOM Network by nonprofit
7 corporations.--

8 (4) Institutions qualified to participate in the
9 William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant Program
10 pursuant to s. 1009.89 ~~240.605~~ shall be eligible to use the
11 state SUNCOM Network, subject to the terms and conditions of
12 the office. Such entities shall not be required to satisfy the
13 other criteria of this section.

14 Section 935. Section 282.106, Florida Statutes, is
15 amended to read:

16 282.106 Use of SUNCOM Network by libraries.--The State
17 Technology Office may provide SUNCOM Network services to any
18 library in the state, including libraries in public schools,
19 community colleges, state universities ~~the State University~~
20 ~~System~~, and nonprofit private postsecondary educational
21 institutions, and libraries owned and operated by
22 municipalities and political subdivisions.

23 Section 936. Section 282.3031, Florida Statutes, is
24 amended to read:

25 282.3031 Assignment of information resources
26 management responsibilities.--For purposes of ss.
27 282.303-282.322, to ensure the best management of state
28 information technology resources, and notwithstanding other
29 provisions of law to the contrary, the functions of
30 information resources management are ~~hereby~~ assigned to the
31 university boards of trustees ~~Board of Regents as the agency~~

1 ~~responsible~~ for the development and implementation of ~~policy,~~
2 ~~planning, management, rulemaking, standards, and guidelines~~
3 ~~for the state universities ~~State University System;~~ to the~~
4 ~~community college boards of trustees ~~State Board of Community~~~~
5 ~~~~Colleges as the agency responsible~~ for establishing and~~
6 ~~developing rules and policies for the community colleges~~
7 ~~~~Florida Community College System;~~ to the Supreme Court for the~~
8 ~~judicial branch; to each state attorney and public defender;~~
9 ~~and to the State Technology Office for the agencies within the~~
10 ~~executive branch of state government.~~

11 Section 937. Subsection (1) of section 282.3063,
12 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

13 282.3063 Agency Annual Enterprise Resource Planning
14 and Management Report.--

15 (1) By September 1 of each year, ~~and for the State~~
16 ~~University System within 90 days after completion of the~~
17 ~~expenditure analysis developed pursuant to s. 240.271(4),~~ each
18 Agency Chief Information Officer shall prepare and submit to
19 the State Technology Office an Agency Annual Enterprise
20 Resource Planning and Management Report. Following
21 consultation with the State Technology Office and the Agency
22 Chief Information Officers Council, the Executive Office of
23 the Governor and the fiscal committees of the Legislature
24 shall jointly develop and issue instructions for the format
25 and contents of the report.

26 Section 938. Subsection (2) of section 282.310,
27 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

28 282.310 State Annual Report on Enterprise Resource
29 Planning and Management.--

30
31

1 (2) The State Annual Report on Enterprise Resource
2 Planning and Management shall contain, at a minimum, the
3 following:

4 (a) The state vision for enterprise resource planning
5 and management.

6 (b) A forecast of the state enterprise resource
7 planning and management priorities and initiatives for the
8 ensuing 2 years.

9 (c) A summary of major statewide policies recommended
10 by the State Technology Office for enterprise resource
11 planning and management.

12 (d) A summary of memoranda issued by the Executive
13 Office of the Governor.

14 (e) An assessment of the overall progress toward an
15 integrated electronic system for deploying government
16 products, services, and information to individuals and
17 businesses and state enterprise resource planning and
18 management initiatives and priorities for the past fiscal
19 year.

20 (f) A summary of major statewide issues related to
21 improving enterprise resource planning and management by the
22 state.

23 (g) An inventory list, by major categories, of state
24 information technology resources.

25 (h) A summary of the total agency expenditures or
26 descriptions of agreements, contracts, or partnerships for
27 enterprise resource planning and management and of
28 enterprise-wide procurements done by the office on behalf of
29 the state.

30 (i) A summary of the opportunities for government
31 agencies or entities to share enterprise resource planning and

1 management projects or initiatives with other governmental or
2 private sector entities.
3
4 The state annual report shall also include enterprise resource
5 planning and management information from the annual reports
6 prepared by the state universities and the community colleges
7 ~~Board of Regents for the State University System, from the~~
8 ~~State Board of Community Colleges for the Florida Community~~
9 ~~College System~~, from the Supreme Court for the judicial
10 branch, and from the Justice Administrative Commission on
11 behalf of the state attorneys and public defenders.
12 Expenditure information shall be taken from each agency's
13 annual report as well as the annual reports of the state
14 universities and the community colleges ~~Board of Regents, the~~
15 ~~State Board of Community Colleges~~, the Supreme Court, and the
16 Justice Administrative Commission.

17 Section 939. Section 284.34, Florida Statutes, is
18 amended to read:

19 284.34 Professional medical liability of the
20 university boards of trustees ~~Board of Regents~~ and nuclear
21 energy liability excluded.--Unless specifically authorized by
22 the Department of Insurance, no coverages shall be provided by
23 this fund for professional medical liability insurance for the
24 university boards of trustees ~~Board of Regents~~ or the
25 physicians, officers, employees, or agents of any ~~the~~ board or
26 for liability related to nuclear energy which is ordinarily
27 subject to the standard nuclear energy liability exclusion of
28 conventional liability insurance policies. This section does
29 ~~shall not affect~~ ~~be construed as affecting~~ the self-insurance
30 programs of the university boards of trustees ~~Board of Regents~~
31 established pursuant to s. 1004.24 ~~240.213~~.

1 Section 940. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of
2 section 285.18, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

3 285.18 Tribal council as governing body; powers and
4 duties.--

5 (2) The governing bodies of the special improvement
6 districts shall have the duty and power:

7 (b) To contract with the district school board of any
8 district adjoining the local school district, when deemed
9 necessary by the tribal council, to provide public education
10 and educational programs for their members, notwithstanding
11 the provisions of s. 1001.42 ~~230.23~~ that authorize school
12 boards to establish attendance areas for their districts or
13 approve plans for attendance in other districts.

14 Section 941. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of
15 section 287.042, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

16 287.042 Powers, duties, and functions.--The department
17 shall have the following powers, duties, and functions:

18 (2)(a) To plan and coordinate purchases in volume and
19 to negotiate and execute purchasing agreements and contracts
20 for commodities and contractual services under which state
21 agencies shall make purchases pursuant to s. 287.056, and
22 under which a federal, county, municipality, institutions
23 qualified to participate in the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida
24 Resident Access Grant Program pursuant to s. 1009.89 ~~240.605~~,
25 private nonprofit community transportation coordinator
26 designated pursuant to chapter 427, while conducting business
27 related solely to the Commission for the Transportation
28 Disadvantaged, or other local public agency may make
29 purchases. The department may restrict purchases from some
30 term contracts to state agencies only for those term contracts
31 where the inclusion of other governmental entities will have

1 an adverse effect on competition or to those federal
2 facilities located in this state. In such planning or
3 purchasing the Office of Supplier Diversity may monitor to
4 ensure that opportunities are afforded for contracting with
5 minority business enterprises. The department, for state term
6 contracts, and all agencies, for multiyear contractual
7 services or term contracts, shall explore reasonable and
8 economical means to utilize certified minority business
9 enterprises. Purchases by any county, municipality, private
10 nonprofit community transportation coordinator designated
11 pursuant to chapter 427, while conducting business related
12 solely to the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged,
13 or other local public agency under the provisions in the state
14 purchasing contracts, and purchases, from the corporation
15 operating the correctional work programs, of products or
16 services that are subject to paragraph (1)(f), are exempt from
17 the competitive sealed bid requirements otherwise applying to
18 their purchases.

19 Section 942. Paragraph (c) of subsection (9) and
20 subsections (10) and (11) of section 287.055, Florida
21 Statutes, are amended to read:

22 287.055 Acquisition of professional architectural,
23 engineering, landscape architectural, or surveying and mapping
24 services; definitions; procedures; contingent fees prohibited;
25 penalties.--

26 (9) APPLICABILITY TO DESIGN-BUILD CONTRACTS.--

27 (c) Except as otherwise provided in ~~s. 240.209(3)~~ or
28 s. 337.11(7), the Department of Management Services shall
29 adopt rules for the award of design-build contracts to be
30 followed by state agencies. Each other agency must adopt
31 rules or ordinances for the award of design-build contracts.

1 Municipalities, political subdivisions, school districts, and
2 school boards shall award design-build contracts by the use of
3 a competitive proposal selection process as described in this
4 subsection, or by the use of a qualifications-based selection
5 process pursuant to subsections (3), (4), and (5) for entering
6 into a contract whereby the selected firm will subsequently
7 establish a guaranteed maximum price and guaranteed completion
8 date. If the procuring agency elects the option of
9 qualifications-based selection, during the selection of the
10 design-build firm the procuring agency shall employ or retain
11 a licensed design professional appropriate to the project to
12 serve as the agency's representative. Procedures for the use
13 of a competitive proposal selection process must include as a
14 minimum the following:

15 1. The preparation of a design criteria package for
16 the design and construction of the public construction
17 project.

18 2. The qualification and selection of no fewer than
19 three design-build firms as the most qualified, based on the
20 qualifications, availability, and past work of the firms,
21 including the partners or members thereof.

22 3. The criteria, procedures, and standards for the
23 evaluation of design-build contract proposals or bids, based
24 on price, technical, and design aspects of the public
25 construction project, weighted for the project.

26 4. The solicitation of competitive proposals, pursuant
27 to a design criteria package, from those qualified
28 design-build firms and the evaluation of the responses or bids
29 submitted by those firms based on the evaluation criteria and
30 procedures established prior to the solicitation of
31 competitive proposals.

1 5. For consultation with the employed or retained
2 design criteria professional concerning the evaluation of the
3 responses or bids submitted by the design-build firms, the
4 supervision or approval by the agency of the detailed working
5 drawings of the project; and for evaluation of the compliance
6 of the project construction with the design criteria package
7 by the design criteria professional.

8 6. In the case of public emergencies, for the agency
9 head to declare an emergency and authorize negotiations with
10 the best qualified design-build firm available at that time.

11 (10) REUSE OF EXISTING PLANS.--Notwithstanding any
12 other provision of this section, there shall be no public
13 notice requirement or utilization of the selection process as
14 provided in this section for projects in which the agency is
15 able to reuse existing plans from a prior project of the
16 agency, or, in the case of a board as defined in s. 1013.01
17 ~~chapter 235~~, a prior project of that or any other board.
18 Except for plans of a board as defined in s. 1013.01 ~~chapter~~
19 ~~235~~, public notice for any plans that are intended to be
20 reused at some future time must contain a statement that
21 provides that the plans are subject to reuse in accordance
22 with the provisions of this subsection.

23 (11) CONSTRUCTION OF LAW.--Nothing in the amendment of
24 this section by chapter 75-281, Laws of Florida, is intended
25 to supersede the provisions of ss. 1013.45 and 1013.46 ~~235.211~~
26 ~~and 235.31~~.

27 Section 943. Subsection (1) of section 287.064,
28 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

29 287.064 Consolidated financing of deferred-payment
30 purchases.--
31

1 (1) The Division of Bond Finance of the State Board of
2 Administration and the Comptroller shall plan and coordinate
3 deferred-payment purchases made by or on behalf of the state
4 or its agencies or by or on behalf of state community colleges
5 participating under this section pursuant to s. 1001.64(26)
6 ~~240.319(4)(p)~~. The Division of Bond Finance shall negotiate
7 and the Comptroller shall execute agreements and contracts to
8 establish master equipment financing agreements for
9 consolidated financing of deferred-payment, installment sale,
10 or lease purchases with a financial institution or a
11 consortium of financial institutions. As used in this act, the
12 term "deferred-payment" includes installment sale and
13 lease-purchase.

14 (a) The period during which equipment may be acquired
15 under any one master equipment financing agreement shall be
16 limited to not more than 3 years.

17 (b) Repayment of the whole or a part of the funds
18 drawn pursuant to the master equipment financing agreement may
19 continue beyond the period established pursuant to paragraph
20 (a).

21 (c) The interest rate component of any master
22 equipment financing agreement shall be deemed to comply with
23 the interest rate limitation imposed in s. 287.063 so long as
24 the interest rate component of every interagency or community
25 college agreement entered into under such master equipment
26 financing agreement complies with the interest rate limitation
27 imposed in s. 287.063. Such interest rate limitation does not
28 apply when the payment obligation under the master equipment
29 financing agreement is rated by a nationally recognized rating
30 service in any one of the three highest classifications, which
31

1 rating services and classifications are determined pursuant to
2 rules adopted by the Comptroller.

3 Section 944. Paragraph (f) of subsection (1) of
4 section 288.039, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

5 288.039 Employing and Training our Youths (ENTRY).--

6 (1) DEFINITIONS.--As used in this section:

7 (f) "Public school" shall have the same meaning as in
8 s. 1000.04(1)~~228.041(1)(a)~~.

9 Section 945. Subsection (6) of section 288.8175,
10 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

11 288.8175 Linkage institutes between postsecondary
12 institutions in this state and foreign countries.--

13 (6) Each institute is allowed to exempt from s.
14 1009.21 ~~240.1201~~ up to 25 full-time equivalent students per
15 year from the respective host countries to study in any of the
16 state universities or community colleges in this state as
17 resident students for tuition purposes. The institute
18 directors shall develop criteria, to be approved by the
19 Department of Education, for the selection of these students.
20 Students must return home within 3 years after their tenure of
21 graduate or undergraduate study for a length of time equal to
22 their exemption period.

23 Section 946. Subsection (2) of section 295.01, Florida
24 Statutes, is amended to read:

25 295.01 Children of deceased or disabled veterans;
26 education.--

27 (2) The provisions of ss. ~~240.404~~, 295.03, 295.04, ~~and~~
28 295.05, and 1009.40 shall apply.

29 Section 947. Subsection (2) of section 295.015,
30 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

31

1 295.015 Children of prisoners of war and persons
2 missing in action; education.--
3 (2) The provisions of ss. ~~240.404~~,295.03, 295.04, ~~and~~
4 295.05, and 1009.40 shall apply.
5 Section 948. Subsection (2) of section 295.016,
6 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
7 295.016 Children of service members who died or became
8 disabled in Operation Eagle Claw.--
9 (2) The provisions of ss. ~~240.404~~,295.03, 295.04, ~~and~~
10 295.05, and 1009.40 shall apply.
11 Section 949. Subsection (2) of section 295.017,
12 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
13 295.017 Children of service members who died or became
14 disabled in the Lebanon and Grenada military arenas;
15 educational opportunity.--
16 (2) The provisions of ss. ~~240.404~~,295.03, 295.04, ~~and~~
17 295.05, and 1009.40 shall apply.
18 Section 950. Subsection (2) of section 295.018,
19 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
20 295.018 Children of service members who died in
21 Newfoundland air tragedy; educational opportunity.--
22 (2) The provisions of ss. ~~240.404~~,295.03, 295.04, ~~and~~
23 295.05, and 1009.40 shall apply.
24 Section 951. Subsection (2) of section 295.019,
25 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
26 295.019 Children of service members who died in U.S.S.
27 Stark attack.--
28 (2) The provisions of ss. ~~240.404~~,295.03, 295.04, ~~and~~
29 295.05, and 1009.40 shall apply.
30 Section 952. Subsection (2) of section 295.0195,
31 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1 295.0195 Children of deceased or disabled military
2 personnel who died or became disabled in the Mideast Persian
3 Gulf military arena during hostilities with Iraq or in the
4 military action in Panama known as Operation Just Cause.--

5 (2) The provisions of ss. ~~240.404~~, 295.03, 295.04, and
6 295.05, and 1009.40 shall apply.

7 Section 953. Subsection (45) of section 316.003,
8 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

9 316.003 Definitions.--The following words and phrases,
10 when used in this chapter, shall have the meanings
11 respectively ascribed to them in this section, except where
12 the context otherwise requires:

13 (45) SCHOOL BUS.--Any motor vehicle that complies with
14 the color and identification requirements of chapter 1006 ~~234~~
15 and is used to transport children to or from public or private
16 school or in connection with school activities, but not
17 including buses operated by common carriers in urban
18 transportation of school children. The term "school" includes
19 all preelementary, elementary, secondary, and postsecondary
20 schools.

21 Section 954. Subsection (4) of section 316.027,
22 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

23 316.027 Crash involving death or personal injuries.--

24 (4) A person whose commission of a noncriminal traffic
25 infraction or any violation of this chapter or s. 1006.66
26 ~~240.265~~ causes or results in the death of another person may,
27 in addition to any other civil, criminal, or administrative
28 penalty imposed, be required by the court to serve 120
29 community service hours in a trauma center or hospital that
30 regularly receives victims of vehicle accidents, under the
31 supervision of a registered nurse, an emergency room

1 physician, or an emergency medical technician pursuant to a
2 voluntary community service program operated by the trauma
3 center or hospital.

4 Section 955. Paragraph (b) of subsection (9) of
5 section 316.515, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

6 316.515 Maximum width, height, length.--

7 (9) BUSES AND PRIVATE MOTOR COACHES.--

8 (b) School buses which are subject to the provisions
9 of ~~chapter 234~~ or s. 316.615 or chapter 1006 are exempt from
10 the provisions of this subsection.

11 Section 956. Subsection (5) of section 316.6145,
12 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

13 316.6145 School buses; safety belts or other restraint
14 systems required.--

15 (5) The provisions of this section shall not apply to
16 vehicles as defined in s. 1006.25(1)(b)~~234.051(1)(b)~~.

17 Section 957. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (1)
18 of section 316.615, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

19 316.615 School buses; physical requirements of
20 drivers.--

21 (1)(a) All motor vehicles, with a seating capacity of
22 24 or more pupils, which are regularly used for the
23 transportation of pupils to or from school, or to or from
24 school activities, shall comply with the requirements for
25 school buses of chapter 1006 ~~234~~.

26 (c) A bus operated by an organization that holds a tax
27 exemption pursuant to 26 U.S.C. s. 501(c)(3) is exempt from
28 the color, pupil-warning-lamp-system, stop-arm, and
29 crossing-arm requirements for school buses in chapter 1006 ~~234~~
30 if:
31

1 1. The bus does not pick up pupils from home or
2 deliver pupils to home;

3 2. The bus makes no intermittent stops to unload or
4 load pupils; and

5 3. The bus is not operated by or under the purview of
6 the state or political subdivision.

7 Section 958. Subsection (3) of section 316.70, Florida
8 Statutes, is amended to read:

9 316.70 Nonpublic sector buses; safety rules.--

10 (3) School buses subject to the provisions of chapter
11 1006 ~~234~~ or s. 316.615 are exempt from the provisions of this
12 section.

13 Section 959. Subsection (2) of section 316.72, Florida
14 Statutes, is amended to read:

15 316.72 Buses simulating school buses in color and
16 insignia; conditions of use.--

17 (2) Any educational, recreational, religious, or
18 charitable organization may own, operate, rent, or lease any
19 bus which has been painted the orange or yellow color known as
20 "school bus chrome" and which has been equipped with the
21 signs, lights, insignia, and other features which normally
22 characterize a school bus, as defined in s. 1006.25 ~~234.051~~,
23 consistent with the provisions of this section.

24 Section 960. Section 318.12, Florida Statutes, is
25 amended to read:

26 318.12 Purpose.--It is the legislative intent in the
27 adoption of this chapter to decriminalize certain violations
28 of chapter 316, the Florida Uniform Traffic Control Law;
29 chapter 320, Motor Vehicle Licenses; chapter 322, Drivers'
30 Licenses; ~~chapter 240, Postsecondary Education; and chapter~~
31 338, Florida Intrastate Highway System and Toll Facilities;

1 and chapter 1006, Support of Learning, thereby facilitating
2 the implementation of a more uniform and expeditious system
3 for the disposition of traffic infractions.

4 Section 961. Subsection (1) of section 318.14, Florida
5 Statutes, is amended to read:

6 318.14 Noncriminal traffic infractions; exception;
7 procedures.--

8 (1) Except as provided in ss. 318.17 and 320.07(3)(c),
9 any person cited for a violation of s. 1006.66(3) ~~240.265~~,
10 chapter 316, s. 320.0605, s. 320.07(3)(a) or (b), s. 322.065,
11 s. 322.15(1), s. 322.16(2) or (3), s. 322.161(5), ~~or~~ s.
12 322.19, or s. 1006.66 is charged with a noncriminal infraction
13 and must be cited for such an infraction and cited to appear
14 before an official. If another person dies as a result of the
15 noncriminal infraction, the person cited may be required to
16 perform 120 community service hours under s. 316.027(4), in
17 addition to any other penalties.

18 Section 962. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of
19 section 320.08058, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

20 320.08058 Specialty license plates.--

21 (2) CHALLENGER LICENSE PLATES.--

22 (c) Fifty percent must be distributed to the
23 Technological Research and Development Authority created by s.
24 2, chapter 87-455, Laws of Florida, for the purpose of funding
25 space-related research grants, the Teacher/Quest Scholarship
26 Program under s. 1009.61 ~~240.4082~~ as approved by the Florida
27 Department of Education, and space-related economic
28 development programs. The Technological Research and
29 Development Authority shall coordinate and distribute
30 available resources among state universities and independent
31 colleges and universities based on the research strengths of

1 such institutions in space science technology, community
2 colleges, public school districts, and not-for-profit
3 educational organizations.

4 Section 963. Subsection (1) of section 320.20, Florida
5 Statutes, is amended to read:

6 320.20 Disposition of license tax moneys.--The revenue
7 derived from the registration of motor vehicles, including any
8 delinquent fees and excluding those revenues collected and
9 distributed under the provisions of s. 320.081, must be
10 distributed monthly, as collected, as follows:

11 (1) The first proceeds, to the extent necessary to
12 comply with the provisions of s. 18, Art. XII of the State
13 Constitution of 1885, as adopted by s. 9(d), Art. XII, 1968
14 revised constitution, and the additional provisions of s. 9(d)
15 and s. 1010.57 ~~236.602~~, must be deposited in the district
16 Capital Outlay and Debt Service School Trust Fund.

17 Section 964. Section 320.38, Florida Statutes, is
18 amended to read:

19 320.38 When nonresident exemption not allowed.--The
20 provisions of s. 320.37 authorizing the operation of motor
21 vehicles over the roads of this state by nonresidents of this
22 state when such vehicles are duly registered or licensed under
23 the laws of some other state or foreign country do not apply
24 to any nonresident who accepts employment or engages in any
25 trade, profession, or occupation in this state, except a
26 nonresident migrant farm worker as defined in s. 316.003(61).
27 In every case in which a nonresident, except a nonresident
28 migrant farm worker as defined in s. 316.003(61), accepts
29 employment or engages in any trade, profession, or occupation
30 in this state or enters his or her children to be educated in
31 the public schools of this state, such nonresident shall,

1 within 10 days after the commencement of such employment or
2 education, register his or her motor vehicles in this state if
3 such motor vehicles are proposed to be operated on the roads
4 of this state. Any person who is enrolled as a student in a
5 college or university and who is a nonresident but who is in
6 this state for a period of up to 6 months engaged in a
7 work-study program for which academic credits are earned from
8 a college whose credits or degrees are accepted for credit by
9 at least three accredited institutions of higher learning, as
10 defined in s. 1005.02 ~~246.021~~, is not required to have a
11 Florida registration for the duration of the work-study
12 program if the person's vehicle is properly registered in
13 another jurisdiction. Any nonresident who is enrolled as a
14 full-time student in such institution of higher learning is
15 also exempt for the duration of such enrollment.

16 Section 965. Subsection (3) of section 322.031,
17 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

18 322.031 Nonresident; when license required.--

19 (3) A nonresident who is domiciled in another state
20 and who commutes into this state in order to work shall not be
21 required to obtain a Florida driver's license under this
22 section solely because he or she has accepted employment or
23 engages in any trade, profession, or occupation in this state
24 if he or she has a valid driver's license issued by another
25 state. Further, any person who is enrolled as a student in a
26 college or university and who is a nonresident but is in this
27 state for a period of up to 6 months engaged in a work-study
28 program for which academic credits are earned from a college
29 whose credits or degrees are accepted for credit by at least
30 three accredited institutions of higher learning, as defined
31 in s. 1005.02 ~~246.021~~, shall not be required to obtain a

1 Florida driver's license for the duration of the work-study
2 program if such person has a valid driver's license issued by
3 another state. Any nonresident who is enrolled as a full-time
4 student in any such institution of higher learning is also
5 exempt from the requirement of obtaining a Florida driver's
6 license for the duration of such enrollment.

7 Section 966. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) and
8 paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 322.091, Florida
9 Statutes, are amended to read:

10 322.091 Attendance requirements.--

11 (1) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR DRIVING
12 PRIVILEGES.--A minor is not eligible for driving privileges
13 unless that minor:

14 (e) Has been issued a certificate of exemption
15 according to s. 1003.21(3)~~232.06~~; or

16

17 The department may not issue a driver's license or learner's
18 driver's license to, or shall suspend the driver's license or
19 learner's driver's license of, any minor concerning whom the
20 department receives notification of noncompliance with the
21 requirements of this section.

22 (2) NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO SUSPEND; SUSPENSION;
23 RECORD OF NONCOMPLIANCE.--

24 (a) The department shall notify each minor for whom
25 the department has received notification of noncompliance with
26 the requirements of this section as provided in s. 1003.27
27 ~~232.19~~, and the minor's parent or guardian, of the
28 department's intent to suspend the minor's driving privileges.

29 Section 967. Subsection (5) of section 322.095,
30 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

31

1 322.095 Traffic law and substance abuse education
2 program for driver's license applicants.--

3 (5) The provisions of this section do not apply to any
4 person who has been licensed in any other jurisdiction or who
5 has satisfactorily completed a Department of Education
6 driver's education course offered pursuant to s. 1003.48
7 ~~233.063~~.

8 Section 968. Paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (d) of
9 subsection (1) of section 322.21, Florida Statutes, are
10 amended to read:

11 322.21 License fees; procedure for handling and
12 collecting fees.--

13 (1) Except as otherwise provided herein, the fee for:

14 (a) An original or renewal commercial driver's license
15 is \$50, which shall include the fee for driver education
16 provided by s. 1003.48 ~~233.063~~; however, if an applicant has
17 completed training and is applying for employment or is
18 currently employed in a public or nonpublic school system that
19 requires the commercial license, the fee shall be the same as
20 for a Class E driver's license. A delinquent fee of \$1 shall
21 be added for a renewal made not more than 12 months after the
22 license expiration date.

23 (b) An original Class D or Class E driver's license is
24 \$20, which shall include the fee for driver's education
25 provided by s. 1003.48 ~~233.063~~; however, if an applicant has
26 completed training and is applying for employment or is
27 currently employed in a public or nonpublic school system that
28 requires a commercial driver license, the fee shall be the
29 same as for a Class E license.

30 (c) The renewal or extension of a Class D or Class E
31 driver's license or of a license restricted to motorcycle use

1 only is \$15, except that a delinquent fee of \$1 shall be added
2 for a renewal or extension made not more than 12 months after
3 the license expiration date. The fee provided in this
4 paragraph shall include the fee for driver's education
5 provided by s. 1003.48 ~~233.063~~.

6 (d) An original driver's license restricted to
7 motorcycle use only is \$20, which shall include the fee for
8 driver's education provided by s. 1003.48 ~~233.063~~.

9 Section 969. Paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection (2)
10 and subsection (6) of section 333.03, Florida Statutes, are
11 amended to read:

12 333.03 Power to adopt airport zoning regulations.--

13 (2) In the manner provided in subsection (1), interim
14 airport land use compatibility zoning regulations shall be
15 adopted. When political subdivisions have adopted land
16 development regulations in accordance with the provisions of
17 chapter 163 which address the use of land in the manner
18 consistent with the provisions herein, adoption of airport
19 land use compatibility regulations pursuant to this subsection
20 shall not be required. Interim airport land use compatibility
21 zoning regulations shall consider the following:

22 (c) Where an airport authority or other governing body
23 operating a publicly owned, public-use airport has conducted a
24 noise study in accordance with the provisions of 14 C.F.R.
25 part 150, neither residential construction nor any educational
26 facility as defined in chapter 1013 ~~235~~, with the exception of
27 aviation school facilities, shall be permitted within the area
28 contiguous to the airport defined by an outer noise contour
29 that is considered incompatible with that type of construction
30 by 14 C.F.R. part 150, Appendix A or an equivalent noise level
31 as established by other types of noise studies.

1 (d) Where an airport authority or other governing body
2 operating a publicly owned, public-use airport has not
3 conducted a noise study, neither residential construction nor
4 any educational facility as defined in chapter 1013 ~~235~~, with
5 the exception of aviation school facilities, shall be
6 permitted within an area contiguous to the airport measuring
7 one-half the length of the longest runway on either side of
8 and at the end of each runway centerline.

9 (6) Nothing in subsection (2) or subsection (3) shall
10 be construed to require the removal, alteration, sound
11 conditioning, or other change, or to interfere with the
12 continued use or adjacent expansion of any educational
13 structure or site in existence on July 1, 1993, or be
14 construed to prohibit the construction of any new structure
15 for which a site has been determined as provided in former s.
16 235.19, as of July 1, 1993.

17 Section 970. Subsection (7) of section 364.508,
18 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

19 364.508 Definitions.--As used in this part:

20 (7) "Eligible facilities" means all approved campuses
21 and instructional centers of all public universities, public
22 community colleges, area technical centers, public elementary
23 schools, middle schools, and high schools, including school
24 administrative offices, public libraries, teaching hospitals,
25 the research institute described in s. 1004.43 ~~240.512~~, and
26 rural public hospitals as defined in s. 395.602. If no rural
27 public hospital exists in a community, the public health
28 clinic which is responsible for individuals before they can be
29 transferred to a regional hospital shall be considered
30 eligible.

31

1 Section 971. Paragraph (k) of subsection (3) of
2 section 380.0651, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

3 380.0651 Statewide guidelines and standards.--

4 (3) The following statewide guidelines and standards
5 shall be applied in the manner described in s. 380.06(2) to
6 determine whether the following developments shall be required
7 to undergo development-of-regional-impact review:

8 (k) Schools.--

9 1. The proposed construction of any public, private,
10 or proprietary postsecondary educational campus which provides
11 for a design population of more than 5,000 full-time
12 equivalent students, or the proposed physical expansion of any
13 public, private, or proprietary postsecondary educational
14 campus having such a design population that would increase the
15 population by at least 20 percent of the design population.

16 2. As used in this paragraph, "full-time equivalent
17 student" means enrollment for 15 or more quarter hours during
18 a single academic semester. In technical area ~~vocational~~
19 schools or other institutions which do not employ semester
20 hours or quarter hours in accounting for student
21 participation, enrollment for 18 contact hours shall be
22 considered equivalent to one quarter hour, and enrollment for
23 27 contact hours shall be considered equivalent to one
24 semester hour.

25 3. This paragraph does not apply to institutions which
26 are the subject of a campus master plan adopted by the
27 university board of trustees ~~Board of Regents~~ pursuant to s.
28 1013.30 ~~240.155~~.

29 Section 972. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of
30 section 381.003, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

31

1 381.003 Communicable disease and AIDS prevention and
2 control.--

3 (1) The department shall conduct a communicable
4 disease prevention and control program as part of fulfilling
5 its public health mission. A communicable disease is any
6 disease caused by transmission of a specific infectious agent,
7 or its toxic products, from an infected person, an infected
8 animal, or the environment to a susceptible host, either
9 directly or indirectly. The communicable disease program must
10 include, but need not be limited to:

11 (e) Programs for the prevention and control of
12 vaccine-preventable diseases, including programs to immunize
13 school children as required by s. 1003.22(3)-(11) ~~232-032~~ and
14 the development of an automated, electronic, and centralized
15 database or registry of immunizations. The department shall
16 ensure that all children in this state are immunized against
17 vaccine-preventable diseases. The immunization registry shall
18 allow the department to enhance current immunization
19 activities for the purpose of improving the immunization of
20 all children in this state.

21 1. Except as provided in subparagraph 2., the
22 department shall include all children born in this state in
23 the immunization registry by using the birth records from the
24 Office of Vital Statistics. The department shall add other
25 children to the registry as immunization services are
26 provided.

27 2. The parent or guardian of a child may refuse to
28 have the child included in the immunization registry by
29 signing a form obtained from the department, or from the
30 health care practitioner or entity that provides the
31 immunization, which indicates that the parent or guardian does

1 not wish to have the child included in the immunization
2 registry. The decision to not participate in the immunization
3 registry must be noted in the registry.

4 3. The immunization registry shall allow for
5 immunization records to be electronically transferred to
6 entities that are required by law to have such records,
7 including schools, licensed child care facilities, and any
8 other entity that is required by law to obtain proof of a
9 child's immunizations.

10 4. Any health care practitioner licensed under chapter
11 458, chapter 459, or chapter 464 in this state who complies
12 with rules adopted by the department to access the
13 immunization registry may, through the immunization registry,
14 directly access immunization records and update a child's
15 immunization history or exchange immunization information with
16 another authorized practitioner, entity, or agency involved in
17 a child's care. The information included in the immunization
18 registry must include the child's name, date of birth,
19 address, and any other unique identifier necessary to
20 correctly identify the child; the immunization record,
21 including the date, type of administered vaccine, and vaccine
22 lot number; and the presence or absence of any adverse
23 reaction or contraindication related to the immunization.
24 Information received by the department for the immunization
25 registry retains its status as confidential medical
26 information and the department must maintain the
27 confidentiality of that information as otherwise required by
28 law. A health care practitioner or other agency that obtains
29 information from the immunization registry must maintain the
30 confidentiality of any medical records in accordance with s.
31 456.057 or as otherwise required by law.

1 Section 973. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of
2 section 381.005, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
3 381.005 Primary and preventive health services.--
4 (1) The department shall conduct a primary and
5 preventive health care program as part of fulfilling its
6 public health mission. This program shall include, but is not
7 limited to:
8 (d) School health services in accordance with chapters
9 1003 and 1006 ~~chapter 232~~.
10 Section 974. Paragraph (p) of subsection (5) of
11 section 381.0056, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
12 381.0056 School health services program.--
13 (5) Each county health department shall develop,
14 jointly with the district school board and the local school
15 health advisory committee, a school health services plan; and
16 the plan shall include, at a minimum, provisions for:
17 (p) Maintenance of records on incidents of health
18 problems, corrective measures taken, and such other
19 information as may be needed to plan and evaluate health
20 programs; except, however, that provisions in the plan for
21 maintenance of health records of individual students must be
22 in accordance with s. 1002.22 ~~228.093~~;
23 Section 975. Subsection (9) of section 381.0302,
24 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
25 381.0302 Florida Health Services Corps.--
26 (9) Persons who receive loan repayment assistance
27 under s. 1009.65 ~~240.4067~~ shall be members of the Florida
28 Health Services Corps.
29 Section 976. Subsection (3) of section 391.055,
30 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
31 391.055 Service delivery systems.--

1 (3) The Children's Medical Services network may
2 contract with school districts participating in the certified
3 school match program pursuant to ss. ~~236.0812~~ and 409.908(21)
4 and 1011.70 for the provision of school-based services, as
5 provided for in s. 409.9071, for Medicaid-eligible children
6 who are enrolled in the Children's Medical Services network.

7 Section 977. Section 393.0657, Florida Statutes, is
8 amended to read:

9 393.0657 Persons not required to be refingerprinted or
10 rescreened.--Any provision of law to the contrary
11 notwithstanding, human resource personnel who have been
12 fingerprinted or screened pursuant to chapters 393, 394, 397,
13 402, and 409, and teachers who have been fingerprinted
14 pursuant to chapter 1012 ~~231~~, who have not been unemployed for
15 more than 90 days thereafter, and who under the penalty of
16 perjury attest to the completion of such fingerprinting or
17 screening and to compliance with the provisions of this
18 section and the standards for good moral character as
19 contained in such provisions as ss. 110.1127(3), 393.0655(1),
20 394.457(6), 397.451, 402.305(2), and 409.175(4), shall not be
21 required to be refingerprinted or rescreened in order to
22 comply with any direct service provider screening or
23 fingerprinting requirements.

24 Section 978. Subsection (3) of section 394.4572,
25 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

26 394.4572 Screening of mental health personnel.--

27 (3) Prospective mental health personnel who have
28 previously been fingerprinted or screened pursuant to this
29 chapter, chapter 393, chapter 397, chapter 402, or chapter
30 409, or teachers who have been fingerprinted pursuant to
31 chapter 1012 ~~231~~, who have not been unemployed for more than

1 90 days thereafter, and who under the penalty of perjury
2 attest to the completion of such fingerprinting or screening
3 and to compliance with the provisions of this section and the
4 standards for level 1 screening contained in chapter 435,
5 shall not be required to be refingerprinted or rescreened in
6 order to comply with any screening requirements of this part.

7 Section 979. Subsection (5) of section 394.495,
8 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

9 394.495 Child and adolescent mental health system of
10 care; programs and services.--

11 (5) In order to enhance collaboration between agencies
12 and to facilitate the provision of services by the child and
13 adolescent mental health treatment and support system and the
14 school district, the local child and adolescent mental health
15 system of care shall include the local educational multiagency
16 network for severely emotionally disturbed students specified
17 in s. 1006.04 ~~230.2317~~.

18 Section 980. Paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of
19 section 394.498, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

20 394.498 Child and Adolescent Interagency System of
21 Care Demonstration Models.--

22 (4) ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS.--

23 (c) In order for children, adolescents, and families
24 of children and adolescents to receive timely and effective
25 services, the basic provider network identified in each
26 demonstration model must be well designed and managed. The
27 provider network should be able to meet the needs of a
28 significant proportion of the target population. The applicant
29 must demonstrate the capability to manage the network of
30 providers for the purchasers that participate in the

31

1 demonstration model. The applicant must demonstrate its
2 ability to perform the following network management functions:
3 1. Identify providers within the designated area of
4 the demonstration model which are currently funded by the
5 state agencies included in the model, and identify additional
6 providers that are needed to provide additional services for
7 the target population. The network of providers may include:
8 a. Licensed mental health professionals as defined in
9 s. 394.455(2), (4), (21), (23), or (24);
10 b. Professionals licensed under chapter 491;
11 c. Teachers certified under s. 1012.56 ~~231.17~~;
12 d. Facilities licensed under chapter 395, as a
13 hospital; s. 394.875, as a crisis stabilization unit or
14 short-term residential facility; or s. 409.175, as a
15 residential child-caring agency; and
16 e. Other community agencies.
17 2. Define access points and service linkages of
18 providers in the network.
19 3. Define the ways in which providers and
20 participating state agencies are expected to collaborate in
21 providing services.
22 4. Define methods to measure the collective
23 performance outcomes of services provided by providers and
24 state agencies, measure the performance of individual
25 agencies, and implement a quality improvement process across
26 the provider network.
27 5. Develop brochures for family members which are
28 written in understandable terminology, to help families
29 identify appropriate service providers, choose the provider,
30 and access care directly whenever possible.
31

1 6. Ensure that families are given a substantial role
2 in planning and monitoring the provider network.

3 7. Train all providers with respect to the principles
4 of care outlined in this section, including effective
5 techniques of cooperation, the wraparound process and
6 strengths-based assessment, the development of service plans,
7 and techniques of case management.

8 Section 981. Subsection (3) of section 395.602,
9 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

10 395.602 Rural hospitals.--

11 (3) USE OF FUNDS.--It is the intent of the Legislature
12 that funds as appropriated shall be utilized by the department
13 for the purpose of increasing the number of primary care
14 physicians, physician assistants, certified nurse midwives,
15 nurse practitioners, and nurses in rural areas, either through
16 the Medical Education Reimbursement and Loan Repayment Program
17 as defined by s. 1009.65 ~~240.4067~~ or through a federal loan
18 repayment program which requires state matching funds. The
19 department may use funds appropriated for the Medical
20 Education Reimbursement and Loan Repayment Program as matching
21 funds for federal loan repayment programs for health care
22 personnel, such as that authorized in Pub. L. No. 100-177, s.
23 203. If the department receives federal matching funds, the
24 department shall only implement the federal program.
25 Reimbursement through either program shall be limited to:

26 (a) Primary care physicians, physician assistants,
27 certified nurse midwives, nurse practitioners, and nurses
28 employed by or affiliated with rural hospitals, as defined in
29 this act; and

30 (b) Primary care physicians, physician assistants,
31 certified nurse midwives, nurse practitioners, and nurses

1 employed by or affiliated with rural area health education
2 centers, as defined in this section. These personnel shall
3 practice:

4 1. In a county with a population density of no greater
5 than 100 persons per square mile; or

6 2. Within the boundaries of a hospital tax district
7 which encompasses a population of no greater than 100 persons
8 per square mile.

9
10 If the department administers a federal loan repayment
11 program, priority shall be given to obligating state and
12 federal matching funds pursuant to paragraphs (a) and (b).
13 The department may use federal matching funds in other health
14 workforce shortage areas and medically underserved areas in
15 the state for loan repayment programs for primary care
16 physicians, physician assistants, certified nurse midwives,
17 nurse practitioners, and nurses who are employed by publicly
18 financed health care programs that serve medically indigent
19 persons.

20 Section 982. Subsection (3) of section 395.605,
21 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

22 395.605 Emergency care hospitals.--

23 (3) For the purpose of participation in the Medical
24 Education Reimbursement and Loan Repayment Program as defined
25 in s. 1009.65 ~~240.4067~~ or other loan repayment or incentive
26 programs designed to relieve medical workforce shortages, the
27 department shall treat emergency care hospitals in the same
28 manner as rural hospitals.

29 Section 983. Subsection (3) of section 397.405,
30 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

31

1 397.405 Exemptions from licensure.--The following are
2 exempt from the licensing provisions of this chapter:

3 (3) A substance abuse education program established
4 pursuant to s. 1003.42 ~~233.061~~.

5
6 The exemptions from licensure in this section do not apply to
7 any facility or entity which receives an appropriation, grant,
8 or contract from the state to operate as a service provider as
9 defined in this chapter or to any substance abuse program
10 regulated pursuant to s. 397.406. No provision of this
11 chapter shall be construed to limit the practice of a
12 physician licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459, a
13 psychologist licensed under chapter 490, or a psychotherapist
14 licensed under chapter 491, providing outpatient or inpatient
15 substance abuse treatment to a voluntary patient, so long as
16 the physician, psychologist, or psychotherapist does not
17 represent to the public that he or she is a licensed service
18 provider under this act. Failure to comply with any
19 requirement necessary to maintain an exempt status under this
20 section is a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as
21 provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

22 Section 984. Subsection (4) of section 397.451,
23 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

24 397.451 Background checks of service provider
25 personnel who have direct contact with unmarried minor clients
26 or clients who are developmentally disabled.--

27 (4) PERSONNEL EXEMPT FROM BEING REFINGERPRINTED OR
28 RECHECKED.--Service provider personnel who have been
29 fingerprinted or had their backgrounds checked pursuant to
30 chapter 393, chapter 394, chapter 402, or chapter 409, or this
31 section, and teachers who have been fingerprinted pursuant to

1 chapter 1012 ~~231~~, who have not been unemployed for more than
2 90 days thereafter and who, under the penalty of perjury,
3 attest to the completion of such fingerprinting or background
4 checks and to compliance with the provisions of this section
5 and the standards contained in chapter 435 and this section,
6 are not required to be refingerprinted or rechecked in order
7 to comply with service provider personnel fingerprinting or
8 background check requirements.

9 Section 985. Paragraph (h) of subsection (2) of
10 section 397.951, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

11 397.951 Treatment and sanctions.--The Legislature
12 recognizes that the integration of treatment and sanctions
13 greatly increases the effectiveness of substance abuse
14 treatment. It is the responsibility of the department and the
15 substance abuse treatment provider to employ the full measure
16 of sanctions available to require participation and completion
17 of treatment to ensure successful outcomes for children in
18 substance abuse treatment.

19 (2) The department shall ensure that substance abuse
20 treatment providers employ any and all appropriate available
21 sanctions necessary to engage, motivate, and maintain a child
22 in treatment, including, but not limited to, provisions in law
23 that:

24 (h) Provide that the use, possession, or sale of
25 controlled substances, as defined in chapter 893, or
26 possession of electronic telephone pagers, by any student
27 while such student is upon school property or in attendance at
28 a school function is grounds for disciplinary action by the
29 school and may also result in criminal penalties being imposed
30 pursuant to s. 1006.09(1)-(4) ~~232.26~~.

31

1 Section 986. Subsection (2), (4), and (7) of section
2 402.22, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3 402.22 Education program for students who reside in
4 residential care facilities operated by the Department of
5 Children and Family Services.--

6 (2) District school boards shall establish educational
7 programs for all students ages 5 through 18 under the
8 residential care of the Department of Children and Family
9 Services and may provide for students below age 3 as provided
10 for in s. 1003.21(1)(e)~~232.01(1)(e)~~. Funding of such programs
11 shall be pursuant to s. 1011.62 ~~236.081~~.

12 (4) Students age 18 and under who are under the
13 residential care of the Department of Children and Family
14 Services and who receive an education program shall be
15 calculated as full-time equivalent student membership in the
16 appropriate cost factor as provided for in s. 1011.62(1)(c)
17 ~~236.081(1)(c)~~. Residential care facilities of the Department
18 of Children and Family Services shall include, but not be
19 limited to, developmental services institutions and state
20 mental health facilities. All students shall receive their
21 education program from the district school system, and funding
22 shall be allocated through the Florida Education Finance
23 Program for the district school system.

24 (7) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 1001.42(4)(n)
25 ~~230.23(4)(n)~~, the educational program at the Marianna Sunland
26 Center in Jackson County shall be operated by the Department
27 of Education, either directly or through grants or contractual
28 agreements with other public educational agencies. The annual
29 state allocation to any such agency shall be computed pursuant
30 to s. 1011.62(1), (2), and (5)~~236.081(1), (2), and (5)~~ and
31 allocated in the amount that would have been provided the

1 local school district in which the residential facility is
2 located.

3 Section 987. Subsection (3) of section 402.302,
4 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

5 402.302 Definitions.--

6 (3) "Child care personnel" means all owners,
7 operators, employees, and volunteers working in a child care
8 facility. The term does not include persons who work in a
9 child care facility after hours when children are not present
10 or parents of children in Head Start. For purposes of
11 screening, the term includes any member, over the age of 12
12 years, of a child care facility operator's family, or person,
13 over the age of 12 years, residing with a child care facility
14 operator if the child care facility is located in or adjacent
15 to the home of the operator or if the family member of, or
16 person residing with, the child care facility operator has any
17 direct contact with the children in the facility during its
18 hours of operation. Members of the operator's family or
19 persons residing with the operator who are between the ages of
20 12 years and 18 years shall not be required to be
21 fingerprinted but shall be screened for delinquency records.
22 For purposes of screening, the term shall also include persons
23 who work in child care programs which provide care for
24 children 15 hours or more each week in public or nonpublic
25 schools, summer day camps, family day care homes, or those
26 programs otherwise exempted under s. 402.316. The term does
27 not include public or nonpublic school personnel who are
28 providing care during regular school hours, or after hours for
29 activities related to a school's program for grades
30 kindergarten through 12 ~~as required under chapter 232~~. A
31 volunteer who assists on an intermittent basis for less than

1 40 hours per month is not included in the term "personnel" for
2 the purposes of screening and training, provided that the
3 volunteer is under direct and constant supervision by persons
4 who meet the personnel requirements of s. 402.305(2).
5 Students who observe and participate in a child care facility
6 as a part of their required coursework shall not be considered
7 child care personnel, provided such observation and
8 participation are on an intermittent basis and the students
9 are under direct and constant supervision of child care
10 personnel.

11 Section 988. Section 402.3057, Florida Statutes, is
12 amended to read:

13 402.3057 Persons not required to be refingerprinted or
14 rescreened.--Any provision of law to the contrary
15 notwithstanding, human resource personnel who have been
16 fingerprinted or screened pursuant to chapters 393, 394, 397,
17 402, and 409, and teachers and noninstructional personnel who
18 have been fingerprinted pursuant to chapter 1012 ~~231~~, who have
19 not been unemployed for more than 90 days thereafter, and who
20 under the penalty of perjury attest to the completion of such
21 fingerprinting or screening and to compliance with the
22 provisions of this section and the standards for good moral
23 character as contained in such provisions as ss. 110.1127(3),
24 393.0655(1), 394.457(6), 397.451, 402.305(2), and 409.175(4),
25 shall not be required to be refingerprinted or rescreened in
26 order to comply with any caretaker screening or fingerprinting
27 requirements.

28 Section 989. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (3)
29 of section 409.145, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

30 409.145 Care of children.--
31

1 (3)(a) The department is authorized to continue to
2 provide the services of the children's foster care program to
3 individuals 18 to 21 years of age who are enrolled in high
4 school, in a program leading to a high school equivalency
5 diploma as defined in s. 1003.435 ~~229.814~~, or in a full-time
6 career education program, and to continue to provide services
7 of the children's foster care program to individuals 18 to 23
8 years of age who are enrolled full-time in a postsecondary
9 educational institution granting a degree, a certificate, or
10 an applied technology diploma, if the following requirements
11 are met:

12 1. The individual was committed to the legal custody
13 of the department for placement in foster care as a dependent
14 child;

15 2. All other resources have been thoroughly explored,
16 and it can be clearly established that there are no
17 alternative resources for placement; and

18 3. A written service agreement which specifies
19 responsibilities and expectations for all parties involved has
20 been signed by a representative of the department, the
21 individual, and the foster parent or licensed child-caring
22 agency providing the placement resources.

23 (b) The services of the foster care program shall
24 continue for those individuals 18 to 21 years of age only for
25 the period of time the individual is continuously enrolled in
26 high school, in a program leading to a high school equivalency
27 diploma as defined in s. 1003.435 ~~229.814~~, or in a full-time
28 career education program; and shall continue for those
29 individuals 18 to 23 years of age only for the period of time
30 the individual is continuously enrolled full-time in a
31 postsecondary educational institution granting a degree, a

1 certificate, or an applied technology diploma. Services shall
2 be terminated upon completion of or withdrawal or permanent
3 expulsion from high school, the program leading to a high
4 school equivalency diploma, the full-time career and technical
5 education program, or the postsecondary educational
6 institution granting a degree, a certificate, or an applied
7 technology diploma. In addition, the department may, based
8 upon the availability of funds, provide assistance to those
9 individuals who leave foster care when they attain 18 years of
10 age and subsequently request assistance prior to their 21st
11 birthday. The following are examples of assistance that may be
12 provided: referrals for employment, services for educational
13 or career ~~vocational~~ development, and housing assistance.

14 Section 990. Section 409.1757, Florida Statutes, is
15 amended to read:

16 409.1757 Persons not required to be refingerprinted or
17 rescreened.--Any provision of law to the contrary
18 notwithstanding, human resource personnel who have been
19 fingerprinted or screened pursuant to chapters 393, 394, 397,
20 402, and this chapter, and teachers who have been
21 fingerprinted pursuant to chapter 1012 ~~231~~, who have not been
22 unemployed for more than 90 days thereafter, and who under the
23 penalty of perjury attest to the completion of such
24 fingerprinting or screening and to compliance with the
25 provisions of this section and the standards for good moral
26 character as contained in such provisions as ss. 110.1127(3),
27 393.0655(1), 394.457(6), 397.451, 402.305(2), and 409.175(4),
28 shall not be required to be refingerprinted or rescreened in
29 order to comply with any caretaker screening or fingerprinting
30 requirements.

31

1 Section 991. Subsections (1) and (2) of section
2 409.2598, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3 409.2598 Suspension or denial of new or renewal
4 licenses; registrations; certifications.--

5 (1) The Title IV-D agency may petition the court that
6 entered the support order or the court that is enforcing the
7 support order to deny or suspend the license, registration, or
8 certificate issued under ~~chapter 231~~,chapter 370, chapter
9 372, chapter 409, chapter 455, chapter 456, chapter 559,
10 chapter 1012,s. 328.42, or s. 597.010 of any obligor with a
11 delinquent support obligation or who fails, after receiving
12 appropriate notice, to comply with subpoenas, orders to
13 appear, orders to show cause, or similar orders relating to
14 paternity or support proceedings. However, a petition may not
15 be filed until the Title IV-D agency has exhausted all other
16 available remedies. The purpose of this section is to promote
17 the public policy of the state as established in s. 409.2551.

18 (2) The Title IV-D agency is authorized to screen all
19 applicants for new or renewal licenses, registrations, or
20 certificates and current licenses, registrations, or
21 certificates and current licensees, registration holders, and
22 certificateholders of all licenses, registrations, and
23 certificates issued under ~~chapter 231~~,chapter 370, ~~chapter~~
24 ~~372~~,chapter 409, chapter 455, chapter 456, ~~or~~ chapter 559,
25 chapter 1012,or s. 328.42 to ensure compliance with any
26 support obligation and any subpoenas, orders to appear, orders
27 to show cause, or similar orders relating to paternity or
28 support proceedings. If the Title IV-D agency determines that
29 an applicant, licensee, registration holder, or
30 certificateholder is an obligor who is delinquent on a support
31 obligation or who is not in compliance with a subpoena, order

1 to appear, order to show cause, or similar order relating to
2 paternity or support proceedings, the Title IV-D agency shall
3 certify the delinquency pursuant to s. 61.14.

4 Section 992. Subsections (1) and (6) of section
5 409.9071, Florida Statutes, as amended by section 2 of chapter
6 97-168, Laws of Florida, are amended to read:

7 409.9071 Medicaid provider agreements for school
8 districts certifying state match.--

9 (1) The agency shall submit a state plan amendment by
10 September 1, 1997, for the purpose of obtaining federal
11 authorization to reimburse school-based services as provided
12 in former s. 236.0812 pursuant to the rehabilitative services
13 option provided under 42 U.S.C. s. 1396d(a)(13). For purposes
14 of this section, billing agent consulting services shall be
15 considered billing agent services, as that term is used in s.
16 409.913(9), and, as such, payments to such persons shall not
17 be based on amounts for which they bill nor based on the
18 amount a provider receives from the Medicaid program. This
19 provision shall not restrict privatization of Medicaid
20 school-based services. Subject to any limitations provided for
21 in the General Appropriations Act, the agency, in compliance
22 with appropriate federal authorization, shall develop policies
23 and procedures and shall allow for certification of state and
24 local education funds which have been provided for
25 school-based services as specified in s. 1011.70 ~~236.0812~~ and
26 authorized by a physician's order where required by federal
27 Medicaid law. Any state or local funds certified pursuant to
28 this section shall be for children with specified disabilities
29 who are eligible for both Medicaid and part B or part H of the
30 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), or the
31

1 exceptional student education program, or who have an
2 individualized educational plan.

3 (6) Retroactive reimbursements for services as
4 specified in former s. 236.0812 as of July 1, 1996, including
5 reimbursement for the 1995-1996 and 1996-1997 school years,
6 subject to federal approval.

7 Section 993. Subsection (1) of section 409.9071,
8 Florida Statutes, as amended by sections 13 and 18 of chapter
9 97-263, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

10 409.9071 Medicaid provider agreements for school
11 districts certifying state match.--

12 (1) Subject to any limitations provided for in the
13 General Appropriations Act, the agency, in compliance with
14 appropriate federal authorization, shall develop policies and
15 procedures to allow for certification of state and local
16 education funds which have been provided for services as
17 authorized in s. 1011.70 ~~236.0812~~. Any state or local funds
18 certified pursuant to this section shall be for children with
19 specified disabilities who are eligible for Medicaid and who
20 have an individualized educational plan that demonstrates that
21 such services are medically necessary and a physician
22 authorization order if required by federal Medicaid laws.

23 Section 994. Subsection (21) of section 409.908,
24 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

25 409.908 Reimbursement of Medicaid providers.--Subject
26 to specific appropriations, the agency shall reimburse
27 Medicaid providers, in accordance with state and federal law,
28 according to methodologies set forth in the rules of the
29 agency and in policy manuals and handbooks incorporated by
30 reference therein. These methodologies may include fee
31 schedules, reimbursement methods based on cost reporting,

1 negotiated fees, competitive bidding pursuant to s. 287.057,
2 and other mechanisms the agency considers efficient and
3 effective for purchasing services or goods on behalf of
4 recipients. Payment for Medicaid compensable services made on
5 behalf of Medicaid eligible persons is subject to the
6 availability of moneys and any limitations or directions
7 provided for in the General Appropriations Act or chapter 216.
8 Further, nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent
9 or limit the agency from adjusting fees, reimbursement rates,
10 lengths of stay, number of visits, or number of services, or
11 making any other adjustments necessary to comply with the
12 availability of moneys and any limitations or directions
13 provided for in the General Appropriations Act, provided the
14 adjustment is consistent with legislative intent.

15 (21) The agency shall reimburse school districts which
16 certify the state match pursuant to ss. 1011.70 ~~236.0812~~ and
17 409.9071 for the federal portion of the school district's
18 allowable costs to deliver the services, based on the
19 reimbursement schedule. The school district shall determine
20 the costs for delivering services as authorized in ss. 1011.70
21 ~~236.0812~~ and 409.9071 for which the state match will be
22 certified. Reimbursement of school-based providers is
23 contingent on such providers being enrolled as Medicaid
24 providers and meeting the qualifications contained in 42
25 C.F.R. s. 440.110, unless otherwise waived by the federal
26 Health Care Financing Administration. Speech therapy providers
27 who are certified through the Department of Education pursuant
28 to rule 6A-4.0176, Florida Administrative Code, are eligible
29 for reimbursement for services that are provided on school
30 premises. Any employee of the school district who has been
31 fingerprinted and has received a criminal background check in

1 accordance with Department of Education rules and guidelines
2 shall be exempt from any agency requirements relating to
3 criminal background checks.

4 Section 995. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of
5 section 409.9122, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

6 409.9122 Mandatory Medicaid managed care enrollment;
7 programs and procedures.--

8 (2)(a) The agency shall enroll in a managed care plan
9 or MediPass all Medicaid recipients, except those Medicaid
10 recipients who are: in an institution; enrolled in the
11 Medicaid medically needy program; or eligible for both
12 Medicaid and Medicare. However, to the extent permitted by
13 federal law, the agency may enroll in a managed care plan or
14 MediPass a Medicaid recipient who is exempt from mandatory
15 managed care enrollment, provided that:

16 1. The recipient's decision to enroll in a managed
17 care plan or MediPass is voluntary;

18 2. If the recipient chooses to enroll in a managed
19 care plan, the agency has determined that the managed care
20 plan provides specific programs and services which address the
21 special health needs of the recipient; and

22 3. The agency receives any necessary waivers from the
23 federal Health Care Financing Administration.

24
25 The agency shall develop rules to establish policies by which
26 exceptions to the mandatory managed care enrollment
27 requirement may be made on a case-by-case basis. The rules
28 shall include the specific criteria to be applied when making
29 a determination as to whether to exempt a recipient from
30 mandatory enrollment in a managed care plan or MediPass.
31 School districts participating in the certified school match

1 program pursuant to ss. 1011.70 ~~236.0812~~ and 409.908(21) shall
2 be reimbursed by Medicaid, subject to the limitations of s.
3 1011.70(1)~~236.0812(1) and (2)~~, for a Medicaid-eligible child
4 participating in the services as authorized in s. 1011.70
5 ~~236.0812~~, as provided for in s. 409.9071, regardless of
6 whether the child is enrolled in MediPass or a managed care
7 plan. Managed care plans shall make a good faith effort to
8 execute agreements with school districts regarding the
9 coordinated provision of services authorized under s. 1011.70
10 ~~236.0812~~. County health departments delivering school-based
11 services pursuant to ss. 381.0056 and 381.0057 shall be
12 reimbursed by Medicaid for the federal share for a
13 Medicaid-eligible child who receives Medicaid-covered services
14 in a school setting, regardless of whether the child is
15 enrolled in MediPass or a managed care plan. Managed care
16 plans shall make a good faith effort to execute agreements
17 with county health departments regarding the coordinated
18 provision of services to a Medicaid-eligible child. To ensure
19 continuity of care for Medicaid patients, the agency, the
20 Department of Health, and the Department of Education shall
21 develop procedures for ensuring that a student's managed care
22 plan or MediPass provider receives information relating to
23 services provided in accordance with ss. ~~236.0812~~, 381.0056,
24 381.0057, ~~and~~ 409.9071, and 1011.70.

25 Section 996. Paragraph (d) of subsection (5) and
26 subsection (10) of section 411.01, Florida Statutes, are
27 amended to read:

28 411.01 Florida Partnership for School Readiness;
29 school readiness coalitions.--

30 (5) CREATION OF SCHOOL READINESS COALITIONS.--

31 (d) Implementation.--

1 1. The school readiness program is to be phased in.
2 Until the coalition implements its plan, the county shall
3 continue to receive the services identified in subsection (3)
4 through the various agencies that would be responsible for
5 delivering those services under current law. Plan
6 implementation is subject to approval of the coalition and the
7 plan by the Florida Partnership for School Readiness.

8 2. Each school readiness coalition shall develop a
9 plan for implementing the school readiness program to meet the
10 requirements of this section and the performance standards and
11 outcome measures established by the partnership. The plan must
12 include a written description of the role of the program in
13 the coalition's effort to meet the first state education goal,
14 readiness to start school, including a description of the plan
15 to involve the prekindergarten early intervention programs,
16 Head Start Programs, programs offered by public or private
17 providers of child care, preschool programs for children with
18 disabilities, programs for migrant children, Title I programs,
19 subsidized child care programs, and teen parent programs. The
20 plan must also demonstrate how the program will ensure that
21 each 3-year-old and 4-year-old child in a publicly funded
22 school readiness program receives scheduled activities and
23 instruction designed to prepare children to enter kindergarten
24 ready to learn. Prior to implementation of the program, the
25 school readiness coalition must submit the plan to the
26 partnership for approval. The partnership may approve the
27 plan, reject the plan, or approve the plan with conditions.
28 The Florida Partnership for School Readiness shall review
29 coalition plans at least annually.

30 3. The plan for the school readiness program must
31 include the following minimum standards and provisions:

1 a. A sliding fee scale establishing a copayment for
2 parents based upon their ability to pay, which is the same for
3 all program providers, to be implemented and reflected in each
4 program's budget.

5 b. A choice of settings and locations in licensed,
6 registered, religious-exempt, or school-based programs to be
7 provided to parents.

8 c. Instructional staff who have completed the training
9 course as required in s. 402.305(2)(d)1., as well as staff who
10 have additional training or credentials as required by the
11 partnership. The plan must provide a method for assuring the
12 qualifications of all personnel in all program settings.

13 d. Specific eligibility priorities for children within
14 the coalition's county pursuant to subsection (6).

15 e. Performance standards and outcome measures
16 established by the partnership or alternatively, standards and
17 outcome measures to be used until such time as the partnership
18 adopts such standards and outcome measures.

19 f. Reimbursement rates that have been developed by the
20 coalition. Reimbursement rates shall not have the effect of
21 limiting parental choice or creating standards or levels of
22 services that have not been authorized by the Legislature.

23 g. Systems support services, including a central
24 agency, child care resource and referral, eligibility
25 determinations, training of providers, and parent support and
26 involvement.

27 h. Direct enhancement services to families and
28 children. System support and direct enhancement services shall
29 be in addition to payments for the placement of children in
30 school readiness programs.

31

1 i. A business plan, which must include the contract
2 with a school readiness agent if the coalition is not a
3 legally established corporate entity. Coalitions may contract
4 with other coalitions to achieve efficiency in multiple-county
5 services, and such contracts may be part of the coalition's
6 business plan.

7 j. Strategies to meet the needs of unique populations,
8 such as migrant workers.

9
10 As part of the plan, the coalition may request the Governor to
11 apply for a waiver to allow the coalition to administer the
12 Head Start Program to accomplish the purposes of the school
13 readiness program. If any school readiness plan can
14 demonstrate that specific statutory goals can be achieved more
15 effectively by using procedures that require modification of
16 existing rules, policies, or procedures, a request for a
17 waiver to the partnership may be made as part of the plan.
18 Upon review, the partnership may grant the proposed
19 modification.

20 4. Persons with an early childhood teaching
21 certificate may provide support and supervision to other staff
22 in the school readiness program.

23 5. The coalition may not implement its plan until it
24 submits the plan to and receives approval from the
25 partnership. Once the plan has been approved, the plan and the
26 services provided under the plan shall be controlled by the
27 coalition rather than by the state agencies or departments.
28 The plan shall be reviewed and revised as necessary, but at
29 least biennially.

30 6. The following statutes will not apply to local
31 coalitions with approved plans: ss. 125.901(2)(a)3., 411.221,

1 and 411.232. To facilitate innovative practices and to allow
2 local establishment of school readiness programs, a school
3 readiness coalition may apply to the Governor and Cabinet for
4 a waiver of, and the Governor and Cabinet may waive, any of
5 the provisions of ss. ~~230.23166~~, 411.223, ~~and~~ 411.232, and
6 1003.54 if the waiver is necessary for implementation of the
7 coalition's school readiness plan.

8 7. Two or more counties may join for the purpose of
9 planning and implementing a school readiness program.

10 8. A coalition may, subject to approval of the
11 partnership as part of the coalition's plan, receive
12 subsidized child care funds for all children eligible for any
13 federal subsidized child care program and be the provider of
14 the program services.

15 9. Coalitions are authorized to enter into multiparty
16 contracts with multicounty service providers in order to meet
17 the needs of unique populations such as migrant workers.

18 (10) SCHOOL READINESS UNIFORM SCREENING.--The
19 Department of Education shall implement a school readiness
20 uniform screening, including a pilot program during the
21 2001-2002 school year, to validate the system recommended by
22 the Florida Partnership for School Readiness as part of a
23 comprehensive evaluation design. Beginning with the 2002-2003
24 school year, the department shall require that all school
25 districts administer the school readiness uniform screening to
26 each kindergarten student in the district school system upon
27 the student's entry into kindergarten. Children who enter
28 public school for the first time in first grade must undergo a
29 uniform screening adopted for use in first grade. The
30 department shall incorporate school readiness data into the
31 K-20 data warehouse for longitudinal tracking. Notwithstanding

1 s. 1002.22 ~~228.093~~, the department shall provide the
2 partnership and the Agency for Workforce Innovation with
3 complete and full access to kindergarten uniform screening
4 data at the student, school, district, and state levels in a
5 format that will enable the partnership and the agency to
6 prepare reports needed by state policymakers and local school
7 readiness coalitions to access progress toward school
8 readiness goals and provide input for continuous improvement
9 of local school readiness services and programs.

10 Section 997. Paragraph (f) of subsection (8) of
11 section 411.203, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

12 411.203 Continuum of comprehensive services.--The
13 Department of Education and the Department of Health and
14 Rehabilitative Services shall utilize the continuum of
15 prevention and early assistance services for high-risk
16 pregnant women and for high-risk and handicapped children and
17 their families, as outlined in this section, as a basis for
18 the intraagency and interagency program coordination,
19 monitoring, and analysis required in this chapter. The
20 continuum shall be the guide for the comprehensive statewide
21 approach for services for high-risk pregnant women and for
22 high-risk and handicapped children and their families, and may
23 be expanded or reduced as necessary for the enhancement of
24 those services. Expansion or reduction of the continuum shall
25 be determined by intraagency or interagency findings and
26 agreement, whichever is applicable. Implementation of the
27 continuum shall be based upon applicable eligibility criteria,
28 availability of resources, and interagency prioritization when
29 programs impact both agencies, or upon single agency
30 prioritization when programs impact only one agency. The
31 continuum shall include, but not be limited to:

1 (8) SUPPORT SERVICES FOR ALL EXPECTANT PARENTS AND
2 PARENTS OF HIGH-RISK CHILDREN.--

3 (f) Parent support groups, such as the community
4 resource mother or father program as established in s. 402.45,
5 ~~the Florida First Start Program as established in s. 230.2303,~~
6 or parents as first teachers, to strengthen families and to
7 enable families of high-risk children to better meet their
8 needs.

9 Section 998. Subsection (2) of section 411.223,
10 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

11 411.223 Uniform standards.--

12 (2) Duplicative diagnostic and planning practices
13 shall be eliminated to the extent possible. Diagnostic and
14 other information necessary to provide quality services to
15 high-risk or handicapped children shall be shared among the
16 program offices of the Department of Children and Family
17 Services, pursuant to the provisions of s. 1002.22 ~~228.093~~.

18 Section 999. Subsection (1) of section 414.1251,
19 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

20 414.1251 Learnfare program.--

21 (1) The department shall reduce the temporary cash
22 assistance for a participant's eligible dependent child or for
23 an eligible teenage participant who has not been exempted from
24 education participation requirements, if the eligible
25 dependent child or eligible teenage participant has been
26 identified either as a habitual truant, pursuant to s.
27 1003.01(8)~~228.041(28)~~, or as a dropout, pursuant to s.
28 1003.01(9)~~228.041(29)~~. For a student who has been identified
29 as a habitual truant, the temporary cash assistance must be
30 reinstated after a subsequent grading period in which the
31 child's attendance has substantially improved. For a student

1 who has been identified as a dropout, the temporary cash
2 assistance must be reinstated after the student enrolls in a
3 public school, receives a high school diploma or its
4 equivalency, enrolls in preparation for the General
5 Educational Development Tests, or enrolls in other educational
6 activities approved by the district school board. Good cause
7 exemptions from the rule of unexcused absences include the
8 following:

9 (a) The student is expelled from school and
10 alternative schooling is not available.

11 (b) No licensed day care is available for a child of
12 teen parents subject to Learnfare.

13 (c) Prohibitive transportation problems exist (e.g.,
14 to and from day care).

15
16 Within 10 days after sanction notification, the participant
17 parent of a dependent child or the teenage participant may
18 file an internal fair hearings process review procedure
19 appeal, and no sanction shall be imposed until the appeal is
20 resolved.

21 Section 1000. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of
22 section 440.16, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

23 440.16 Compensation for death.--

24 (1) If death results from the accident within 1 year
25 thereafter or follows continuous disability and results from
26 the accident within 5 years thereafter, the employer shall
27 pay:

28 (c) To the surviving spouse, payment of postsecondary
29 student fees for instruction at any area technical center
30 established under s. 1001.44 ~~230.63~~ for up to 1,800 classroom
31 hours or payment of student fees at any community college

1 established under part III of chapter 1004 ~~240~~ for up to 80
2 semester hours. The spouse of a deceased state employee shall
3 be entitled to a full waiver of such fees as provided in ss.
4 1009.22 ~~239.117~~ and 1009.23 ~~240.345~~ in lieu of the payment of
5 such fees. The benefits provided for in this paragraph shall
6 be in addition to other benefits provided for in this section
7 and shall terminate 7 years after the death of the deceased
8 employee, or when the total payment in eligible compensation
9 under paragraph (b) has been received. To qualify for the
10 educational benefit under this paragraph, the spouse shall be
11 required to meet and maintain the regular admission
12 requirements of, and be registered at, such area technical
13 center or community college, and make satisfactory academic
14 progress as defined by the educational institution in which
15 the student is enrolled.

16 Section 1001. Paragraph (e) of subsection (6) and
17 paragraph (e) of subsection (9) of section 445.004, Florida
18 Statutes, are amended to read:

19 445.004 Workforce Florida, Inc.; creation; purpose;
20 membership; duties and powers.--

21 (6) Workforce Florida, Inc., may take action that it
22 deems necessary to achieve the purposes of this section,
23 including, but not limited to:

24 (e) Providing policy direction for a system to project
25 and evaluate labor market supply and demand using the results
26 of the Workforce Estimating Conference created in s. 216.136
27 and the career education performance standards identified
28 under s. 1008.43 ~~239.233~~.

29 (9) Workforce Florida, Inc., in collaboration with the
30 regional workforce boards and appropriate state agencies and
31 local public and private service providers, and in

1 consultation with the Office of Program Policy Analysis and
2 Government Accountability, shall establish uniform measures
3 and standards to gauge the performance of the workforce
4 development strategy. These measures and standards must be
5 organized into three outcome tiers.

6 (e) Job placement must be reported pursuant to s.
7 1008.39 ~~229.8075~~. Positive outcomes for providers of education
8 and training must be consistent with ss. 1008.42 ~~239.233~~ and
9 1008.43 ~~239.245~~.

10 Section 1002. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of
11 section 445.0121, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

12 445.0121 Student eligibility requirements for initial
13 awards.--

14 (1) To be eligible for an initial award for
15 lower-division college credit courses that lead to a
16 baccalaureate degree, as defined in s. 445.0122(5), a student
17 must:

18 (a)1. Have been a resident of this state for no less
19 than 3 years for purposes other than to obtain an education;
20 or

21 2. Have received a standard Florida high school
22 diploma, as provided in s. 1003.43 ~~232.246~~, or its equivalent,
23 as described in s. 229.814, unless:

24 a. The student is enrolled full-time in the
25 early-admission program of an eligible postsecondary education
26 institution or completes a home education program in
27 accordance with s. 1002.41 ~~232.0201~~; or

28 b. The student earns a high school diploma from a
29 non-Florida school while living with a parent or guardian who
30 is on military or public service assignment outside this
31 state.

1 Section 1003. Paragraph (i) of subsection (1) of
2 section 445.024, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

3 445.024 Work requirements.--

4 (1) WORK ACTIVITIES.--The following activities may be
5 used individually or in combination to satisfy the work
6 requirements for a participant in the temporary cash
7 assistance program:

8 (i) Education services related to employment for
9 participants 19 years of age or younger.--Education services
10 provided under this paragraph are designed to prepare a
11 participant for employment in an occupation. The agency shall
12 coordinate education services with the school-to-work
13 activities provided under s. 1006.02 ~~229.595~~. Activities
14 provided under this paragraph are restricted to participants
15 19 years of age or younger who have not completed high school
16 or obtained a high school equivalency diploma.

17 Section 1004. Subsection (2), paragraph (i) of
18 subsection (3), paragraph (a) of subsection (4), subsection
19 (10), and subsection (18) of section 447.203, Florida
20 Statutes, are amended to read:

21 447.203 Definitions.--As used in this part:

22 (2) "Public employer" or "employer" means the state or
23 any county, municipality, or special district or any
24 subdivision or agency thereof which the commission determines
25 has sufficient legal distinctiveness properly to carry out the
26 functions of a public employer. With respect to all public
27 employees determined by the commission as properly belonging
28 to a statewide bargaining unit composed of State Career
29 Service System employees or Selected Professional Service
30 employees, the Governor shall be deemed to be the public
31 employer; and the university board of trustees ~~Board of~~

1 ~~Regents~~ shall be deemed to be the public employer with respect
2 to all public employees of the respective state university
3 ~~within the State University System as provided in s.~~
4 ~~240.209(3)(f), except that such employees shall have the~~
5 ~~right, in elections to be conducted at each university by the~~
6 ~~commission pursuant to its rules, to elect not to participate~~
7 ~~in collective bargaining. In the event that a majority of such~~
8 ~~voting employees at any university elect not to participate in~~
9 ~~collective bargaining, they shall be removed from the~~
10 ~~applicable Board of Regents bargaining unit. If, thereafter,~~
11 ~~by election conducted by the commission pursuant to its rules,~~
12 ~~a majority of such voting employees elect to participate in~~
13 ~~collective bargaining, they shall be included again in the~~
14 ~~applicable Board of Regents bargaining unit for such purpose.~~
15 The board of trustees of a community college shall be deemed
16 to be the public employer with respect to all employees of the
17 community college. The district school board shall be deemed
18 to be the public employer with respect to all employees of the
19 school district. The Board of Trustees of the Florida School
20 for the Deaf and the Blind shall be deemed to be the public
21 employer with respect to the academic and academic
22 administrative personnel of the Florida School for the Deaf
23 and the Blind. The Governor shall be deemed to be the public
24 employer with respect to all employees in the Correctional
25 Education Program of the Department of Corrections established
26 pursuant to s. 944.801.

27 (3) "Public employee" means any person employed by a
28 public employer except:

29 (i) ~~Those persons enrolled as graduate students in the~~
30 ~~State University System who are employed as graduate~~
31 ~~assistants, graduate teaching assistants, graduate teaching~~

1 ~~associates, graduate research assistants, or graduate research~~
2 ~~associates and those persons enrolled as~~ undergraduate
3 students in a state university ~~the State University System~~ who
4 perform part-time work for the state university ~~State~~
5 ~~University System~~.

- 6 (4) "Managerial employees" are those employees who:
7 (a) Perform jobs that are not of a routine, clerical,
8 or ministerial nature and require the exercise of independent
9 judgment in the performance of such jobs and to whom one or
10 more of the following applies:
11 1. They formulate or assist in formulating policies
12 which are applicable to bargaining unit employees.
13 2. They may reasonably be required on behalf of the
14 employer to assist in the preparation for the conduct of
15 collective bargaining negotiations.
16 3. They have a role in the administration of
17 agreements resulting from collective bargaining negotiations.
18 4. They have a significant role in personnel
19 administration.
20 5. They have a significant role in employee relations.
21 6. They are included in the definition of
22 administrative personnel contained in s. 1012.01(3)
23 ~~228.041(10)~~.
24 7. They have a significant role in the preparation or
25 administration of budgets for any public agency or institution
26 or subdivision thereof.

27
28 However, in determining whether an individual is a managerial
29 employee pursuant to either paragraph (a) or paragraph (b),
30 above, the commission may consider historic relationships of
31 the employee to the public employer and to coemployees.

1 (10) "Legislative body" means the State Legislature,
2 the board of county commissioners, the district school board,
3 the governing body of a municipality, or the governing body of
4 an instrumentality or unit of government having authority to
5 appropriate funds and establish policy governing the terms and
6 conditions of employment and which, as the case may be, is the
7 appropriate legislative body for the bargaining unit. For
8 purposes of s. 447.403, the state university board of trustees
9 shall be deemed to be the legislative body with respect to all
10 employees of the state university. For purposes of s. 447.403
11 the board of trustees of a community college shall be deemed
12 to be the legislative body with respect to all employees of
13 the community college.

14 (18) "Student representative" means the representative
15 selected by each community college or university student
16 government association ~~and the council of student body~~
17 ~~presidents~~. Each representative may be present at all
18 negotiating sessions that ~~which~~ take place between the
19 appropriate public employer and an exclusive bargaining agent.
20 The said representative must ~~shall~~ be enrolled as a student
21 with at least 8 credit hours in the respective community
22 college or university ~~or in the State University System~~ during
23 his or her term as student representative.

24 Section 1005. Subsection (5) of section 447.301,
25 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

26 447.301 Public employees' rights; organization and
27 representation.--

28 ~~(5) In negotiations over the terms and conditions of~~
29 ~~service and other matters affecting the working environment of~~
30 ~~employees, or the learning environment of students, in~~
31 ~~institutions of higher education, one student representative~~

1 ~~selected by the council of student body presidents may, at his~~
2 ~~or her discretion, be present at all negotiating sessions~~
3 ~~which take place between the Board of Regents and the~~
4 ~~bargaining agent for an employee bargaining unit.~~In the case
5 of community colleges and universities, the student government
6 association of each community college or university shall
7 establish procedures for the selection of, and shall select, a
8 student representative to be present, at his or her
9 discretion, at negotiations between the bargaining agent of
10 the employees and the board of trustees. Each student
11 representative shall have access to all written draft
12 agreements and all other written documents pertaining to
13 negotiations exchanged by the appropriate public employer and
14 the bargaining agent, including a copy of any prepared written
15 transcripts of any negotiating session. Each student
16 representative shall have the right at reasonable times during
17 the negotiating session to comment to the parties and to the
18 public upon the impact of proposed agreements on the
19 educational environment of students. Each student
20 representative shall have the right to be accompanied by
21 alternates or aides, not to exceed a combined total of two in
22 number. Each student representative shall be obligated to
23 participate in good faith during all negotiations and shall be
24 subject to the rules and regulations of the Public Employees
25 Relations Commission. The student representatives shall have
26 neither voting nor veto power in any negotiation, action, or
27 agreement. The state or any branch, agency, division, agent,
28 or institution of the state, including community colleges and
29 universities, may ~~shall~~ not expend any moneys from any source
30 for the payment of reimbursement for travel expenses or per
31 diem to aides, alternates, or student representatives

1 participating in, observing, or contributing to any
2 negotiating sessions between the bargaining parties; ~~however,~~
3 ~~this limitation does not apply to the use of student activity~~
4 ~~fees for the reimbursement of travel expenses and per diem to~~
5 ~~the university student representative, aides, or alternates~~
6 ~~participating in the aforementioned negotiations between the~~
7 ~~Board of Regents and the bargaining agent for an employee~~
8 ~~bargaining unit.~~

9 Section 1006. Subsection (4) of section 447.403,
10 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

11 447.403 Resolution of impasses.--

12 (4) If ~~in the event that either~~ the public employer or
13 the employee organization does not accept, in whole or in
14 part, the recommended decision of the special master:

15 (a) The chief executive officer of the governmental
16 entity involved shall, within 10 days after rejection of a
17 recommendation of the special master, submit to the
18 legislative body of the governmental entity involved a copy of
19 the findings of fact and recommended decision of the special
20 master, together with the chief executive officer's
21 recommendations for settling the disputed impasse issues. The
22 chief executive officer shall also transmit his or her
23 recommendations to the employee organization. ~~If the dispute~~
24 ~~involves employees for whom the Board of Regents is the public~~
25 ~~employer, the Governor may also submit recommendations to the~~
26 ~~legislative body for settling The disputed impasse issues;~~

27 (b) The employee organization shall submit its
28 recommendations for settling the disputed impasse issues to
29 such legislative body and to the chief executive officer;

30 (c) The legislative body or a duly authorized
31 committee thereof shall forthwith conduct a public hearing at

1 which the parties shall be required to explain their positions
2 with respect to the rejected recommendations of the special
3 master;

4 (d) Thereafter, the legislative body shall take such
5 action as it deems to be in the public interest, including the
6 interest of the public employees involved, to resolve all
7 disputed impasse issues; and

8 (e) Following the resolution of the disputed impasse
9 issues by the legislative body, the parties shall reduce to
10 writing an agreement which includes those issues agreed to by
11 the parties and those disputed impasse issues resolved by the
12 legislative body's action taken pursuant to paragraph (d). The
13 agreement shall be signed by the chief executive officer and
14 the bargaining agent and shall be submitted to the public
15 employer and to the public employees who are members of the
16 bargaining unit for ratification. If such agreement is not
17 ratified by all parties, pursuant to the provisions of s.
18 447.309, the legislative body's action taken pursuant to the
19 provisions of paragraph (d) shall take effect as of the date
20 of such legislative body's action for the remainder of the
21 first fiscal year which was the subject of negotiations;
22 however, the legislative body's action shall not take effect
23 with respect to those disputed impasse issues which establish
24 the language of contractual provisions which could have no
25 effect in the absence of a ratified agreement, including, but
26 not limited to, preambles, recognition clauses, and duration
27 clauses.

28 Section 1007. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of
29 section 450.081, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

30 450.081 Hours of work in certain occupations.--
31

1 (5) The provisions of subsections (1)-(4) shall not
2 apply to:

3 (b) Minors who are within the compulsory school
4 attendance age limit who hold a valid certificate of exemption
5 issued by the school superintendent or his or her designee
6 pursuant to the provisions of s. 1003.21(3)~~232.06~~.

7 Section 1008. Subsection (2) of section 450.121,
8 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

9 450.121 Enforcement of Child Labor Law.--

10 (2) It is the duty of the department and its agents
11 and all sheriffs or other law enforcement officers of the
12 state or of any municipality of the state to enforce the
13 provisions of this law, to make complaints against persons
14 violating its provisions, and to prosecute violations of the
15 same. The department and its agents have authority to enter
16 and inspect at any time any place or establishment covered by
17 this law and to have access to age certificates kept on file
18 by the employer and such other records as may aid in the
19 enforcement of this law. A designated school representative
20 acting in accordance with s. 1003.26 ~~232.17~~ shall report to
21 the department all violations of the Child Labor Law that may
22 come to his or her knowledge.

23 Section 1009. Subsection (4) of section 458.3145,
24 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

25 458.3145 Medical faculty certificate.--

26 (4) In any year, the maximum number of extended
27 medical faculty certificateholders as provided in subsection
28 (2) may not exceed 15 persons at each institution named in
29 subparagraphs (1)(i)1.-4. and at the facility named in s.
30 1004.43 ~~240.512~~ and may not exceed 5 persons at the
31 institution named in subparagraph (1)(i)5.

1 Section 1010. Subsection (1) and paragraph (a) of
2 subsection (2) of section 458.324, Florida Statutes, are
3 amended to read:

4 458.324 Breast cancer; information on treatment
5 alternatives.--

6 (1) DEFINITION.--As used in this section, the term
7 "medically viable," as applied to treatment alternatives,
8 means modes of treatment generally considered by the medical
9 profession to be within the scope of current, acceptable
10 standards, including treatment alternatives described in the
11 written summary prepared by the Florida Cancer Control and
12 Research Advisory Council in accordance with s. 1004.435(4)(m)
13 ~~240.5121(4)(m)~~.

14 (2) COMMUNICATION OF TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES.--Each
15 physician treating a patient who is, or in the judgment of the
16 physician is at high risk of being, diagnosed as having breast
17 cancer shall inform such patient of the medically viable
18 treatment alternatives available to such patient; shall
19 describe such treatment alternatives; and shall explain the
20 relative advantages, disadvantages, and risks associated with
21 the treatment alternatives to the extent deemed necessary to
22 allow the patient to make a prudent decision regarding such
23 treatment options. In compliance with this subsection:

24 (a) The physician may, in his or her discretion:
25 1. Orally communicate such information directly to the
26 patient or the patient's legal representative;
27 2. Provide the patient or the patient's legal
28 representative with a copy of the written summary prepared in
29 accordance with s. 1004.435(4)(m) ~~240.5121(4)(m)~~ and express a
30 willingness to discuss the summary with the patient or the
31 patient's legal representative; or

1 3. Both communicate such information directly and
2 provide a copy of the written summary to the patient or the
3 patient's legal representative for further consideration and
4 possible later discussion.

5
6 Nothing in this subsection shall reduce other provisions of
7 law regarding informed consent.

8 Section 1011. Subsection (1) and paragraph (a) of
9 subsection (2) of section 459.0125, Florida Statutes, are
10 amended to read:

11 459.0125 Breast cancer; information on treatment
12 alternatives.--

13 (1) DEFINITION.--As used in this section, the term
14 "medically viable," as applied to treatment alternatives,
15 means modes of treatment generally considered by the medical
16 profession to be within the scope of current, acceptable
17 standards, including treatment alternatives described in the
18 written summary prepared by the Florida Cancer Control and
19 Research Advisory Council in accordance with s. 1004.435(4)(m)
20 ~~240.5121(4)(m)~~.

21 (2) COMMUNICATION OF TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES.--It is
22 the obligation of every physician treating a patient who is,
23 or in the judgment of the physician is at high risk of being,
24 diagnosed as having breast cancer to inform such patient of
25 the medically viable treatment alternatives available to such
26 patient; to describe such treatment alternatives; and to
27 explain the relative advantages, disadvantages, and risks
28 associated with the treatment alternatives to the extent
29 deemed necessary to allow the patient to make a prudent
30 decision regarding such treatment options. In compliance with
31 this subsection:

- 1 (a) The physician may, in her or his discretion:
2 1. Orally communicate such information directly to the
3 patient or the patient's legal representative;
4 2. Provide the patient or the patient's legal
5 representative with a copy of the written summary prepared in
6 accordance with s. 1004.435(4)(m)~~240.5121(4)(m)~~ and express
7 her or his willingness to discuss the summary with the patient
8 or the patient's legal representative; or
9 3. Both communicate such information directly and
10 provide a copy of the written summary to the patient or the
11 patient's legal representative for further consideration and
12 possible later discussion.

13

14 Nothing in this subsection shall reduce other provisions of
15 law regarding informed consent.

16 Section 1012. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of
17 section 468.1115, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

18 468.1115 Exemptions.--

19 (2) The provisions of this part shall not apply to:

20 (c) Persons certified in the areas of speech-language
21 impairment or hearing impairment in this state under chapter
22 1012 ~~231~~ when engaging in the profession for which they are
23 certified, or any person under the direct supervision of such
24 a certified person, or of a licensee under this chapter, when
25 the person under such supervision is performing hearing
26 screenings in a school setting for prekindergarten through
27 grade 12.

28 Section 1013. Section 468.607, Florida Statutes, is
29 amended to read:

30 468.607 Certification of building code administration
31 and inspection personnel.--The board shall issue a certificate

1 to any individual whom the board determines to be qualified,
2 within such class and level as provided in this part and with
3 such limitations as the board may place upon it. No person
4 may be employed by a state agency or local governmental
5 authority to perform the duties of a building code
6 administrator, plans examiner, or building code inspector
7 after October 1, 1993, without possessing the proper valid
8 certificate issued in accordance with the provisions of this
9 part. Any person who acts as an inspector and plans examiner
10 under s. 1013.37 ~~235-26~~ while conducting activities authorized
11 by certification under that section is certified to continue
12 to conduct inspections for a local enforcement agency until
13 the person's UBCI certification expires, after which time such
14 person must possess the proper valid certificate issued in
15 accordance with this part.

16 Section 1014. Subsection (3) of section 468.723,
17 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

18 468.723 Exemptions.--Nothing in this part shall be
19 construed as preventing or restricting:

20 (3) A person employed as a teacher apprentice trainer
21 I, a teacher apprentice trainer II, or a teacher athletic
22 trainer under s. 1012.46 ~~232-435~~.

23 Section 1015. Section 471.0035, Florida Statutes, is
24 amended to read:

25 471.0035 Instructors in postsecondary educational
26 institutions; exemption from registration requirement.--For
27 the sole purpose of teaching the principles and methods of
28 engineering design, notwithstanding the provisions of s.
29 471.005(7), a person employed by a public postsecondary
30 educational institution, or by an independent postsecondary
31 educational institution licensed or exempt from licensure

1 pursuant to the provisions of chapter 1005 246, is not
2 required to register under the provisions of this chapter as a
3 registered engineer.

4 Section 1016. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of
5 section 476.114, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

6 476.114 Examination; prerequisites.--

7 (2) An applicant shall be eligible for licensure by
8 examination to practice barbering if the applicant:

9 (c)1. Holds an active valid license to practice
10 barbering in another state, has held the license for at least
11 1 year, and does not qualify for licensure by endorsement as
12 provided for in s. 476.144(5); or

13 2. Has received a minimum of 1,200 hours of training
14 as established by the board, which shall include, but shall
15 not be limited to, the equivalent of completion of services
16 directly related to the practice of barbering at one of the
17 following:

18 a. A school of barbering licensed pursuant to chapter
19 1005 246;

20 b. A barbering program within the public school
21 system; or

22 c. A government-operated barbering program in this
23 state.

24

25 The board shall establish by rule procedures whereby the
26 school or program may certify that a person is qualified to
27 take the required examination after the completion of a
28 minimum of 1,000 actual school hours. If the person passes the
29 examination, she or he shall have satisfied this requirement;
30 but if the person fails the examination, she or he shall not

31

1 be qualified to take the examination again until the
2 completion of the full requirements provided by this section.

3 Section 1017. Paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of
4 section 476.144, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

5 476.144 Licensure.--

6 (6) A person may apply for a restricted license to
7 practice barbering. The board shall adopt rules specifying
8 procedures for an applicant to obtain a restricted license if
9 the applicant:

10 (a)1. Has successfully completed a restricted barber
11 course, as established by rule of the board, at a school of
12 barbering licensed pursuant to chapter 1005 246, a barbering
13 program within the public school system, or a
14 government-operated barbering program in this state; or

15 2.a. Holds or has within the previous 5 years held an
16 active valid license to practice barbering in another state or
17 country or has held a Florida barbering license which has been
18 declared null and void for failure to renew the license, and
19 the applicant fulfilled the requirements of s. 476.114(2)(c)2.
20 for initial licensure; and

21 b. Has not been disciplined relating to the practice
22 of barbering in the previous 5 years; and

23
24 The restricted license shall limit the licensee's practice to
25 those specific areas in which the applicant has demonstrated
26 competence pursuant to rules adopted by the board.

27 Section 1018. Section 476.178, Florida Statutes, is
28 amended to read:

29 476.178 Schools of barbering; licensure.--No private
30 school of barbering shall be permitted to operate without a
31 license issued by the Commission for Independent State Board

1 ~~of Nonpublic Career~~ Education pursuant to chapter 1005 246.
2 However, this section shall not be construed to prevent
3 certification by the Department of Education of barber
4 training programs within the public school system or to
5 prevent government operation of any other program of barbering
6 in this state.

7 Section 1019. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of
8 section 477.0132, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

9 477.0132 Hair braiding, hair wrapping, and body
10 wrapping registration.--

11 (1)

12 (d) Only the board may review, evaluate, and approve a
13 course required of an applicant for registration under this
14 subsection in the occupation or practice of hair braiding,
15 hair wrapping, or body wrapping. A provider of such a course
16 is not required to hold a license under chapter 1005 246.

17 Section 1020. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of
18 section 477.019, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

19 477.019 Cosmetologists; qualifications; licensure;
20 supervised practice; license renewal; endorsement; continuing
21 education.--

22 (2) An applicant shall be eligible for licensure by
23 examination to practice cosmetology if the applicant:

24 (c)1. Is authorized to practice cosmetology in another
25 state or country, has been so authorized for at least 1 year,
26 and does not qualify for licensure by endorsement as provided
27 for in subsection (6); or

28 2. Has received a minimum of 1,200 hours of training
29 as established by the board, which shall include, but shall
30 not be limited to, the equivalent of completion of services
31

1 directly related to the practice of cosmetology at one of the
2 following:

3 a. A school of cosmetology licensed pursuant to
4 chapter 1005 246.

5 b. A cosmetology program within the public school
6 system.

7 c. The Cosmetology Division of the Florida School for
8 the Deaf and the Blind, provided the division meets the
9 standards of this chapter.

10 d. A government-operated cosmetology program in this
11 state.

12

13 The board shall establish by rule procedures whereby the
14 school or program may certify that a person is qualified to
15 take the required examination after the completion of a
16 minimum of 1,000 actual school hours. If the person then
17 passes the examination, he or she shall have satisfied this
18 requirement; but if the person fails the examination, he or
19 she shall not be qualified to take the examination again until
20 the completion of the full requirements provided by this
21 section.

22 Section 1021. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of
23 section 477.0201, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

24 477.0201 Specialty registration; qualifications;
25 registration renewal; endorsement.--

26 (1) Any person is qualified for registration as a
27 specialist in any one or more of the specialty practices
28 within the practice of cosmetology under this chapter who:

29 (b) Has received a certificate of completion in a
30 specialty pursuant to s. 477.013(6) from one of the following:

31 1. A school licensed pursuant to s. 477.023.

1 2. A school licensed pursuant to chapter 1005 ~~246~~ or
2 the equivalent licensing authority of another state.

3 3. A specialty program within the public school
4 system.

5 4. A specialty division within the Cosmetology
6 Division of the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind,
7 provided the training programs comply with minimum curriculum
8 requirements established by the board.

9 Section 1022. Section 477.023, Florida Statutes, is
10 amended to read:

11 477.023 Schools of cosmetology; licensure.--No private
12 school of cosmetology shall be permitted to operate without a
13 license issued by the Commission for Independent State Board
14 ~~of Nonpublic Career~~ Education pursuant to chapter 1005 ~~246~~.
15 However, nothing herein shall be construed to prevent
16 certification by the Department of Education of cosmetology
17 training programs within the public school system or to
18 prevent government operation of any other program of
19 cosmetology in this state.

20 Section 1023. Subsection (9) of section 480.033,
21 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

22 480.033 Definitions.--As used in this act:

23 (9) "Board-approved massage school" means a facility
24 which meets minimum standards for training and curriculum as
25 determined by rule of the board and which is licensed by the
26 Department of Education pursuant to chapter 1005 ~~246~~ or the
27 equivalent licensing authority of another state or is within
28 the public school system of this state.

29 Section 1024. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of
30 section 481.229, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

31 481.229 Exceptions; exemptions from licensure.--

1 (1) No person shall be required to qualify as an
2 architect in order to make plans and specifications for, or
3 supervise the erection, enlargement, or alteration of:

4 (c) Any other type of building costing less than
5 \$25,000, except a school, auditorium, or other building
6 intended for public use, provided that the services of a
7 registered architect shall not be required for minor school
8 projects pursuant to s. 1013.45 ~~235.211~~.

9 Section 1025. Section 488.01, Florida Statutes, is
10 amended to read:

11 488.01 License to engage in business of operating a
12 driver's school required.--The Department of Highway Safety
13 and Motor Vehicles shall oversee and license all commercial
14 driver's schools except truck driving schools. All commercial
15 truck driving schools shall be required to be licensed
16 pursuant to chapter 1005 ~~246~~, and additionally shall be
17 subject to the provisions of ss. 488.04 and 488.05. No
18 person, group, organization, institution, business entity, or
19 corporate entity may engage in the business of operating a
20 driver's school without first obtaining a license therefor
21 from the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
22 pursuant to this chapter or from the State Board of Nonpublic
23 Career Education pursuant to chapter 1005 ~~246~~.

24 Section 1026. Subsections (12) and (13) of section
25 553.415, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

26 553.415 Factory-built school buildings.--

27 (12) Such identification label shall be permanently
28 affixed by the manufacturer in the case of newly constructed
29 factory-built school buildings, or by the department or its
30 designee in the case of an existing factory-built building
31 altered to comply with provisions of s. 1013.20 ~~235.061~~.

1 (13) As of July 1, 2001, all newly constructed
2 factory-built school buildings shall bear a label pursuant to
3 subsection (12). As of July 1, 2002, existing factory-built
4 school buildings and manufactured buildings used as classrooms
5 and not bearing such label shall not be used as classrooms
6 pursuant to s. 1013.20 ~~235.061~~.

7 Section 1027. Subsection (5) of section 559.902,
8 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

9 559.902 Scope and application.--This act shall apply
10 to all motor vehicle repair shops in Florida, except:

11 (5) Those located in public schools as defined in s.
12 1000.04 ~~228.041~~ or charter technical career centers as defined
13 in s. 1002.34 ~~228.505~~.

14
15 However, such person may voluntarily register under this act.

16 Section 1028. Section 589.09, Florida Statutes, is
17 amended to read:

18 589.09 Use of lands acquired.--All lands acquired by
19 the Division of Forestry on behalf of the state shall be in
20 the custody of and subject to the jurisdiction, management,
21 and control of the said division, and, for such purposes and
22 the utilization and development of such land, the said
23 division may use the proceeds of the sale of any products
24 therefrom, the proceeds of the sale of any such lands, save
25 the 25 percent of such proceeds which shall be paid into the
26 State School Fund as required by s. 1010.71(1) ~~228.151~~, and
27 such other funds as may be appropriated for use by the
28 division, and in the opinion of such division, available for
29 such uses and purposes.

30 Section 1029. Subsection (1) of section 627.733,
31 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1 627.733 Required security.--

2 (1) Every owner or registrant of a motor vehicle,
3 other than a motor vehicle used as a taxicab, school bus as
4 defined in s. 1006.25 ~~234.051~~, or limousine, required to be
5 registered and licensed in this state shall maintain security
6 as required by subsection (3) in effect continuously
7 throughout the registration or licensing period.

8 Section 1030. Subsection (2) of section 627.742,
9 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

10 627.742 Nonpublic sector buses; additional liability
11 insurance coverage.--

12 (2) School buses subject to the provisions of chapter
13 1006 ~~234~~ or s. 316.615 are exempt from the provisions of this
14 section.

15 Section 1031. Subsection (5) of section 627.912,
16 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

17 627.912 Professional liability claims and actions;
18 reports by insurers.--

19 (5) Any self-insurance program established under s.
20 1004.24 ~~240.213~~ shall report in duplicate to the Department of
21 Insurance any claim or action for damages for personal
22 injuries claimed to have been caused by error, omission, or
23 negligence in the performance of professional services
24 provided by the state university board of trustees ~~Board of~~
25 ~~Regents~~ through an employee or agent of the state university
26 board of trustees ~~Board of Regents~~, including practitioners of
27 medicine licensed under chapter 458, practitioners of
28 osteopathic medicine licensed under chapter 459, podiatric
29 physicians licensed under chapter 461, and dentists licensed
30 under chapter 466, or based on a claimed performance of
31 professional services without consent if the claim resulted in

1 a final judgment in any amount, or a settlement in any amount.
2 The reports required by this subsection shall contain the
3 information required by subsection (3) and the name, address,
4 and specialty of the employee or agent of the state university
5 board of trustees ~~Board of Regents~~ whose performance or
6 professional services is alleged in the claim or action to
7 have caused personal injury.

8 Section 1032. Paragraph (b) of subsection (7) of
9 section 633.445, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

10 633.445 State Fire Marshal Scholarship Grant
11 Program.--

12 (7) The criteria and procedures for establishing
13 standards of eligibility shall be recommended by the council
14 to the Department of Insurance. The council shall recommend
15 to the Department of Insurance a rating system upon which to
16 base the approval of scholarship grants. However, to be
17 eligible to receive a scholarship pursuant to this section, an
18 applicant must:

19 (b) Have graduated from high school, have earned an
20 equivalency diploma issued by the Department of Education
21 pursuant to s. 1003.435 ~~229.814~~, or have earned an equivalency
22 diploma issued by the United States Armed Forces Institute;

23 Section 1033. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of
24 section 633.50, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

25 633.50 Division powers and duties; Florida State Fire
26 College.--

27 (1) The Division of State Fire Marshal of the
28 Department of Insurance, in performing its duties related to
29 the Florida State Fire College, specified in ss.
30 633.43-633.49, shall:

31

1 (e) Develop a staffing and funding formula for the
2 Florida State Fire College. The formula shall include
3 differential funding levels for various types of programs,
4 shall be based on the number of full-time equivalent students
5 and information obtained from scheduled attendance counts
6 taken the first day of each program, and shall provide the
7 basis for the legislative budget request. As used in this
8 section, a full-time equivalent student is equal to a minimum
9 of 900 hours in a technical certificate ~~vocational~~ program and
10 400 hours in a degree-seeking program. The funding formula
11 shall be as prescribed pursuant to s. 1011.62 ~~236.081~~, shall
12 include procedures to document daily attendance, and shall
13 require that attendance records be retained for audit
14 purposes.

15 Section 1034. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of
16 section 732.402, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

17 732.402 Exempt property.--

18 (2) Exempt property shall consist of:

19 (c) Florida Prepaid College Program contracts
20 purchased ~~under s. 240.551~~ and Florida College Savings
21 agreements established under part IV of chapter 1009 ~~s.~~
22 ~~240.553~~.

23 Section 1035. Section 784.081, Florida Statutes, is
24 amended to read:

25 784.081 Assault or battery on specified officials or
26 employees; reclassification of offenses.--Whenever a person is
27 charged with committing an assault or aggravated assault or a
28 battery or aggravated battery upon any elected official or
29 employee of: a school district; a private school; the Florida
30 School for the Deaf and the Blind; a university developmental
31 research school; a state university or any other entity of the

1 state system of public education, as defined in s. 1000.04
2 ~~228.041~~; an employee or protective investigator of the
3 Department of Children and Family Services; or an employee of
4 a lead community-based provider and its direct service
5 contract providers, when the person committing the offense
6 knows or has reason to know the identity or position or
7 employment of the victim, the offense for which the person is
8 charged shall be reclassified as follows:

9 (1) In the case of aggravated battery, from a felony
10 of the second degree to a felony of the first degree.

11 (2) In the case of aggravated assault, from a felony
12 of the third degree to a felony of the second degree.

13 (3) In the case of battery, from a misdemeanor of the
14 first degree to a felony of the third degree.

15 (4) In the case of assault, from a misdemeanor of the
16 second degree to a misdemeanor of the first degree.

17 Section 1036. Section 817.566, Florida Statutes, is
18 amended to read:

19 817.566 Misrepresentation of association with, or
20 academic standing at, postsecondary educational
21 institution.--Any person who, with intent to defraud,
22 misrepresents his or her association with, or academic
23 standing or other progress at, any postsecondary educational
24 institution by falsely making, altering, simulating, or
25 forging a document, degree, certificate, diploma, award,
26 record, letter, transcript, form, or other paper; or any
27 person who causes or procures such a misrepresentation; or any
28 person who utters and publishes or otherwise represents such a
29 document, degree, certificate, diploma, award, record, letter,
30 transcript, form, or other paper as true, knowing it to be
31 false, is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree,

1 punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.
2 Individuals who present a religious academic degree from any
3 college, university, seminary, or institution which is not
4 licensed by the State Board of Independent Colleges and
5 Universities or which is not exempt pursuant to the provisions
6 of s. 246.085 shall disclose the religious nature of the
7 degree upon presentation.

8 Section 1037. Subsection (1) of section 817.567,
9 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

10 817.567 Making false claims of academic degree or
11 title.--

12 (1) No person in the state may claim, either orally or
13 in writing, to possess an academic degree, as defined in s.
14 1005.02 ~~246.021~~, or the title associated with said degree,
15 unless the person has, in fact, been awarded said degree from
16 an institution that is:

17 (a) Accredited by a regional or professional
18 accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department
19 of Education or the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary
20 Accreditation;

21 (b) Provided, operated, and supported by a state
22 government or any of its political subdivisions or by the
23 Federal Government;

24 (c) A school, institute, college, or university
25 chartered outside the United States, the academic degree from
26 which has been validated by an accrediting agency approved by
27 the United States Department of Education as equivalent to the
28 baccalaureate or postbaccalaureate degree conferred by a
29 regionally accredited college or university in the United
30 States;

31

1 (d) Licensed by the State Board of Independent
2 Colleges and Universities pursuant to ss. 1005.01-1005.38
3 ~~246.011-246.151~~ or exempt from licensure pursuant to s.
4 246.085; or

5 (e) A religious seminary, institute, college, or
6 university which offers only educational programs that prepare
7 students for a religious vocation, career, occupation,
8 profession, or lifework, and the nomenclature of whose
9 certificates, diplomas, or degrees clearly identifies the
10 religious character of the educational program.

11 Section 1038. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of
12 section 877.18, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

13 877.18 Identification card or document purporting to
14 contain applicant's age or date of birth; penalties for
15 failure to comply with requirements for sale or issuance.--

16 (1) It is unlawful for any person, except a
17 governmental agency or instrumentality, to sell or issue, or
18 to offer to sell or issue, in this state any identification
19 card or document purporting to contain the age or date of
20 birth of the person in whose name it was issued, unless:

21 (a) Prior to selling or issuing such card or document,
22 the person has first obtained from the applicant and retains
23 for a period of 3 years from the date of sale:

24 1. An authenticated or certified copy of proof of age
25 as provided in s. 1003.21(4)~~232.03~~; and

26 2. A notarized affidavit from the applicant attesting
27 to the applicant's age and that the proof-of-age document
28 required by subparagraph 1. is for such applicant.

29 Section 1039. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of
30 section 921.187, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

31

1 921.187 Disposition and sentencing; alternatives;
2 restitution.--
3 (1) The alternatives provided in this section for the
4 disposition of criminal cases shall be used in a manner that
5 will best serve the needs of society, punish criminal
6 offenders, and provide the opportunity for rehabilitation.
7 (a) If the offender does not receive a state prison
8 sentence, the court may:
9 1. Impose a split sentence whereby the offender is to
10 be placed on probation upon completion of any specified period
11 of such sentence, which period may include a term of years or
12 less.
13 2. Make any other disposition that is authorized by
14 law.
15 3. Place the offender on probation with or without an
16 adjudication of guilt pursuant to s. 948.01.
17 4. Impose a fine and probation pursuant to s. 948.011
18 when the offense is punishable by both a fine and imprisonment
19 and probation is authorized.
20 5. Place the offender into community control requiring
21 intensive supervision and surveillance pursuant to chapter
22 948.
23 6. Impose, as a condition of probation or community
24 control, a period of treatment which shall be restricted to a
25 county facility, a Department of Corrections probation and
26 restitution center, a probation program drug punishment
27 treatment community, or a community residential or
28 nonresidential facility, excluding a community correctional
29 center as defined in s. 944.026, which is owned and operated
30 by any qualified public or private entity providing such
31 services. Before admission to such a facility, the court shall

1 obtain an individual assessment and recommendations on the
2 appropriate treatment needs, which shall be considered by the
3 court in ordering such placements. Placement in such a
4 facility, except for a county residential probation facility,
5 may not exceed 364 days. Placement in a county residential
6 probation facility may not exceed 3 years. Early termination
7 of placement may be recommended to the court, when
8 appropriate, by the center supervisor, the supervising
9 probation officer, or the probation program manager.

10 7. Sentence the offender pursuant to s. 922.051 to
11 imprisonment in a county jail when a statute directs
12 imprisonment in a state prison, if the offender's cumulative
13 sentence, whether from the same circuit or from separate
14 circuits, is not more than 364 days.

15 8. Sentence the offender who is to be punished by
16 imprisonment in a county jail to a jail in another county if
17 there is no jail within the county suitable for such prisoner
18 pursuant to s. 950.01.

19 9. Require the offender to participate in a
20 work-release or educational or technical ~~vocational~~ training
21 program pursuant to s. 951.24 while serving a sentence in a
22 county jail, if such a program is available.

23 10. Require the offender to perform a specified public
24 service pursuant to s. 775.091.

25 11. Require the offender who violates chapter 893 or
26 violates any law while under the influence of a controlled
27 substance or alcohol to participate in a substance abuse
28 program.

29 12.a. Require the offender who violates any criminal
30 provision of chapter 893 to pay an additional assessment in an
31

1 amount up to the amount of any fine imposed, pursuant to ss.
2 938.21 and 938.23.

3 b. Require the offender who violates any provision of
4 s. 893.13 to pay an additional assessment in an amount of
5 \$100, pursuant to ss. 938.25 and 943.361.

6 13. Impose a split sentence whereby the offender is to
7 be placed in a county jail or county work camp upon the
8 completion of any specified term of community supervision.

9 14. Impose split probation whereby upon satisfactory
10 completion of half the term of probation, the Department of
11 Corrections may place the offender on administrative probation
12 pursuant to s. 948.01 for the remainder of the term of
13 supervision.

14 15. Require residence in a state probation and
15 restitution center or private drug treatment program for
16 offenders on community control or offenders who have violated
17 conditions of probation.

18 16. Impose any other sanction which is provided within
19 the community and approved as an intermediate sanction by the
20 county public safety coordinating council as described in s.
21 951.26.

22 17. Impose, as a condition of community control,
23 probation, or probation following incarceration, a requirement
24 that an offender who has not obtained a high school diploma or
25 high school equivalency diploma or who lacks basic or
26 functional literacy skills, upon acceptance by an adult
27 education program, make a good faith effort toward completion
28 of such basic or functional literacy skills or high school
29 equivalency diploma, as defined in s. 1003.435 ~~229-814~~, in
30 accordance with the assessed adult general education needs of
31 the individual offender.

1 Section 1040. Subsection (15) of section 943.10,
2 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

3 943.10 Definitions; ss. 943.085-943.255.--The
4 following words and phrases as used in ss. 943.085-943.255 are
5 defined as follows:

6 (15) "Public criminal justice training school" means
7 ~~any school defined in s. 228.041, or~~ any academy operated by
8 an employing agency, that is certified by the commission to
9 conduct criminal justice training courses.

10 Section 1041. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of
11 section 943.22, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

12 943.22 Salary incentive program for full-time
13 officers.--

14 (1) For the purpose of this section, the term:

15 (c) "Community college degree or equivalent" means
16 graduation from an accredited community college or having been
17 granted a degree pursuant to s. 1007.25(10)~~240.239~~ or
18 successful completion of 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours
19 and eligibility to receive an associate degree from an
20 accredited college, university, or community college.

21 Section 1042. Paragraphs (b), (c), and (i) of
22 subsection (3) of section 944.801, Florida Statutes, are
23 amended to read:

24 944.801 Education for state prisoners.--

25 (3) The responsibilities of the Correctional Education
26 Program shall be to:

27 (b) ~~In cooperation with the Department of Education,~~
28 ~~pursuant to s. 229.565,~~ Monitor and assess all inmate
29 education program services and report the results of such
30 evaluation in the annual report of activities.

31

1 (c) ~~In cooperation with the Department of Education,~~
2 ~~pursuant to s. 229.8075,~~ Develop complete and reliable
3 statistics on the educational histories, the city/intracity
4 area and school district where the inmate was domiciled prior
5 to incarceration, the participation in state educational and
6 training programs, and the occupations of inmates confined to
7 state correctional facilities. The compiled statistics shall
8 be summarized and analyzed in the annual report of
9 correctional educational activities required by paragraph (f).

10 (i) Ensure that every inmate who has 2 years or more
11 remaining to serve on his or her sentence at the time that he
12 or she is received at an institution and who lacks basic and
13 functional literacy skills as defined in s. 1004.02 ~~239.105~~
14 attends not fewer than 150 hours of sequential instruction in
15 a correctional adult basic education program. The basic and
16 functional literacy level of an inmate shall be determined by
17 the average composite test score obtained on a test approved
18 for this purpose by the State Board of Education.

19 1. Upon completion of the 150 hours of instruction,
20 the inmate shall be retested and, if a composite test score of
21 functional literacy is not attained, the department is
22 authorized to require the inmate to remain in the
23 instructional program.

24 2. Highest priority of inmate participation shall be
25 focused on youthful offenders and those inmates nearing
26 release from the correctional system.

27 3. An inmate shall be required to attend the 150 hours
28 of adult basic education instruction unless such inmate:

29 a. Is serving a life sentence or is under sentence of
30 death.

31

1 b. Is specifically exempted for security or health
2 reasons.

3 c. Is housed at a community correctional center, road
4 prison, work camp, or vocational center.

5 d. Attains a functional literacy level after
6 attendance in fewer than 150 hours of adult basic education
7 instruction.

8 e. Is unable to enter such instruction because of
9 insufficient facilities, staff, or classroom capacity.

10 4. The Department of Corrections shall provide classes
11 to accommodate those inmates assigned to correctional or
12 public work programs after normal working hours. The
13 department shall develop a plan to provide academic and
14 vocational classes on a more frequent basis and at times that
15 accommodate the increasing number of inmates with work
16 assignments, to the extent that resources permit.

17 5. If an inmate attends and actively participates in
18 the 150 hours of instruction, the Department of Corrections
19 may grant a one-time award of up to 6 additional days of
20 incentive gain-time, which must be credited and applied as
21 provided by law. Active participation means, at a minimum,
22 that the inmate is attentive, responsive, cooperative, and
23 completes assigned work.

24 Section 1043. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (9)
25 of section 948.03, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

26 948.03 Terms and conditions of probation or community
27 control.--

28 (9)(a) As a condition of community control, probation,
29 or probation following incarceration, require an offender who
30 has not obtained a high school diploma or high school
31 equivalency diploma or who lacks basic or functional literacy

1 skills, upon acceptance by an adult education program, to make
2 a good faith effort toward completion of such basic or
3 functional literacy skills or high school equivalency diploma,
4 as defined in s. 1003.435 ~~229.814~~, in accordance with the
5 assessed adult general education needs of the individual
6 offender. The court shall not revoke community control,
7 probation, or probation following incarceration because of the
8 offender's inability to achieve such skills or diploma but may
9 revoke community control, probation, or probation following
10 incarceration if the offender fails to make a good faith
11 effort to achieve such skills or diploma. The court may grant
12 early termination of community control, probation, or
13 probation following incarceration upon the offender's
14 successful completion of the approved program. As used in
15 this subsection, "good faith effort" means the offender is
16 enrolled in a program of instruction and is attending and
17 making satisfactory progress toward completion of the
18 requirements.

19 (b) A juvenile on community control who is a public
20 school student must attend a public adult education program or
21 a dropout prevention program, pursuant to s. 1003.53 ~~230.2316~~,
22 which includes a second chance school or an alternative to
23 expulsion, if the school district where the juvenile is
24 enrolled offers such programs, unless the principal of the
25 school determines that special circumstances warrant
26 continuation in the regular educational school program.

27 Section 1044. Paragraph (b) of subsection (9) and
28 subsection (27) of section 984.03, Florida Statutes, are
29 amended to read:

30 984.03 Definitions.--When used in this chapter, the
31 term:

1 (9) "Child in need of services" means a child for whom
2 there is no pending investigation into an allegation or
3 suspicion of abuse, neglect, or abandonment; no pending
4 referral alleging the child is delinquent; or no current
5 supervision by the Department of Juvenile Justice or the
6 Department of Children and Family Services for an adjudication
7 of dependency or delinquency. The child must also, pursuant to
8 this chapter, be found by the court:

9 (b) To be habitually truant from school, while subject
10 to compulsory school attendance, despite reasonable efforts to
11 remedy the situation pursuant to ss. 1003.26 ~~232.17~~ and
12 1003.27 ~~232.19~~ and through voluntary participation by the
13 child's parents or legal custodians and by the child in family
14 mediation, services, and treatment offered by the Department
15 of Juvenile Justice or the Department of Children and Family
16 Services; or

17 (27) "Habitually truant" means that:

18 (a) The child has 15 unexcused absences within 90
19 calendar days with or without the knowledge or justifiable
20 consent of the child's parent or legal guardian, is subject to
21 compulsory school attendance under s. 1003.21(1) and (2)(a)
22 ~~232.01~~, and is not exempt under s. 1003.21(3) ~~232.06~~, s.
23 1003.24 ~~232.09~~, or any other exemptions specified by law or
24 the rules of the State Board of Education.

25 (b) Activities to determine the cause, and to attempt
26 the remediation, of the child's truant behavior under ss.
27 1003.26 ~~232.17~~ and 1003.27(3) ~~232.19(3)~~, have been completed.

28
29 If a child who is subject to compulsory school attendance is
30 responsive to the interventions described in ss. 1003.26
31 ~~232.17~~ and 1003.27(3) ~~232.19(3)~~ and has completed the

1 necessary requirements to pass the current grade as indicated
2 in the district pupil progression plan, the child shall not be
3 determined to be habitually truant and shall be passed. If a
4 child within the compulsory school attendance age has 15
5 unexcused absences within 90 calendar days or fails to enroll
6 in school, the State Attorney may, or the appropriate
7 jurisdictional agency shall, file a child-in-need-of-services
8 petition if recommended by the case staffing committee, unless
9 it is determined that another alternative action is
10 preferable. The failure or refusal of the parent or legal
11 guardian or the child to participate, or make a good faith
12 effort to participate, in the activities prescribed to remedy
13 the truant behavior, or the failure or refusal of the child to
14 return to school after participation in activities required by
15 this subsection, or the failure of the child to stop the
16 truant behavior after the school administration and the
17 Department of Juvenile Justice have worked with the child as
18 described in ss. 1003.26 ~~232.17~~ and 1003.27(3) ~~232.19(3)~~ shall
19 be handled as prescribed in s. 1003.27 ~~232.19~~.

20 Section 1045. Section 984.05, Florida Statutes, is
21 amended to read:

22 984.05 Rules relating to habitual truants; adoption by
23 Department of Education and Department of Juvenile
24 Justice.--The Department of Juvenile Justice and the
25 Department of Education shall work together on the development
26 of, and shall adopt, rules as necessary for the implementation
27 of ss. ~~232.19~~, 984.03(27), ~~and~~ 985.03(25), and 1003.27.

28 Section 1046. Subsection (1) of section 984.151,
29 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

30 984.151 Truancy petition; prosecution; disposition.--
31

1 (1) If the school determines that a student subject to
2 compulsory school attendance has had at least five unexcused
3 absences, or absences for which the reasons are unknown,
4 within a calendar month or 10 unexcused absences, or absences
5 for which the reasons are unknown, within a 90-calendar-day
6 period pursuant to s. 1003.26(1)(b)~~232.17(1)(b)~~, or has had
7 more than 15 unexcused absences in a 90-calendar-day period,
8 the superintendent of schools may file a truancy petition.

9 Section 1047. Subsection (3) of section 984.19,
10 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

11 984.19 Medical, psychiatric, and psychological
12 examination and treatment of child; physical or mental
13 examination of parent, guardian, or person requesting custody
14 of child.--

15 (3) A judge may order that a child alleged to be or
16 adjudicated a child in need of services be examined by a
17 licensed health care professional. The judge may also order
18 such child to be evaluated by a psychiatrist or a
19 psychologist, by a district school board educational needs
20 assessment team, or, if a developmental disability is
21 suspected or alleged, by the developmental disability
22 diagnostic and evaluation team of the Department of Children
23 and Family Services. The judge may order a family assessment
24 if that assessment was not completed at an earlier time. If
25 it is necessary to place a child in a residential facility for
26 such evaluation, then the criteria and procedure established
27 in s. 394.463(2) or chapter 393 shall be used, whichever is
28 applicable. The educational needs assessment provided by the
29 district school board educational needs assessment team shall
30 include, but not be limited to, reports of intelligence and
31 achievement tests, screening for learning disabilities and

1 other handicaps, and screening for the need for alternative
2 education pursuant to s. 1003.53 ~~230.2316~~.

3 Section 1048. Paragraph (b) of subsection (8) and
4 subsection (25) of section 985.03, Florida Statutes, are
5 amended to read:

6 985.03 Definitions.--When used in this chapter, the
7 term:

8 (8) "Child in need of services" means a child for whom
9 there is no pending investigation into an allegation or
10 suspicion of abuse, neglect, or abandonment; no pending
11 referral alleging the child is delinquent; or no current
12 supervision by the Department of Juvenile Justice or the
13 Department of Children and Family Services for an adjudication
14 of dependency or delinquency. The child must also, pursuant to
15 this chapter, be found by the court:

16 (b) To be habitually truant from school, while subject
17 to compulsory school attendance, despite reasonable efforts to
18 remedy the situation pursuant to ss. 1003.26 ~~232.17~~ and
19 1003.27 ~~232.19~~ and through voluntary participation by the
20 child's parents or legal custodians and by the child in family
21 mediation, services, and treatment offered by the Department
22 of Juvenile Justice or the Department of Children and Family
23 Services; or

24 (25) "Habitually truant" means that:

25 (a) The child has 15 unexcused absences within 90
26 calendar days with or without the knowledge or justifiable
27 consent of the child's parent or legal guardian, is subject to
28 compulsory school attendance under s. 1003.21(1) and (2)(a)
29 ~~232.01~~, and is not exempt under s. 1003.21(3) ~~232.06~~, s.
30 1003.24 ~~232.09~~, or any other exemptions specified by law or
31 the rules of the State Board of Education.

1 (b) Escalating activities to determine the cause, and
2 to attempt the remediation, of the child's truant behavior
3 under ss. 1003.26 ~~232.17~~ and 1003.27 ~~232.19~~ have been
4 completed.

5
6 If a child who is subject to compulsory school attendance is
7 responsive to the interventions described in ss. 1003.26
8 ~~232.17~~ and 1003.27 ~~232.19~~ and has completed the necessary
9 requirements to pass the current grade as indicated in the
10 district pupil progression plan, the child shall not be
11 determined to be habitually truant and shall be passed. If a
12 child within the compulsory school attendance age has 15
13 unexcused absences within 90 calendar days or fails to enroll
14 in school, the state attorney may file a
15 child-in-need-of-services petition. Prior to filing a
16 petition, the child must be referred to the appropriate agency
17 for evaluation. After consulting with the evaluating agency,
18 the state attorney may elect to file a
19 child-in-need-of-services petition.

20 (c) A school representative, designated according to
21 school board policy, and a juvenile probation officer of the
22 Department of Juvenile Justice have jointly investigated the
23 truancy problem or, if that was not feasible, have performed
24 separate investigations to identify conditions that could be
25 contributing to the truant behavior; and if, after a joint
26 staffing of the case to determine the necessity for services,
27 such services were determined to be needed, the persons who
28 performed the investigations met jointly with the family and
29 child to discuss any referral to appropriate community
30 agencies for economic services, family or individual

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1 counseling, or other services required to remedy the
2 conditions that are contributing to the truant behavior.
3 (d) The failure or refusal of the parent or legal
4 guardian or the child to participate, or make a good faith
5 effort to participate, in the activities prescribed to remedy
6 the truant behavior, or the failure or refusal of the child to
7 return to school after participation in activities required by
8 this subsection, or the failure of the child to stop the
9 truant behavior after the school administration and the
10 Department of Juvenile Justice have worked with the child as
11 described in s. 1003.27(3)~~232.19(3)~~ shall be handled as
12 prescribed in s. 1003.27 ~~232.19~~.

13 Section 1049. Paragraph (b) of subsection (7) of
14 section 985.04, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

15 985.04 Oaths; records; confidential information.--

16 (7)

17 (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) or any other
18 provision of this section, when a child of any age is formally
19 charged by a state attorney with a felony or a delinquent act
20 that would be a felony if committed by an adult, the state
21 attorney shall notify the superintendent of the child's school
22 that the child has been charged with such felony or delinquent
23 act. The information obtained by the superintendent of schools
24 pursuant to this section must be released within 48 hours
25 after receipt to appropriate school personnel, including the
26 principal of the school of the child. The principal must
27 immediately notify the child's immediate classroom teachers.
28 Upon notification, the principal is authorized to begin
29 disciplinary actions pursuant to s. 1006.09(1)-(4) ~~232.26~~.

30 Section 1050. Subsection (5) of section 985.316,
31 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1 985.316 Conditional release.--

2 (5) Participation in the educational program by
3 students of compulsory school attendance age pursuant to s.
4 1003.21(1) and (2)(a)~~232.01~~ is mandatory for juvenile justice
5 youth on conditional release or postcommitment probation
6 status. A student of noncompulsory school-attendance age who
7 has not received a high school diploma or its equivalent must
8 participate in the educational program. A youth who has
9 received a high school diploma or its equivalent and is not
10 employed must participate in workforce development or other
11 career vocational or technical education or attend a community
12 college or a university while in the program, subject to
13 available funding.

14 Section 1051. Subsection (3) of section 985.412,
15 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

16 985.412 Quality assurance and cost-effectiveness.--

17 (3) The department shall annually collect and report
18 cost data for every program operated or contracted by the
19 department. The cost data shall conform to a format approved
20 by the department and the Legislature. Uniform cost data shall
21 be reported and collected for state-operated and contracted
22 programs so that comparisons can be made among programs. The
23 department shall ensure that there is accurate cost accounting
24 for state-operated services including market-equivalent rent
25 and other shared cost. The cost of the educational program
26 provided to a residential facility shall be reported and
27 included in the cost of a program. The department shall submit
28 an annual cost report to the President of the Senate, the
29 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader
30 of each house of the Legislature, the appropriate substantive
31 and fiscal committees of each house of the Legislature, and

1 the Governor, no later than December 1 of each year.
2 Cost-benefit analysis for educational programs will be
3 developed and implemented in collaboration with and in
4 cooperation with the Department of Education, local providers,
5 and local school districts. Cost data for the report shall
6 include data collected by the Department of Education for the
7 purposes of preparing the annual report required by s.
8 ~~1003.52(20)~~~~230.23161(21)~~.

9 Section 1052. The purpose of the Legislature in
10 revising this education code is to rearrange, renumber,
11 reword, reorder, streamline, consolidate, and update the code
12 consistent with current law and the new K-20 education
13 governance structure. It is not the purpose of the Legislature
14 in revising the education code to affect existing judicial or
15 administrative law.

16 Section 1053. Effective upon this act becoming a law,
17 the Secretary of Education, in consultation with the
18 Commissioner of Education, may establish, abolish, or
19 consolidate bureaus, sections, and subsections and may
20 reallocate duties and functions within the Department of
21 Education in order to promote effective and efficient
22 operation of the department and to implement changes to the
23 state system of education initiated by the adoption of the
24 1998 amendment to Art. IX of the State Constitution as
25 implemented by the Legislature in chapter 2001-170, Laws of
26 Florida. Authorized positions and appropriations may be
27 transferred from one budget entity to another as required to
28 implement the reorganization. This section is repealed
29 December 31, 2002.

30 Section 1054. Subsection (1) of section 187.201,
31 Florida Statutes, is repealed.

1 Section 1055. Section 2 of chapter 2000-181, Laws of
2 Florida, is repealed.

3 Section 1056. Part I of chapter 243 and chapters 228,
4 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 239, 240, 241,
5 242, 244, and 246, Florida Statutes (2001), are repealed.

6 Section 1057. In editing the manuscript for the 2002
7 Florida Statutes, the Division of Statutory Revision is
8 directed to incorporate any amendments, by laws passed during
9 the 2002 Regular Session of the Legislature or any 2002
10 Special Sessions of the Legislature, to provisions repealed by
11 this act into the parallel successor provisions created by
12 this act. The division is further directed to transfer any
13 provisions enacted within part I of chapter 243 or chapters
14 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 239, 240,
15 241, 242, 244, and 246, Florida Statutes, by 2002 legislation
16 to parallel locations in accordance with this act.

17 Section 1058. (1) Chapters 1000, 1001, 1002, 1003,
18 1004, 1005, 1006, 1007, 1008, 1009, 1010, 1011, 1012, and
19 1013, Florida Statutes, as created by this act, shall be
20 reviewed by the Legislature in the 2003 Regular Session of the
21 Legislature.

22 (2) This section is repealed July 1, 2003.

23 Section 1059. If any provision of this act or its
24 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
25 invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications
26 of the act which can be given effect without the invalid
27 provision or application, and to this end the provisions of
28 this act are declared severable.

29 Section 1060. Except as otherwise provided herein,
30 this act shall take effect January 7, 2003.

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HOUSE SUMMARY

Creates the "Florida K-20 Education Code," consisting of chapters 1000 through 1013, Florida Statutes. Repeals and amends current chapters and sections of law to conform to the act. Authorizes activities relating to reorganization of the Department of Education and implementation of changes to the state system of education. Provides for review of the education code during the 2003 Regular Session of the Legislature.