

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the Florida Virtual School; amending
 3 ss. 11.45, 1000.04, 1001.42, 1002.20, 1002.23, 1002.37,
 4 1003.02, 1003.03, 1003.52, 1007.27, and 1011.61, F.S.;
 5 providing for application of provisions relating to the
 6 Florida Virtual School to approved school district
 7 franchises of the school; providing an effective date.

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

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 11 Section 1. Paragraph (x) of subsection (3) of section
 12 11.45, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

13 11.45 Definitions; duties; authorities; reports; rules.--

14 (3) AUTHORITY FOR AUDITS AND OTHER ENGAGEMENTS.--The
 15 Auditor General may, pursuant to his or her own authority, or at
 16 the direction of the Legislative Auditing Committee, conduct
 17 audits or other engagements as determined appropriate by the
 18 Auditor General of:

19 (x) The Florida Virtual School and its approved school
 20 district franchises pursuant to s. 1002.37.

21 Section 2. Subsection (4) of section 1000.04, Florida
 22 Statutes, is amended to read:

23 1000.04 Components for the delivery of public education
 24 within the Florida K-20 education system.--Florida's K-20
 25 education system provides for the delivery of public education
 26 through publicly supported and controlled K-12 schools,
 27 community colleges, state universities and other postsecondary
 28 educational institutions, other educational institutions, and

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

29 | other educational services as provided or authorized by the
 30 | Constitution and laws of the state.

31 | (4) THE FLORIDA VIRTUAL SCHOOL.--The Florida Virtual
 32 | School and its approved school district franchises are
 33 | components ~~is a component~~ of the delivery of public education
 34 | within Florida's K-20 education system.

35 | Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (15) and subsection
 36 | (21) of section 1001.42, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

37 | 1001.42 Powers and duties of district school board.--The
 38 | district school board, acting as a board, shall exercise all
 39 | powers and perform all duties listed below:

40 | (15) PUBLIC INFORMATION AND PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT
 41 | PROGRAM.--

42 | (a) Adopt procedures whereby the general public can be
 43 | adequately informed of the educational programs, needs, and
 44 | objectives of public education within the district, including
 45 | educational opportunities available through the Florida Virtual
 46 | School and its approved school district franchises.

47 | (21) FLORIDA VIRTUAL SCHOOL.--Provide students with access
 48 | to enroll in courses available through the Florida Virtual
 49 | School and its approved school district franchises and award
 50 | credit for successful completion of such courses. Access shall
 51 | be available to students during or after the normal school day
 52 | and through summer school enrollment.

53 | Section 4. Paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of section
 54 | 1002.20, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

55 | 1002.20 K-12 student and parent rights.--Parents of public
 56 | school students must receive accurate and timely information

57 regarding their child's academic progress and must be informed
 58 of ways they can help their child to succeed in school. K-12
 59 students and their parents are afforded numerous statutory
 60 rights including, but not limited to, the following:

61 (6) EDUCATIONAL CHOICE.--

62 (a) Public school choices.--Parents of public school
 63 students may seek whatever public school choice options that are
 64 applicable to their students and are available to students in
 65 their school districts. These options may include controlled
 66 open enrollment, lab schools, charter schools, charter technical
 67 career centers, magnet schools, alternative schools, special
 68 programs, advanced placement, dual enrollment, International
 69 Baccalaureate, early admissions, credit by examination or
 70 demonstration of competency, the New World School of the Arts,
 71 the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, and the Florida
 72 Virtual School and its approved school district franchises.

73 These options may also include the public school choice options
 74 of the Opportunity Scholarship Program and the McKay
 75 Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program.

76 Section 5. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section
 77 1002.23, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

78 1002.23 Family and School Partnership for Student
 79 Achievement Act.--

80 (2) To facilitate meaningful parent and family
 81 involvement, the Department of Education shall develop
 82 guidelines for a parent guide to successful student achievement
 83 which describes what parents need to know about their child's
 84 educational progress and how they can help their child to

85 | succeed in school. The guidelines shall include, but need not be
 86 | limited to:

87 | (d) Opportunities for parents to learn about rigorous
 88 | academic programs that may be available for their child, such as
 89 | honors programs, dual enrollment, advanced placement,
 90 | International Baccalaureate, Florida Virtual ~~High~~ School courses
 91 | and courses of its approved school district franchises, and
 92 | accelerated access to postsecondary education;

93 | Section 6. Subsection (4) of section 1002.37, Florida
 94 | Statutes, is amended to read:

95 | 1002.37 The Florida Virtual School.--

96 | (4) School districts operating a virtual school that is an
 97 | approved franchise of the Florida Virtual School may count full-
 98 | time equivalent students, as provided in paragraphs ~~paragraph~~
 99 | (3)(a) and (b), if such school has been certified as an approved
 100 | franchise by the Commissioner of Education based on criteria
 101 | established by the board of trustees pursuant to paragraph
 102 | (2)(i).

103 | Section 7. Paragraph (i) of subsection (1) of section
 104 | 1003.02, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

105 | 1003.02 District school board operation and control of
 106 | public K-12 education within the school district.--As provided
 107 | in part II of chapter 1001, district school boards are
 108 | constitutionally and statutorily charged with the operation and
 109 | control of public K-12 education within their school district.
 110 | The district school boards must establish, organize, and operate
 111 | their public K-12 schools and educational programs, employees,
 112 | and facilities. Their responsibilities include staff

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113 development, public K-12 school student education including
114 education for exceptional students and students in juvenile
115 justice programs, special programs, adult education programs,
116 and career education programs. Additionally, district school
117 boards must:

118 (1) Provide for the proper accounting for all students of
119 school age, for the attendance and control of students at
120 school, and for proper attention to health, safety, and other
121 matters relating to the welfare of students in the following
122 fields:

123 (i) Parental notification of acceleration mechanisms.--At
124 the beginning of each school year, notify parents of students in
125 or entering high school of the opportunity and benefits of
126 advanced placement, International Baccalaureate, Advanced
127 International Certificate of Education, dual enrollment, and
128 Florida Virtual School courses and courses of its approved
129 school district franchises.

130 Section 8. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section
131 1003.03, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

132 1003.03 Maximum class size.--

133 (3) IMPLEMENTATION OPTIONS.--District school boards must
134 consider, but are not limited to, implementing the following
135 items in order to meet the constitutional class size maximums
136 described in subsection (1) and the two-student-per-year
137 reduction required in subsection (2):

138 (b) Adopt policies to encourage students to take courses
139 from the Florida Virtual School or its approved school district
140 franchises.

141 Section 9. Subsection (4) of section 1003.52, Florida
 142 Statutes, is amended to read:

143 1003.52 Educational services in Department of Juvenile
 144 Justice programs.--

145 (4) Educational services shall be provided at times of the
 146 day most appropriate for the juvenile justice program. School
 147 programming in juvenile justice detention, commitment, and
 148 rehabilitation programs shall be made available by the local
 149 school district during the juvenile justice school year, as
 150 defined in s. 1003.01(11). In addition, students in juvenile
 151 justice education programs shall have access to Florida Virtual
 152 School courses and courses of its approved school district
 153 franchises. The Department of Education and the school districts
 154 shall adopt policies necessary to ensure such access.

155 Section 10. Subsection (1) of section 1007.27, Florida
 156 Statutes, is amended to read:

157 1007.27 Articulated acceleration mechanisms.--

158 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature that a variety of
 159 articulated acceleration mechanisms be available for secondary
 160 and postsecondary students attending public educational
 161 institutions. It is intended that articulated acceleration serve
 162 to shorten the time necessary for a student to complete the
 163 requirements associated with the conference of a high school
 164 diploma and a postsecondary degree, broaden the scope of
 165 curricular options available to students, or increase the depth
 166 of study available for a particular subject. Articulated
 167 acceleration mechanisms shall include, but not be limited to,
 168 dual enrollment as provided for in s. 1007.271, early admission,

169 advanced placement, credit by examination, the International
 170 Baccalaureate Program, and the Advanced International
 171 Certificate of Education Program. Credit earned through the
 172 Florida Virtual School and its approved school district
 173 franchises shall provide additional opportunities for early
 174 graduation and acceleration.

175 Section 11. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section
 176 1011.61, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

177 1011.61 Definitions.--Notwithstanding the provisions of s.
 178 1000.21, the following terms are defined as follows for the
 179 purposes of the Florida Education Finance Program:

180 (1) A "full-time equivalent student" in each program of
 181 the district is defined in terms of full-time students and part-
 182 time students as follows:

183 (c)1. A "full-time equivalent student" is:

184 a. A full-time student in any one of the programs listed
 185 in s. 1011.62(1)(c); or

186 b. A combination of full-time or part-time students in any
 187 one of the programs listed in s. 1011.62(1)(c) which is the
 188 equivalent of one full-time student based on the following
 189 calculations:

190 (I) A full-time student, except a postsecondary or adult
 191 student or a senior high school student enrolled in adult
 192 education when such courses are required for high school
 193 graduation, in a combination of programs listed in s.
 194 1011.62(1)(c) shall be a fraction of a full-time equivalent
 195 membership in each special program equal to the number of net
 196 hours per school year for which he or she is a member, divided

197 by the appropriate number of hours set forth in subparagraph
 198 (a)1. or subparagraph (a)2. The difference between that fraction
 199 or sum of fractions and the maximum value as set forth in
 200 subsection (4) for each full-time student is presumed to be the
 201 balance of the student's time not spent in such special
 202 education programs and shall be recorded as time in the
 203 appropriate basic program.

204 (II) A prekindergarten handicapped student shall meet the
 205 requirements specified for kindergarten students.

206 (III) A Florida Virtual School full-time equivalent
 207 student shall consist of six full credit completions in the
 208 programs listed in s. 1011.62(1)(c)1. and 4. Credit completions
 209 can be a combination of either full credits or half credits.

210 2. A student in membership in a program scheduled for more
 211 or less than 180 school days is a fraction of a full-time
 212 equivalent membership equal to the number of instructional hours
 213 in membership divided by the appropriate number of hours set
 214 forth in subparagraph (a)1.; however, for the purposes of this
 215 subparagraph, membership in programs scheduled for more than 180
 216 days is limited to students enrolled in juvenile justice
 217 education programs and the Florida Virtual School and its
 218 approved school district franchises.

219
 220 The department shall determine and implement an equitable method
 221 of equivalent funding for experimental schools and for schools
 222 operating under emergency conditions, which schools have been
 223 approved by the department to operate for less than the minimum
 224 school day.

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Section 12. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.