

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Governor's School for Science and
3 Technology; creating s. 1002.371, F.S.; creating the
4 Governor's School for Science and Technology; requiring
5 the Florida Virtual School to manage and control the
6 Governor's School for Science and Technology; providing
7 criteria governing such management and control; providing
8 that the Governor's School for Science and Technology is a
9 public school for selected students in grades 9 through 12
10 who enroll in the school and reside on the school's
11 premises; providing for location of the school in Brevard
12 County; providing for commencement of the school's
13 classes; requiring the school to offer specified programs;
14 stating the mission of the school; requiring the Florida
15 Virtual School to appoint a director of the Governor's
16 School for Science and Technology and adopt rules
17 concerning operation of the school and selection of
18 individuals who are eligible to enroll in that school;
19 authorizing rulemaking by the Florida Virtual School;
20 creating the Governor's School for Science and Technology
21 Advisory Council; providing for purpose, membership,
22 duties, and operation of the council; exempting the
23 Governor's School for Science and Technology from certain
24 requirements concerning curriculum and operations in the
25 Florida School Code; providing for the Florida Virtual
26 School to be the fiscal agent of the Governor's School for
27 Science and Technology and to submit certain budget
28 requests; providing for funding the Governor's School for

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29 Science and Technology; amending ss. 1000.04, 1002.20, and
30 1003.02, F.S., relating to the components for the delivery
31 of public education, the rights of students and parents
32 concerning public school choice, and parental notice of
33 acceleration mechanisms by district school boards;
34 conforming provisions to changes made by the act;
35 providing an appropriation; providing an effective date.
36

37 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
38

39 Section 1. Section 1002.371, Florida Statutes, is created
40 to read:

41 1002.371 Governor's School for Science and
42 Technology.--The Governor's School for Science and Technology
43 is established and shall be managed and controlled by the
44 Florida Virtual School in a manner that conforms to this
45 section.

46 (1) The Governor's School for Science and Technology is a
47 public school for grades 9 through 12. The attendance area for
48 the school is the entire state; however, admission to the school
49 is a privilege reserved for those qualified students who are
50 selected and is not a right afforded to the general population
51 of students in this state. The school shall be located in
52 Brevard County and be situated where connections between the
53 school and the Kennedy Space Center may most readily be
54 established. Students enrolled in the school must reside on the
55 school's premises. The school's first classes must commence in
56 the 2009-2010 academic year. The school shall offer:

57 (a) Accelerated programs in the areas of math, science,
58 and technology to qualified students in grades 9 through 12.

59 (b) Summer programs for elementary, middle, or high school
60 teachers.

61 (2) The mission of the Governor's School for Science and
62 Technology is to provide students in grades 9 through 12 with
63 advanced educational opportunities in the areas of science,
64 math, and technology in order to gain the knowledge and skills
65 necessary to succeed in those areas. The Florida Virtual School
66 shall administer and operate the Governor's School for Science
67 and Technology and shall:

68 (a) Appoint a director; and

69 (b) Adopt rules specifying:

70 1. The requirements that an individual must meet in order
71 to be qualified for admission to the Governor's School for
72 Science and Technology and the standards by which applicants
73 will be selected for admission to the school. Priority must be
74 given to individuals who excel or demonstrate interest in the
75 areas of math, science, or technology. The requirements and
76 standards may include, but are not limited to, scores on tests
77 or favorable recommendations from teachers or other school
78 officials.

79 2. The number of students that may be enrolled at the
80 school given the resources that are available.

81 3. The procedures by which an individual may apply for
82 admission to the school or appeal a decision concerning an
83 application to attend the school. Such procedures must conform
84 to applicable standards concerning the adequacy of due process.

85 4. The procedures by which the school must operate so as
 86 to maximize achievement of its mission.

87 (3) The Florida Virtual School may adopt rules under ss.
 88 120.536(1) and 120.54 to administer this section.

89 (4) (a) The Governor's School for Science and Technology
 90 Advisory Council is created within the Florida Virtual School.
 91 The purpose of the advisory council is to provide the Florida
 92 Virtual School with insight, expertise, and recommendations
 93 concerning the development and implementation of a plan for the
 94 Governor's School for Science and Technology.

95 (b) The advisory council consists of 13 members who shall
 96 be appointed by the board of trustees of the Florida Virtual
 97 School as follows:

98 1. One member representing the Technological Research and
 99 Development Authority.

100 2. Two members representing the Sunshine State Scholars
 101 Recognition Program.

102 3. One member representing the Florida Institute of
 103 Technology.

104 4. One member representing the Department of Education.

105 5. Two members representing the Florida Center for
 106 Mathematics and Science Education Research created under s.
 107 1004.86.

108 6. One member representing the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical
 109 University.

110 7. One member representing the University of Central
 111 Florida.

112 8. One member representing the University of Florida.

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113 9. One member representing the National Aeronautics and
114 Space Administration.

115 10. Two members representing the faculty of the Florida
116 Virtual School.

117 (c) Initial appointments shall be made by August 1, 2007.
118 Advisory council members shall be appointed to 5-year terms,
119 except that the initial terms shall be staggered so that five
120 members are appointed to 3-year terms, four other members are
121 appointed to 4-year terms, and four other members are appointed
122 to 5-year terms. An advisory council member who is absent from
123 three consecutive meetings of the council is automatically
124 removed from the council. Any vacancy on the advisory council
125 must be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term. An
126 advisory council member may not serve more than two consecutive
127 terms.

128 (d) The advisory council shall meet at least once each
129 quarter. A majority of the members of the advisory council
130 constitutes a quorum.

131 (e) Members of the advisory council shall serve without
132 compensation, but are entitled to reimbursement for per diem and
133 travel expenses in accordance with s. 112.061 while performing
134 their duties.

135 (4) In order to facilitate innovative practices, the
136 Governor's School for Science and Technology is exempt from each
137 requirement of the Florida School Code which relates to
138 curriculum and operations unless the requirement also relates to
139 civil rights or student health, safety, and welfare. This
140 subsection does not exempt the school from chapter 119 or s.

141 286.011.

142 (5) The Florida Virtual School is the fiscal agent of the
 143 Governor's School for Science and Technology and shall annually
 144 prepare and submit a legislative budget request for the
 145 Governor's School for Science and Technology in accordance with
 146 chapter 216.

147 (6) Funding for room, board, and transportation of
 148 students of the Governor's School for Science and Technology
 149 shall be as authorized in the General Appropriations Act. Other
 150 funding for the Governor's School for Science and Technology
 151 shall be provided from:

152 (a) Appropriations from the Legislature or a state agency;

153 (b) Contributions or endowments from private entities; and

154 (c) Moneys generated through the Florida Education Finance
 155 Program or a categorical fund by virtue of a student's
 156 enrollment in a public school. Moneys so generated must be
 157 provided for each student who is enrolled in the Governor's
 158 School for Science and Technology in the same manner and amount
 159 that such moneys would be provided to a district school board if
 160 the same student were enrolled in a standard public school.

161 Section 2. Subsection (5) is added to section 1000.04,
 162 Florida Statutes, to read:

163 1000.04 Components for the delivery of public education
 164 within the Florida K-20 education system.--Florida's K-20
 165 education system provides for the delivery of public education
 166 through publicly supported and controlled K-12 schools,
 167 community colleges, state universities and other postsecondary
 168 educational institutions, other educational institutions, and

169 other educational services as provided or authorized by the
 170 Constitution and laws of the state.

171 (5) THE GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.--The
 172 Governor's School for Science and Technology is a component of
 173 the delivery of public education within Florida's K-20 education
 174 system.

175 Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of section
 176 1002.20, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

177 1002.20 K-12 student and parent rights.--Parents of public
 178 school students must receive accurate and timely information
 179 regarding their child's academic progress and must be informed
 180 of ways they can help their child to succeed in school. K-12
 181 students and their parents are afforded numerous statutory
 182 rights including, but not limited to, the following:

183 (6) EDUCATIONAL CHOICE.--

184 (a) Public school choices.--Parents of public school
 185 students may seek whatever public school choice options that are
 186 applicable to their students and are available to students in
 187 their school districts. These options may include controlled
 188 open enrollment, lab schools, charter schools, charter technical
 189 career centers, magnet schools, alternative schools, special
 190 programs, advanced placement, dual enrollment, International
 191 Baccalaureate, International General Certificate of Secondary
 192 Education (pre-AICE), Advanced International Certificate of
 193 Education, early admissions, credit by examination or
 194 demonstration of competency, the New World School of the Arts,
 195 the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, the Governor's
 196 School for Science and Technology, and the Florida Virtual

197 School. These options may also include the public school choice
 198 options of the Opportunity Scholarship Program and the McKay
 199 Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program.

200 Section 4. Paragraph (i) of subsection (1) of section
 201 1003.02, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

202 1003.02 District school board operation and control of
 203 public K-12 education within the school district.--As provided
 204 in part II of chapter 1001, district school boards are
 205 constitutionally and statutorily charged with the operation and
 206 control of public K-12 education within their school district.
 207 The district school boards must establish, organize, and operate
 208 their public K-12 schools and educational programs, employees,
 209 and facilities. Their responsibilities include staff
 210 development, public K-12 school student education including
 211 education for exceptional students and students in juvenile
 212 justice programs, special programs, adult education programs,
 213 and career education programs. Additionally, district school
 214 boards must:

215 (1) Provide for the proper accounting for all students of
 216 school age, for the attendance and control of students at
 217 school, and for proper attention to health, safety, and other
 218 matters relating to the welfare of students in the following
 219 fields:

220 (i) Parental notification of acceleration mechanisms.--At
 221 the beginning of each school year, notify parents of students in
 222 or entering high school of the opportunity and benefits of
 223 advanced placement, International Baccalaureate, Advanced
 224 International Certificate of Education, dual enrollment, the

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225 Governor's School for Science and Technology, and Florida
226 Virtual School courses.

227 Section 5. The sum of \$1 million is appropriated from the
228 General Revenue Fund to the Florida Virtual School for the
229 purpose of paying salaries and other administrative expenses
230 necessary to develop a plan, secure facilities, develop the
231 sequence of courses for each grade level, and undertake other
232 activities necessary to commence operation of the Governor's
233 School for Science and Technology in the 2009-2010 academic
234 year.

235 Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.