



1 providing for the Florida Virtual School to be  
2 the fiscal agent of the Governor's School for  
3 Science and Technology and to submit certain  
4 budget requests; providing for funding the  
5 Governor's School for Science and Technology;  
6 amending ss. 1000.04, 1002.20, and 1003.02,  
7 F.S., relating to the components for the  
8 delivery of public education, the rights of  
9 students and parents concerning public school  
10 choice, and parental notice of acceleration  
11 mechanisms by district school boards;  
12 conforming provisions to changes made by the  
13 act; providing an appropriation; providing an  
14 effective date.

15  
16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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18 Section 1. Section 1002.371, Florida Statutes, is  
19 created to read:

20 1002.371 Governor's School for Science and  
21 Technology.--The Governor's School for Science and Technology  
22 is established and shall be managed and controlled by the  
23 Florida Virtual School in a manner that conforms to this  
24 section.

25 (1) The Governor's School for Science and Technology  
26 is a public school for grades 9 through 12. The attendance  
27 area for the school is the entire state; however, admission to  
28 the school is a privilege reserved for those qualified  
29 students who are selected and is not a right afforded to the  
30 general population of students in this state. The school shall  
31 be located in Brevard County and be situated where connections

1 between the school and the Kennedy Space Center may most  
2 readily be established. Students enrolled in the school must  
3 reside on the school's premises. The school's first classes  
4 must commence in the 2009-2010 academic year. The school shall  
5 offer:

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

9 (b) Summer programs for elementary, middle, or high  
10 school teachers.

11 (2) The mission of the Governor's School for Science  
12 and Technology is to provide students in grades 9 through 12  
13 with advanced educational opportunities in the areas of  
14 science, math, and technology in order to gain the knowledge  
15 and skills necessary to succeed in those areas. The Florida  
16 Virtual School shall administer and operate the Governor's  
17 School for Science and Technology and shall:

18 (a) Appoint a director; and

19 (b) Adopt rules specifying:

20 1. The requirements that an individual must meet in  
21 order to be qualified for admission to the Governor's School  
22 for Science and Technology and the standards by which  
23 applicants will be selected for admission to the school.  
24 Priority must be given to individuals who excel or demonstrate  
25 interest in the areas of math, science, or technology. The  
26 requirements and standards may include, but are not limited  
27 to, scores on tests or favorable recommendations from teachers  
28 or other school officials.

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

31

1           3. The procedures by which an individual may apply for  
2 admission to the school or appeal a decision concerning an  
3 application to attend the school. Such procedures must conform  
4 to applicable standards concerning the adequacy of due  
5 process.

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

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

10           (4)(a) The Governor's School for Science and  
11 Technology Advisory Council is created within the Florida  
12 Virtual School. The purpose of the advisory council is to  
13 provide the Florida Virtual School with insight, expertise,  
14 and recommendations concerning the development and  
15 implementation of a plan for the Governor's School for Science  
16 and Technology.

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

20           1. One member representing the Technological Research  
21 and Development Authority.

22           2. Two members representing the Sunshine State  
23 Scholars Recognition Program.

24           3. One member representing the Florida Institute of  
25 Technology.

26           4. One member representing the Department of  
27 Education.

28           5. Two members representing the Florida Center for  
29 Mathematics and Science Research created under s. 1004.86.

30           6. One member representing the Embry-Riddle  
31 Aeronautical University.

1           7. One member representing the University of Central  
2 Florida.

3           8. One member representing the University of Florida.

4           9. One member representing the National Aeronautics  
5 and Space Administration.

6           10. Two members representing the faculty of the  
7 Florida Virtual School.

8           (c) Initial appointments shall be made by August 1,  
9 2007. Advisory council members shall be appointed to 5-year  
10 terms, except that the initial terms shall be staggered so  
11 that five members are appointed to 3-year terms, four other  
12 members are appointed to 4-year terms, and four other members  
13 are appointed to 5-year terms. An advisory council member who  
14 is absent from three consecutive meetings of the council is  
15 automatically removed from the council. Any vacancy on the  
16 advisory council must be filled for the remainder of the  
17 unexpired term. An advisory council member may not serve more  
18 than two consecutive terms.

19           (d) The advisory council shall meet at least once each  
20 quarter. A majority of the members of the advisory council  
21 constitutes a quorum.

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

26           (4) In order to facilitate innovative practices, the  
27 Governor's School for Science and Technology is exempt from  
28 each requirement of the Florida School Code which relates to  
29 curriculum and operations unless the requirement also relates  
30 to civil rights or student health, safety, and welfare. This  
31

1 subsection does not exempt the school from chapter 119 or s.  
2 286.011.

3 (5) The Florida Virtual School is the fiscal agent of  
4 the Governor's School for Science and Technology and shall  
5 annually prepare and submit a legislative budget request for  
6 the Governor's School for Science and Technology in accordance  
7 with chapter 216.

8 (6) Funding for room, board, and transportation of  
9 students of the Governor's School for Science and Technology  
10 shall be as authorized in the General Appropriations Act.  
11 Other funding for the Governor's School for Science and  
12 Technology shall be provided from:

13 (a) Appropriations from the Legislature or a state  
14 agency;

15 (b) Contributions or endowments from private entities;  
16 and

17 (c) Moneys generated through the Florida Education  
18 Finance Program or a categorical fund by virtue of a student's  
19 enrollment in a public school. Moneys so generated must be  
20 provided for each student who is enrolled in the Governor's  
21 School for Science and Technology in the same manner and  
22 amount that such moneys would be provided to a district school  
23 board if the same student were enrolled in a standard public  
24 school.

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

27 1000.04 Components for the delivery of public  
28 education within the Florida K-20 education system.--Florida's  
29 K-20 education system provides for the delivery of public  
30 education through publicly supported and controlled K-12  
31 schools, community colleges, state universities and other

1 postsecondary educational institutions, other educational  
2 institutions, and other educational services as provided or  
3 authorized by the Constitution and laws of the state.

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

8 Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of section  
9 1002.20, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

10 1002.20 K-12 student and parent rights.--Parents of  
11 public school students must receive accurate and timely  
12 information regarding their child's academic progress and must  
13 be informed of ways they can help their child to succeed in  
14 school. K-12 students and their parents are afforded numerous  
15 statutory rights including, but not limited to, the following:

16 (6) EDUCATIONAL CHOICE.--

17 (a) Public school choices.--Parents of public school  
18 students may seek whatever public school choice options that  
19 are applicable to their students and are available to students  
20 in their school districts. These options may include  
21 controlled open enrollment, lab schools, charter schools,  
22 charter technical career centers, magnet schools, alternative  
23 schools, special programs, advanced placement, dual  
24 enrollment, International Baccalaureate, International General  
25 Certificate of Secondary Education (pre-AICE), Advanced  
26 International Certificate of Education, early admissions,  
27 credit by examination or demonstration of competency, the New  
28 World School of the Arts, the Florida School for the Deaf and  
29 the Blind, the Governor's School for Science and Technology,  
30 and the Florida Virtual School. These options may also include  
31 the public school choice options of the Opportunity

1 Scholarship Program and the McKay Scholarships for Students  
2 with Disabilities Program.

3 Section 4. Paragraph (i) of subsection (1) of section  
4 1003.02, Florida Statutes, is amended 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 education programs.

17 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 (i) Parental notification of acceleration  
24 mechanisms.--At the beginning of each school year, notify  
25 parents of students in or entering high school of the  
26 opportunity and benefits of advanced placement, International  
27 Baccalaureate, Advanced International Certificate of  
28 Education, dual enrollment, the Governor's School for Science  
29 and Technology, and Florida Virtual School courses.

30 Section 5. The sum of \$1 million is appropriated from  
31 the General Revenue Fund to the Florida Virtual School for the



1 purpose of paying salaries and other administrative expenses  
2 necessary to develop a plan, secure facilities, develop the  
3 sequence of courses for each grade level, and undertake other  
4 activities necessary to commence operation of the Governor's  
5 School for Science and Technology in the 2009-2010 academic  
6 year.

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

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10 SENATE SUMMARY

11 Creates the Governor's School for Science and Technology  
12 as a public school for selected students in grades 9  
13 through 12 who reside on the school's premises. Requires  
14 the Florida Virtual School to manage and control the  
15 Governor's School for Science and Technology. Requires  
16 that the Governor's School for Science and Technology be  
17 located in Brevard County, commence operation in the  
18 2009-2010 school year, and offer specified programs.  
19 States the mission of the school. Requires that the  
20 Florida Virtual School appoint a director of the  
21 Governor's School for Science and Technology and adopt  
22 rules concerning operation of, and the selection of  
23 individuals who may be enrolled in, that school.  
24 Authorizes rulemaking by the Florida Virtual School.  
25 Creates and provides for the purpose, membership, duties,  
26 and operation of the Governor's School for Science and  
27 Technology Advisory Council. Exempts the Governor's  
28 School for Science and Technology from certain  
29 requirements concerning curriculum and operations in the  
30 Florida School Code. Provides for the Florida Virtual  
31 School to be the fiscal agent of the Governor's School  
for Science and Technology and to submit certain budget  
requests. Provides for funding of the Governor's School  
for Science and Technology. Amends various other  
statutory provisions to conform.