

By Senator Thompson

12-01439-13

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship
3 Program; amending s. 1002.395, F.S.; requiring a
4 private school participating in the program to report
5 to the Department of Education the assessment scores
6 of any students who are administered certain
7 assessments; requiring the department to publish the
8 scores on its website; providing an effective date.

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

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12 Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (8) of section
13 1002.395, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

14 1002.395 Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program.—

15 (8) PRIVATE SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY AND OBLIGATIONS.—An eligible
16 private school may be sectarian or nonsectarian and must:

17 (c) Be academically accountable to the parent for meeting
18 the educational needs of the student by:

19 1. At a minimum, annually providing to the parent a written
20 explanation of the student's progress.

21 2. Annually administering or making provision for students
22 participating in the scholarship program in grades 3 through 10
23 to take one of the nationally norm-referenced tests identified
24 by the Department of Education or the statewide assessments
25 pursuant to s. 1008.22. Students with disabilities for whom
26 standardized testing is not appropriate are exempt from this
27 requirement. A participating private school must report a
28 student's scores to the parent. A participating private school
29 must annually report by August 15 the scores of all

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30 participating students to the independent research organization
31 described in paragraph (9)(j).

32 3. Cooperating with the scholarship student whose parent
33 chooses to have the student participate in the statewide
34 assessments pursuant to s. 1008.22 or, if a private school
35 chooses to offer the statewide assessments, administering the
36 assessments at the school.

37 a. A participating private school may choose to offer and
38 administer the statewide assessments to all students who attend
39 the private school in grades 3 through 10. A participating
40 private school shall report to the Department of Education the
41 scores of any students who are administered the statewide
42 assessments or any nationally norm-referenced tests. The
43 department shall publish the scores on its website so that a
44 parent is able to compare the assessment scores of participating
45 private schools to determine the best school for his or her
46 child.

47 b. A participating private school must submit a request in
48 writing to the Department of Education by March 1 of each year
49 in order to administer the statewide assessments in the
50 subsequent school year.

51
52 The inability of a private school to meet the requirements of
53 this subsection shall constitute a basis for the ineligibility
54 of the private school to participate in the scholarship program
55 as determined by the Department of Education.

56 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.