

By Senator Legg

17-01274C-14

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to education technology; amending s.  
3       1011.62, F.S.; providing the purpose for the Florida  
4       digital classrooms allocation; requiring a school  
5       district to adopt a district digital classrooms plan  
6       and submit the plan to the Department of Education for  
7       approval; providing requirements for the plan;  
8       requiring that allocated funds be used for a specified  
9       purpose; requiring a district school board to submit  
10      to the department the district's digital classrooms  
11      plan; providing requirements for the district's plan;  
12      requiring the Commissioner of Education to adopt a  
13      Florida digital classrooms plan that establishes  
14      certain protocols, parameters, requirements, and  
15      digital tools; providing requirements for the plan;  
16      providing calculations for funding; requiring the  
17      commissioner to support statewide, coordinated  
18      partnerships and efforts of education practitioners to  
19      identify and share best practices, corrective actions,  
20      and other identified needs; requiring each district  
21      school board to report by a specified date to the  
22      department the district's use of funds and student  
23      performance outcomes; requiring the commissioner to  
24      provide by a specified date to the Governor and the  
25      Legislature a summary of each district's use of funds,  
26      student performance outcomes, and progress toward  
27      meeting statutory requirements and timelines; amending  
28      s. 1002.33, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes  
29      made by the act; creating s. 1007.2616, F.S.;

17-01274C-14

2014790\_\_

30 requiring public schools to provide students in grades  
31 K-12 opportunities for learning computer coding and  
32 programming; requiring grade-specific instruction in  
33 specified areas; requiring elementary schools and  
34 middle schools to establish digital classrooms for  
35 specified purposes; requiring high schools to provide  
36 students with opportunities to take certain computer  
37 programming courses to satisfy requirements for high  
38 school graduation; requiring a Florida College System  
39 institution, and authorizing a state university, to  
40 offer students the option of completing a certain  
41 number of years of instruction in a computer  
42 programming language in lieu of completing the same  
43 number of years of foreign language instruction under  
44 certain circumstances; including such computer  
45 programming courses in the statewide course numbering  
46 system; providing that a preeminent state research  
47 university is not required to accept computer  
48 programming language as the equivalent to a certain  
49 number of years of foreign language education;  
50 authorizing the State Board of Education to adopt  
51 rules; providing an effective date.

52  
53 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

54  
55 Section 1. Subsection (15) is added to section 1011.62,  
56 Florida Statutes, to read:

57 1011.62 Funds for operation of schools.—If the annual  
58 allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each

17-01274C-14

2014790\_\_

59 district for operation of schools is not determined in the  
60 annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing  
61 the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as  
62 follows:

63 (15) FLORIDA DIGITAL CLASSROOMS.-

64 (a) The Florida digital classrooms allocation is created to  
65 improve outcomes related to student performance by emphasizing  
66 and supporting technology-enhanced classroom teaching and  
67 learning. The outcomes must be measurable and may also be unique  
68 to the needs of individual schools and school districts within  
69 the general parameters established by the Department of  
70 Education.

71 (b) Each district school board shall adopt a district  
72 digital classrooms plan that meets the unique needs of students,  
73 schools, and personnel and submit the plan for approval to the  
74 department. The district's plan must be within the general  
75 parameters established in the Florida digital classrooms plan  
76 pursuant to paragraph (c). Funds allocated under this subsection  
77 must be used to support implementation of district digital  
78 classrooms plans. By October 1, 2014, and by March 1 of each  
79 year thereafter on a date determined by the department, each  
80 district school board shall submit to the department, in a  
81 format prescribed by the department, a digital classrooms plan.  
82 At a minimum, such plan must include, and shall be annually  
83 updated to reflect, the following:

84 1. Measurable student performance outcomes. Outcomes  
85 related to student performance must result from the  
86 implementation of the district's digital classrooms plan for the  
87 current school year and subsequent 3 years, including outcomes

17-01274C-14

2014790\_\_

88 for students with disabilities. Results of the outcomes shall be  
89 reported at least annually and be accompanied by an independent  
90 evaluation and validation of the reported results.

91 2. Digital learning and technology infrastructure purchases  
92 and operational activities. Such purchases and activities must  
93 meet the measurable outcomes under subparagraph 1., including,  
94 but not limited to, connectivity, broadband access, wireless  
95 capacity, Internet speed, and data security, all of which must  
96 meet or exceed minimum requirements and protocols established by  
97 the department. For each year that the district uses funds for  
98 infrastructure, a third-party, independent evaluation of the  
99 district's technology inventory and infrastructure needs must  
100 accompany the district's plan.

101 3. Professional development purchases and operational  
102 activities. Such purchases and activities must meet the  
103 measurable outcomes under subparagraph 1., including, but not  
104 limited to, using technology in the classroom and improving  
105 digital literacy and competency.

106 4. Digital tool purchases and operational activities. Such  
107 purchases and activities must meet the measurable outcomes under  
108 subparagraph 1., including, but not limited to, competency-based  
109 credentials that measure and demonstrate digital competency and  
110 certifications; third-party assessments that demonstrate  
111 acquired knowledge and use of digital applications; and devices  
112 that meet or exceed minimum requirements and protocols  
113 established by the department.

114 5. Online assessment-related purchases and operational  
115 activities. Such purchases and activities must meet the  
116 measurable outcomes under subparagraph 1., including, but not

17-01274C-14

2014790\_\_

117 limited to, expanding the capacity to administer assessments and  
118 compatibility with minimum assessment protocols and requirements  
119 established by the department.

120 (c) The commissioner shall adopt a Florida digital  
121 classrooms plan that, at a minimum, establishes minimum  
122 protocols, parameters, and requirements for district-level  
123 infrastructure, school-level infrastructure, and digital tools  
124 that accommodate statutory requirements and timelines for  
125 instruction, learning, assessments, and accountability. The  
126 Florida digital classrooms plan shall be prepared for the  
127 current school year and the subsequent 5 years. The plan shall  
128 be reviewed and updated annually and must specify the criteria  
129 for the annual review and approval of the districts' digital  
130 classrooms plans.

131 (d) The Legislature shall annually provide in the General  
132 Appropriations Act a Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)  
133 allocation for implementation of the digital classrooms plan to  
134 be calculated in an amount up to 1 percent of the base student  
135 allocation multiplied by the total K-12 full-time equivalent  
136 student enrollment included in the FEFP calculations for the  
137 Legislative appropriation or as provided in the General  
138 Appropriations Act. Each school district shall be provided a  
139 minimum of \$100,000, with the remaining balance of the  
140 allocation to be distributed based on each district's proportion  
141 of the total K-12 full-time equivalent student enrollment.  
142 Distribution of funds for the Florida digital classrooms  
143 allocation shall begin following submittal of each district's  
144 digital classrooms plan, which must include formal verification  
145 of the superintendent's approval of the digital classrooms plan

17-01274C-14

2014790\_\_

146 of each charter school in the district and approval of the plan  
147 by the department. District allocations shall be recalculated  
148 during the fiscal year consistent with the periodic  
149 recalculation of the FEFP. School districts shall provide a  
150 proportionate share of the digital classrooms allocation to each  
151 charter school in the district, as required for categorical  
152 programs in s. 1002.33(17) (b). A school district may use a  
153 competitive process to distribute funds for the Florida digital  
154 classrooms allocation to the schools within the school district.

155 (e) For purposes of implementing the Florida digital  
156 classrooms plan and facilitating implementation of the district  
157 digital classrooms plans and charter school digital classrooms  
158 plans, the commissioner shall support statewide, coordinated  
159 partnerships and efforts of this state's education practitioners  
160 in the field, including, but not limited to, superintendents,  
161 principals, and teachers, to identify and share best practices,  
162 corrective actions, and other identified needs.

163 (f) Beginning in the 2015-2016 fiscal year, and each year  
164 thereafter, each district school board shall report to the  
165 department its use of funds provided through the Florida digital  
166 classrooms allocation and student performance outcomes in  
167 accordance with the district's digital classrooms plan. No later  
168 than October 1 of each year, beginning in the 2015-2016 fiscal  
169 year, the commissioner shall provide to the Governor, the  
170 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
171 Representatives, a summary of each district's use of funds,  
172 student performance outcomes, and progress toward meeting  
173 statutory requirements and timelines.

174 Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (17) of section

17-01274C-14

2014790\_\_

175 1002.33, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

176 1002.33 Charter schools.—

177 (17) FUNDING.—Students enrolled in a charter school,  
178 regardless of the sponsorship, shall be funded as if they are in  
179 a basic program or a special program, the same as students  
180 enrolled in other public schools in the school district. Funding  
181 for a charter lab school shall be as provided in s. 1002.32.

182 (b) The basis for the agreement for funding students  
183 enrolled in a charter school shall be the sum of the school  
184 district's operating funds from the Florida Education Finance  
185 Program as provided in s. 1011.62 and the General Appropriations  
186 Act, including gross state and local funds, discretionary  
187 lottery funds, and funds from the school district's current  
188 operating discretionary millage levy; divided by total funded  
189 weighted full-time equivalent students in the school district;  
190 multiplied by the weighted full-time equivalent students for the  
191 charter school. Charter schools whose students or programs meet  
192 the eligibility criteria in law are ~~shall be~~ entitled to their  
193 proportionate share of categorical program funds included in the  
194 total funds available in the Florida Education Finance Program  
195 by the Legislature, including transportation and the Florida  
196 digital classrooms allocation. Total funding for each charter  
197 school shall be recalculated during the year to reflect the  
198 revised calculations under the Florida Education Finance Program  
199 by the state and the actual weighted full-time equivalent  
200 students reported by the charter school during the full-time  
201 equivalent student survey periods designated by the Commissioner  
202 of Education.

203 Section 3. Section 1007.2616, Florida Statutes, is created

17-01274C-14

2014790\_\_

204 to read:

205 1007.2616 Computer and technology-related coding,  
206 programming, and rapid prototype printing instruction.-

207 (1) Public schools shall provide students in grades K-12  
208 opportunities for learning computer coding and computer  
209 programming. Such opportunities must include coding instruction  
210 in elementary school and middle school, instruction to develop  
211 students' computer usage and digital literacy skills in middle  
212 school, and courses in computer coding and computer programming  
213 in high school, including earning related industry  
214 certifications.

215 (2) Elementary schools and middle schools shall establish  
216 digital classrooms in which students are provided opportunities  
217 to improve digital literacy and competency; to learn digital  
218 skills, such as coding, multiple media presentation, and the  
219 manipulation of multiple digital graphic images; and to earn  
220 digital tools, such as recognitions and certifications pursuant  
221 to s. 1003.4203 and grade-appropriate, technology-related  
222 industry certifications.

223 (3) High schools shall provide students with opportunities  
224 to take computer programming courses to satisfy high school  
225 graduation requirements, including, but not limited to, the  
226 following:

227 (a) High school computer programming courses of sufficient  
228 rigor, as identified by the commissioner, such that 1 credit in  
229 computer programming language and the earning of related  
230 industry certifications constitute the equivalent of 1 credit of  
231 mathematics required for high school graduation. Computer  
232 programming language courses and technology-related industry



17-01274C-14

2014790\_\_

233 certifications, which are identified as eligible for meeting  
234 mathematics requirements for high school graduation, shall be  
235 included in the Course Code Directory.

236 (b) Levels of competency, as identified by the  
237 commissioner, in a computer programming language and the earning  
238 of technology-related industry certifications constitute the  
239 equivalent of the successful completion of 2 years of sequential  
240 high school foreign language instruction. Courses tied to the  
241 levels of competency in computer programming language and  
242 technology-related industry certifications shall be included in  
243 the Course Code Directory.

244 (c) High school computer technology courses in 3D rapid  
245 prototype printing of sufficient rigor, as identified by the  
246 commissioner, such that 1 or more credits in such courses and  
247 related industry certifications earned may satisfy up to 2  
248 credits of mathematics required for high school graduation.  
249 Computer technology courses in 3D rapid prototype printing and  
250 related industry certifications which are identified as eligible  
251 for meeting mathematics requirements for high school graduation  
252 shall be included in the Course Code Directory.

253 (d) Courses in computer programming language, such that 1  
254 credit, at the discretion of the local district school board,  
255 may satisfy 1 credit in physical education which is required for  
256 high school graduation.

257 (4) A Florida College System institution shall, and a state  
258 university may, offer students the option of completing 2 years  
259 of instruction in the same computer programming language in lieu  
260 of completing 2 years of foreign language instruction if  
261 computer programming language is appropriate for the student's

17-01274C-14

2014790\_\_

262 major. Computer programming courses that meet this requirement  
263 shall be included in the statewide course numbering system. A  
264 preeminent state research university under s. 1001.7065 is not  
265 required to accept computer programming languages as the  
266 equivalent of 2 years of foreign language education.

267 (5) The State Board of Education may adopt rules pursuant  
268 to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement this section.

269 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.