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Proposed Committee Substitute by the Committee on Appropriations  
(Appropriations Subcommittee on Education)

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to digital classrooms; amending s. 282.0051, F.S.; requiring the Agency for State Technology to establish and publish information technology architecture standards for purposes of implementing digital classrooms by a specified date; requiring the agency to collaborate with the Department of Education and the Department of Management Services to identify certain state contract procurement options for services that support such standards and to identify certain shared services available through the State Data Center to facilitate the implementation of school district digital classrooms plans; requiring the agency's annual assessment of the Department of Education to review specified issues with respect to school district digital classrooms plans and to provide planning assistance to address and reduce issues identified by the assessment; amending s. 282.00515, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference to changes made by the act; creating s. 282.0052, F.S.; establishing requirements for the agency or a contracted organization with respect to the establishment and assessment of digital classrooms information technology architecture standards; requiring the agency or contracted organization to annually submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature;



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28       prescribing report requirements; requiring the agency  
29       to annually update the Commissioner of Education on  
30       the status of technology infrastructure; requiring the  
31       Department of Education to annually update school  
32       districts regarding compliance with information  
33       technology architecture standards and provide planning  
34       guidance; requiring a school district to take certain  
35       action in the event of noncompliance with information  
36       technology architecture standards; amending s.  
37       1001.20, F.S.; requiring the Office of Technology and  
38       Information Services of the Department of Education to  
39       consult with the Agency for State Technology in  
40       developing the 5-year strategic plan for Florida  
41       digital classrooms; removing an obsolete date;  
42       revising requirements for the 5-year strategic plan;  
43       expanding the list of responsibilities of the Office  
44       of Technology and Information Services; amending s.  
45       1011.62, F.S.; revising the date by which district  
46       school boards must annually submit a digital  
47       classrooms plan to the Department of Education;  
48       requiring the department to contract with an  
49       independent auditing entity in the event of  
50       noncompliance with minimum protocols and requirements  
51       in the administration of online assessments; requiring  
52       a charter school to submit the school's digital  
53       classrooms plan to the applicable school district;  
54       specifying required format for the plan; specifying  
55       conditions for a school district to maintain  
56       eligibility for Florida digital classrooms allocation



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57 funds; requiring the Commissioner of Education to  
58 implement an online portal for electronic submission  
59 of digital classrooms plans by a specified date;  
60 requiring a charter school to annually report to the  
61 department regarding the use of specified funds;  
62 revising requirements for the commissioner's annual  
63 report to the Governor and the Legislature regarding  
64 the digital classrooms plan; amending s. 1011.71,  
65 F.S.; authorizing enterprise resource software to be  
66 acquired by certain fees and agreements; providing an  
67 appropriation; providing an effective date.

68  
69 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

70  
71 Section 1. Subsections (2), (7), and (10) of section  
72 282.0051, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

73 282.0051 Agency for State Technology; powers, duties, and  
74 functions.—The Agency for State Technology shall have the  
75 following powers, duties, and functions:

76 (2) Establish and publish information technology  
77 architecture standards that:

78 (a) ~~to~~ Provide for the most efficient use of the state's  
79 information technology resources and that ~~to~~ ensure  
80 compatibility and alignment with the needs of state agencies.  
81 The agency shall assist state agencies in complying with the  
82 standards.

83 (b) Address for purposes of implementing digital classrooms  
84 under s. 1011.62(12) issues that include, but are not limited  
85 to, device recommendations, security requirements, connectivity



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86 requirements, and browser expectations. Such standards must be  
87 published by December 1, 2015.

88 (7) (a) Participate with the Department of Management  
89 Services in evaluating, conducting, and negotiating competitive  
90 solicitations for state term contracts for information  
91 technology commodities, consultant services, or staff  
92 augmentation contractual services pursuant to s. 287.0591.

93 (b) Collaborate with the Department of Management Services  
94 in information technology resource acquisition planning.

95 (c) Collaborate with the Department of Education and the  
96 Department of Management Services to identify:

97 1. State term contract procurement options that are  
98 available to school districts which provide information  
99 technology commodities, consultant services, or staff  
100 augmentation contractual services that support the information  
101 technology architecture standards applicable to digital  
102 classrooms.

103 2. Shared services available to school districts through  
104 the State Data Center to facilitate the implementation of school  
105 district digital classrooms plans.

106 (10) (a) Beginning July 1, 2016, and annually thereafter,  
107 conduct annual assessments of state agencies to determine  
108 compliance with all information technology standards and  
109 guidelines developed and published by the agency, and beginning  
110 December 1, 2016, and annually thereafter, provide results of  
111 the assessments to the Executive Office of the Governor, the  
112 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
113 Representatives.

114 (b) Include in the annual assessment of the Department of



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115 Education under paragraph (a), the status of statewide  
116 implementation of digital classrooms and each school district's  
117 status of compliance with the information technology  
118 architecture standards identified under paragraph (2)(b),  
119 planning guidance to address identified gaps, and  
120 recommendations for improving cost efficiencies pursuant to s.  
121 282.0052.

122 Section 2. Section 282.00515, Florida Statutes, is amended  
123 to read:

124 282.00515 Duties of Cabinet agencies.—The Department of  
125 Legal Affairs, the Department of Financial Services, and the  
126 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services shall adopt the  
127 standards established in s. 282.0051(2)(a) ~~s. 282.0051(2)~~, (3),  
128 and (8) or adopt alternative standards based on best practices  
129 and industry standards, and may contract with the Agency for  
130 State Technology to provide or perform any of the services and  
131 functions described in s. 282.0051 for the Department of Legal  
132 Affairs, the Department of Financial Services, or the Department  
133 of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

134 Section 3. Section 282.0052, Florida Statutes, is created  
135 to read:

136 282.0052 Digital classrooms information technology  
137 architecture standards.—

138 (1) Beginning July 1, 2015, the Agency for State  
139 Technology, or an independent third-party professional  
140 organization that the agency contracts with, shall:

141 (a) Consult with the Department of Education to identify  
142 information technology architecture standards pursuant to s.  
143 282.0051 for the successful implementation of digital



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144 classrooms, pursuant to s. 1011.62(12), in public schools within  
145 the state beginning in the 2016-2017 school year. Such standards  
146 must include, but are not limited to, device recommendations,  
147 security requirements, connectivity requirements, and browser  
148 expectations.

149 (b) Perform an annual assessment of the state 5-year  
150 strategic plan developed pursuant to s. 1001.20 and school  
151 district digital classrooms plan adopted pursuant to s.  
152 1011.62(12) to determine the digital readiness of school  
153 districts and their compliance with the information technology  
154 architecture standards identified under paragraph (a). The  
155 digital readiness of school districts must be assessed using the  
156 digital readiness scorecard established under s. 1001.20(4)(a).

157 (c) Provide prospective planning guidance and technical  
158 assistance to the Department of Education, school districts, and  
159 public schools regarding identified gaps in technology  
160 infrastructure and recommended improvements to meet the  
161 information technology architecture standards identified under  
162 paragraph (a).

163 (d) Summarize and report, by May 1, 2016, for the 2015-2016  
164 school year, and by December 1 for each school year thereafter,  
165 to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of  
166 the House of Representatives:

167 1. The status of technology infrastructure of school  
168 districts and public schools within the state.

169 2. Recommendations for improving cost efficiencies and  
170 maximizing investments in technology by the state and school  
171 districts to establish digital classrooms.

172 (2) For the 2015-2016 school year, the Agency for State



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173 Technology must provide the status of technology infrastructure  
174 information regarding implementation of digital classrooms  
175 statewide and by each school district to the Commissioner of  
176 Education by April 1, 2016. For each school year thereafter, the  
177 status of technology infrastructure information must be provided  
178 to the commissioner by November 1 of each year.

179 (3) For the 2015-2016 school year, the Department of  
180 Education must provide to each school district the status of the  
181 statewide implementation of digital classrooms and the school  
182 district's status regarding compliance with the information  
183 technology architecture standards identified under paragraph  
184 (1) (a) by June 1, 2016. For each school year thereafter, the  
185 Department of Education must notify a school district regarding  
186 compliance with the information technology architecture  
187 standards by January 1 of each year. In addition, the Department  
188 of Education must provide planning guidance to address  
189 identified gaps and recommendations for improving cost  
190 efficiencies in accordance with subsection (1) to each school  
191 district. If the annual assessment indicates that a school  
192 district is not in compliance with the information technology  
193 architecture standards identified under paragraph (1) (a), the  
194 school district must, within 60 days from the date of receipt of  
195 such notification from the Department of Education become  
196 compliant; obtain an exemption to waive compliance from the  
197 Department of Education; or procure services through the agency  
198 or the Department of Management Services to achieve compliance.

199 Section 4. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section  
200 1001.20, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

201 1001.20 Department under direction of state board.—



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202 (4) The Department of Education shall establish the  
203 following offices within the Office of the Commissioner of  
204 Education which shall coordinate their activities with all other  
205 divisions and offices:

206 (a) *Office of Technology and Information Services.*—

207 1. Responsible for developing a 5-year strategic plan, in  
208 consultation with the Agency for State Technology, to  
209 incorporate the minimum information technology architecture  
210 standards for the successful implementation of digital  
211 classrooms to improve student performance outcomes under s.  
212 1011.62(12) for establishing Florida digital classrooms by  
213 October 1, 2014, and annually updating the plan by January 1  
214 each year thereafter. The Florida digital classrooms plan shall  
215 be provided to each school district and published on the  
216 department's website. The plan must:

217 a. Describe how technology will be integrated into  
218 classroom teaching and learning to assist the state in improving  
219 student performance outcomes and enable all students in Florida  
220 to be digital learners with access to digital tools and  
221 resources.

222 b. Identify minimum information technology architecture  
223 standards requirements, which ~~that~~ include specifications for  
224 hardware, software, devices, networking, security, and bandwidth  
225 capacity and guidelines for the ratio of students per device.  
226 The Office of Technology and Information Services shall consult  
227 with the Agency for State Technology in identifying minimum  
228 information technology architecture standards.

229 c. Establish minimum requirements for professional  
230 development opportunities and training to assist district





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231 instructional personnel and staff with the integration of  
232 technology into classroom teaching.

233 d. Identify the types of digital tools and resources that  
234 can assist district instructional personnel and staff in the  
235 management, assessment, and monitoring of student learning and  
236 performance.

237 2. Responsible for making budget recommendations to the  
238 commissioner, providing data collection and management for the  
239 system, assisting school districts in securing Internet access  
240 and telecommunications services, including those eligible for  
241 funding under the Schools and Libraries Program of the federal  
242 Universal Service Fund, and coordinating services with other  
243 state, local, and private agencies.

244 3. Responsible for coordinating with the Agency for State  
245 Technology to facilitate school districts' access to state term  
246 contract procurement options and shared services pursuant to s.  
247 282.0051(7)(c).

248 4. Responsible for consulting with the Agency for State  
249 Technology to establish uniform definitions of information  
250 technology architecture components which must be incorporated  
251 into the department's 5-year strategic plan. The uniform  
252 definitions must be incorporated by each charter school that  
253 seeks Florida digital classrooms allocation funds and by each  
254 district school board in the technology information annually  
255 submitted to the department which includes, but is not limited  
256 to, digital classroom plans and technology resources inventory.

257 5. Responsible for consulting with the Agency for State  
258 Technology to create a digital readiness scorecard to compare  
259 the digital readiness of school districts within the state. The



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260 scorecard must use the uniform definitions identified under this  
261 section and information technology architecture standards  
262 identified under s. 282.0052(1)(a). At a minimum, the scorecard  
263 must include the student-to-device ratio, the percentage of  
264 schools within each district that meet bandwidth standards, the  
265 percentage of classrooms within each district that meet wireless  
266 standards, the refresh rate of devices, network capacity,  
267 information storage capacity, and information security services.

268 Section 5. Paragraphs (b) through (e) of subsection (12) of  
269 section 1011.62, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

270 1011.62 Funds for operation of schools.—If the annual  
271 allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each  
272 district for operation of schools is not determined in the  
273 annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing  
274 the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as  
275 follows:

276 (12) FLORIDA DIGITAL CLASSROOMS ALLOCATION.—

277 (b) Each district school board shall adopt a district  
278 digital classrooms plan that meets the unique needs of students,  
279 schools, and personnel and submit the plan for approval to the  
280 Department of Education. In addition, each district school board  
281 must, at a minimum, seek input from the district's  
282 instructional, curriculum, and information technology staff to  
283 develop the district digital classrooms plan. The district's  
284 plan must be within the general parameters established in the  
285 Florida digital classrooms plan pursuant to s. 1001.20. In  
286 addition, if the district participates in federal technology  
287 initiatives and grant programs, the district digital classrooms  
288 plan must include a plan for meeting requirements of such



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289 initiatives and grant programs. Funds allocated under this  
290 subsection must be used to support implementation of district  
291 digital classrooms plans. By August ~~October 1, 2014,~~ and by  
292 ~~March~~ 1 of each year ~~thereafter~~, on a date determined by the  
293 department, each district school board shall submit to the  
294 department, in a format prescribed by the department, a digital  
295 classrooms plan. At a minimum, such plan must include, and be  
296 annually updated to reflect, the following:

297       1. Measurable student performance outcomes. Outcomes  
298 related to student performance, including outcomes for students  
299 with disabilities, must be tied to the efforts and strategies to  
300 improve outcomes related to student performance by integrating  
301 technology in classroom teaching and learning. Results of the  
302 outcomes shall be reported at least annually for the current  
303 school year and subsequent 3 years and be accompanied by an  
304 independent evaluation and validation of the reported results.

305       2. Digital learning and technology infrastructure purchases  
306 and operational activities. Such purchases and activities must  
307 be tied to the measurable outcomes under subparagraph 1.,  
308 including, but not limited to, connectivity, broadband access,  
309 wireless capacity, Internet speed, and data security, all of  
310 which must meet or exceed minimum requirements and protocols  
311 established by the department. For each year that the district  
312 uses funds for infrastructure, a third-party, independent  
313 evaluation of the district's technology inventory and  
314 infrastructure needs must accompany the district's plan.

315       3. Professional development purchases and operational  
316 activities. Such purchases and activities must be tied to the  
317 measurable outcomes under subparagraph 1., including, but not



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318 limited to, using technology in the classroom and improving  
319 digital literacy and competency.

320 4. Digital tool purchases and operational activities. Such  
321 purchases and activities must be tied to the measurable outcomes  
322 under subparagraph 1., including, but not limited to,  
323 competency-based credentials that measure and demonstrate  
324 digital competency and certifications; third-party assessments  
325 that demonstrate acquired knowledge and use of digital  
326 applications; and devices that meet or exceed minimum  
327 requirements and protocols established by the department.

328 5. Online assessment-related purchases and operational  
329 activities. Such purchases and activities must be tied to the  
330 measurable outcomes under subparagraph 1., including, but not  
331 limited to, expanding the capacity to administer assessments and  
332 compatibility with minimum assessment protocols and requirements  
333 established by the department. If the administration of online  
334 assessments after January 1, 2015, does not comply with the  
335 minimum assessment protocols and requirements established by the  
336 department, the department shall contract with an independent  
337 auditing entity that has expertise in the area of the  
338 noncompliance to evaluate the extent of the noncompliance and  
339 provide recommendations to remediate the noncompliance in future  
340 administrations of online assessments.

341 (c) The Legislature shall annually provide in the General  
342 Appropriations Act the FEFP allocation for implementation of the  
343 Florida digital classrooms plan to be calculated in an amount up  
344 to 1 percent of the base student allocation multiplied by the  
345 total K-12 full-time equivalent student enrollment included in  
346 the FEFP calculations for the legislative appropriation or as



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347 provided in the General Appropriations Act. Each school district  
348 shall be provided a minimum of \$250,000, with the remaining  
349 balance of the allocation to be distributed based on each  
350 district's proportion of the total K-12 full-time equivalent  
351 student enrollment. Distribution of funds for the Florida  
352 digital classrooms allocation shall begin following submittal of  
353 each district's digital classrooms plan, which must include  
354 formal verification of the superintendent's approval of the  
355 digital classrooms plan of each charter school in the district,  
356 and approval of the plan by the department. A charter school  
357 shall submit the school's digital classrooms plan, in a  
358 streamlined format prescribed by the department, to the  
359 applicable school district. Prior to the distribution of the  
360 Florida digital classrooms allocation funds, each district  
361 school superintendent shall certify to the Commissioner of  
362 Education that the district school board has approved a  
363 comprehensive district digital classrooms plan that supports the  
364 fidelity of implementation of the Florida digital classrooms  
365 allocation. District allocations shall be recalculated during  
366 the fiscal year consistent with the periodic recalculation of  
367 the FEFP. School districts shall provide a proportionate share  
368 of the digital classrooms allocation to each charter school in  
369 the district, as required for categorical programs in s.  
370 1002.33(17)(b). A school district may use a competitive process  
371 to distribute funds for the Florida digital classrooms  
372 allocation to the schools within the school district. Beginning  
373 in the 2016-2017 school year, to be eligible to receive Florida  
374 digital classrooms allocation funds, a school district must  
375 undergo an annual assessment pursuant to s. 282.0052 and an



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376 annual independent verification of its use of Florida digital  
377 classrooms allocation funds pursuant to paragraph (e).

378 (d) To facilitate the implementation of the district  
379 digital classrooms plans and charter school digital classrooms  
380 plans, the commissioner shall support statewide, coordinated  
381 partnerships and efforts of this state's education practitioners  
382 in the field, including, but not limited to, superintendents,  
383 principals, and teachers, to identify and share best practices,  
384 corrective actions, and other identified needs. By August 1,  
385 2016, the commissioner shall implement an online, web-based  
386 portal for school districts and charter schools to submit their  
387 digital classrooms plan.

388 (e) Beginning in the 2015-2016 fiscal year and each year  
389 thereafter, each district school board and charter school shall  
390 report to the department its use of funds provided through the  
391 Florida digital classrooms allocation and student performance  
392 outcomes in accordance with the district's digital classrooms  
393 plan. The department may contract with an independent third-  
394 party entity to conduct an annual independent verification of  
395 the district's use of Florida digital classrooms allocation  
396 funds in accordance with the district's digital classrooms plan.  
397 In the event an independent third-party verification is not  
398 conducted, the Auditor General shall, during scheduled  
399 operational audits of the school districts, verify compliance of  
400 the use of Florida digital classrooms allocation funds in  
401 accordance with the district's digital classrooms plan. No later  
402 than October 1 of each year, beginning in the 2015-2016 fiscal  
403 year, the commissioner shall provide to the Governor, the  
404 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of



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405 Representatives a summary of each district's student performance  
406 goals and outcomes, use of funds, in support of such student  
407 performance goals and outcomes, and progress toward meeting  
408 statutory requirements and timelines.

409 Section 6. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section  
410 1011.71, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

411 1011.71 District school tax.—

412 (2) In addition to the maximum millage levy as provided in  
413 subsection (1), each school board may levy not more than 1.5  
414 mills against the taxable value for school purposes for district  
415 schools, including charter schools at the discretion of the  
416 school board, to fund:

417 (d) The purchase, lease-purchase, or lease of new and  
418 replacement equipment; computer hardware, including electronic  
419 hardware and other hardware devices necessary for gaining access  
420 to or enhancing the use of electronic content and resources or  
421 to facilitate the access to and the use of a school district's  
422 digital classrooms plan pursuant to s. 1011.62, excluding  
423 software other than the operating system necessary to operate  
424 the hardware or device; and enterprise resource software  
425 applications that are classified as capital assets in accordance  
426 with definitions of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board,  
427 have a useful life of at least 5 years, and are used to support  
428 districtwide administration or state-mandated reporting  
429 requirements. Enterprise resource software may be acquired by  
430 annual license fees, maintenance fees, or lease agreements.

431 Section 7. For the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the sum of  
432 \$9,993,566 from the General Revenue Fund is appropriated in the  
433 "Special Categories - Contracted Services" appropriation



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434 category to the Agency for State Technology to conduct the  
435 agency's duties under s. 282.0051(10)(b), Florida Statutes.

436 Section 8. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.