

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to school choice; amending s. 1002.31,
3 F.S.; requiring district school boards to include a
4 specific report in their process for controlled open
5 enrollment; revising specified district school board
6 reporting requirements to include information relating
7 to school choice; amending s. 1002.33, F.S.; revising
8 the contents of an annual report charter school
9 sponsors must provide to the Department of Education;
10 revising the date by which the department must post a
11 specified annual report; deleting obsolete provisions;
12 revising provisions relating to charter school
13 enrollment preferences; providing that certain types
14 of facilities may be used to house a charter school
15 under certain circumstances; authorizing certain
16 entities to provide land to charter schools under
17 certain circumstances; amending s. 1002.333, F.S.;
18 revising definitions; defining the term "Florida
19 Opportunity Zone;" authorizing a hope operator to
20 operate a school of hope in a school district located
21 in a Florida Opportunity Zone; conforming provisions
22 to changes made by the act; revising the list of
23 school district facilities the department must
24 annually provide to school districts; revising the
25 school district and department responsibilities for

26 | such list; revising the approved uses of Schools of
27 | Hope Program funds by a hope operator; revising the
28 | amount of an award a traditional public school may
29 | receive through the Schools of Hope Program under
30 | certain circumstances; providing requirements for such
31 | awards; revising the number of traditional public
32 | school that will receive an award through the Schools
33 | of Hope Program; providing criteria for the selection
34 | of traditional public schools who receive awards;
35 | amending s. 1002.40, F.S.; revising the requirements
36 | for the termination of a Hope Scholarship upon
37 | enrollment in a public school; amending s. 1002.421,
38 | F.S.; deleting an exemption from certain background
39 | screenings for employees and personnel holding a valid
40 | Florida teaching certificate; conforming cross-
41 | references; amending s. 1003.621, F.S.; revising the
42 | eligibility criteria for a school district to be
43 | designated as an academically high-performing school
44 | district and to maintain its designation as such;
45 | creating s. 1004.6499, F.S.; providing the purpose of
46 | the Center for Community Schools within the University
47 | of Central Florida relating to community school
48 | models; providing definitions; providing requirements
49 | for a community organization; providing requirements
50 | for a community school model; authorizing the Center

51 for Community Schools to award grants to community
52 organizations to establish its community school model;
53 providing requirements for the award of such grants;
54 requiring the Center for Community Schools to publish
55 certain information on its website; providing an
56 effective date.

57
58 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

59
60 Section 1. Subsection (4) of section 1002.31, Florida
61 Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (j) is added to subsection
62 (3) of that section, to read:

63 1002.31 Controlled open enrollment; Public school parental
64 choice.—

65 (3) Each district school board shall adopt by rule and
66 post on its website the process required to participate in
67 controlled open enrollment. The process must:

68 (j) Report the number of applications received and the
69 percentage of applications granted per school year.

70 (4) In accordance with the reporting requirements of s.
71 1011.62, each district school board shall annually report the
72 number of students applying for and exercising public school
73 choice, by type, in accordance with rules adopted by the State
74 Board of Education.

75 Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5), paragraph (b)

76 | of subsection (6), paragraph (e) of subsection (10), and
77 | paragraph (c) of subsection (18) of section 1002.33, Florida
78 | Statutes, are amended to read:

79 | 1002.33 Charter schools.—

80 | (5) SPONSOR; DUTIES.—

81 | (b) Sponsor duties.—

82 | 1.a. The sponsor shall monitor and review the charter
83 | school in its progress toward the goals established in the
84 | charter.

85 | b. The sponsor shall monitor the revenues and expenditures
86 | of the charter school and perform the duties provided in s.
87 | 1002.345.

88 | c. The sponsor may approve a charter for a charter school
89 | before the applicant has identified space, equipment, or
90 | personnel, if the applicant indicates approval is necessary for
91 | it to raise working funds.

92 | d. The sponsor shall not apply its policies to a charter
93 | school unless mutually agreed to by both the sponsor and the
94 | charter school. If the sponsor subsequently amends any agreed-
95 | upon sponsor policy, the version of the policy in effect at the
96 | time of the execution of the charter, or any subsequent
97 | modification thereof, shall remain in effect and the sponsor may
98 | not hold the charter school responsible for any provision of a
99 | newly revised policy until the revised policy is mutually agreed
100 | upon.

101 e. The sponsor shall ensure that the charter is innovative
 102 and consistent with the state education goals established by s.
 103 1000.03(5).

104 f. The sponsor shall ensure that the charter school
 105 participates in the state's education accountability system. If
 106 a charter school falls short of performance measures included in
 107 the approved charter, the sponsor shall report such shortcomings
 108 to the Department of Education.

109 g. The sponsor shall not be liable for civil damages under
 110 state law for personal injury, property damage, or death
 111 resulting from an act or omission of an officer, employee,
 112 agent, or governing body of the charter school.

113 h. The sponsor shall not be liable for civil damages under
 114 state law for any employment actions taken by an officer,
 115 employee, agent, or governing body of the charter school.

116 i. The sponsor's duties to monitor the charter school
 117 shall not constitute the basis for a private cause of action.

118 j. The sponsor shall not impose additional reporting
 119 requirements on a charter school without providing reasonable
 120 and specific justification in writing to the charter school.

121 k. The sponsor shall submit an annual report to the
 122 Department of Education in a web-based format to be determined
 123 by the department.

124 (I) The report shall include the following information:

125 ~~(A) The number of draft applications received on or before~~

126 | ~~May 1 and each applicant's contact information.~~

127 | (A) ~~(B)~~ The number of ~~final~~ applications received on or
128 | before February ~~August~~ 1 and each applicant's contact
129 | information.

130 | (B) ~~(C)~~ The date each application was approved, denied, or
131 | withdrawn.

132 | (C) ~~(D)~~ The date each final contract was executed.

133 | (II) Annually, by November 1 ~~Beginning August 31, 2013,~~
134 | ~~and each year thereafter~~, the sponsor shall submit to the
135 | department the information for the applications submitted the
136 | previous year.

137 | (III) The department shall compile an annual report, by
138 | sponsor ~~district~~, and post the report on its website by January
139 | 15 ~~November 1~~ of each year.

140 | 2. Immunity for the sponsor of a charter school under
141 | subparagraph 1. applies only with respect to acts or omissions
142 | not under the sponsor's direct authority as described in this
143 | section.

144 | 3. This paragraph does not waive a sponsor's ~~district~~
145 | ~~school board's~~ sovereign immunity.

146 | 4. A Florida College System institution may work with the
147 | school district or school districts in its designated service
148 | area to develop charter schools that offer secondary education.
149 | These charter schools must include an option for students to
150 | receive an associate degree upon high school graduation. If a

151 Florida College System institution operates an approved teacher
152 preparation program under s. 1004.04 or s. 1004.85, the
153 institution may operate no more than one charter school that
154 serves students in kindergarten through grade 12. In
155 kindergarten through grade 8, the charter school shall implement
156 innovative blended learning instructional models in which, for a
157 given course, a student learns in part through online delivery
158 of content and instruction with some element of student control
159 over time, place, path, or pace and in part at a supervised
160 brick-and-mortar location away from home. A student in a blended
161 learning course must be a full-time student of the charter
162 school and receive the online instruction in a classroom setting
163 at the charter school. District school boards shall cooperate
164 with and assist the Florida College System institution on the
165 charter application. Florida College System institution
166 applications for charter schools are not subject to the time
167 deadlines outlined in subsection (6) and may be approved by the
168 district school board at any time during the year. Florida
169 College System institutions may not report FTE for any students
170 who receive FTE funding through the Florida Education Finance
171 Program.

172 5. A school district may enter into nonexclusive
173 interlocal agreements with federal and state agencies, counties,
174 municipalities, and other governmental entities that operate
175 within the geographical borders of the school district to act on

176 | behalf of such governmental entities in the inspection,
 177 | issuance, and other necessary activities for all necessary
 178 | permits, licenses, and other permissions that a charter school
 179 | needs in order for development, construction, or operation. A
 180 | charter school may use, but may not be required to use, a school
 181 | district for these services. The interlocal agreement must
 182 | include, but need not be limited to, the identification of fees
 183 | that charter schools will be charged for such services. The fees
 184 | must consist of the governmental entity's fees plus a fee for
 185 | the school district to recover no more than actual costs for
 186 | providing such services. These services and fees are not
 187 | included within the services to be provided pursuant to
 188 | subsection (20).

189 | (6) APPLICATION PROCESS AND REVIEW.—Charter school
 190 | applications are subject to the following requirements:

191 | (b) A sponsor shall receive and review all applications
 192 | for a charter school using the evaluation instrument developed
 193 | by the Department of Education. ~~A sponsor shall receive and~~
 194 | ~~consider charter school applications received on or before~~
 195 | ~~August 1 of each calendar year for charter schools to be opened~~
 196 | ~~at the beginning of the school district's next school year, or~~
 197 | ~~to be opened at a time agreed to by the applicant and the~~
 198 | ~~sponsor. A sponsor may not refuse to receive a charter school~~
 199 | ~~application submitted before August 1 and may receive an~~
 200 | ~~application submitted later than August 1 if it chooses.~~

201 ~~Beginning in 2018 and thereafter,~~ A sponsor shall receive and
202 consider charter school applications received on or before
203 February 1 of each calendar year for charter schools to be
204 opened 18 months later at the beginning of the school district's
205 school year, or to be opened at a time determined by the
206 applicant. A sponsor may not refuse to receive a charter school
207 application submitted before February 1 and may receive an
208 application submitted later than February 1 if it chooses. A
209 sponsor may not charge an applicant for a charter any fee for
210 the processing or consideration of an application, and a sponsor
211 may not base its consideration or approval of a final
212 application upon the promise of future payment of any kind.
213 Before approving or denying any application, the sponsor shall
214 allow the applicant, upon receipt of written notification, at
215 least 7 calendar days to make technical or nonsubstantive
216 corrections and clarifications, including, but not limited to,
217 corrections of grammatical, typographical, and like errors or
218 missing signatures, if such errors are identified by the sponsor
219 as cause to deny the final application.

220 1. In order to facilitate an accurate budget projection
221 process, a sponsor shall be held harmless for FTE students who
222 are not included in the FTE projection due to approval of
223 charter school applications after the FTE projection deadline.
224 In a further effort to facilitate an accurate budget projection,
225 within 15 calendar days after receipt of a charter school

226 application, a sponsor shall report to the Department of
227 Education the name of the applicant entity, the proposed charter
228 school location, and its projected FTE.

229 2. In order to ensure fiscal responsibility, an
230 application for a charter school shall include a full accounting
231 of expected assets, a projection of expected sources and amounts
232 of income, including income derived from projected student
233 enrollments and from community support, and an expense
234 projection that includes full accounting of the costs of
235 operation, including start-up costs.

236 3.a. A sponsor shall by a majority vote approve or deny an
237 application no later than 90 calendar days after the application
238 is received, unless the sponsor and the applicant mutually agree
239 in writing to temporarily postpone the vote to a specific date,
240 at which time the sponsor shall by a majority vote approve or
241 deny the application. If the sponsor fails to act on the
242 application, an applicant may appeal to the State Board of
243 Education as provided in paragraph (c). If an application is
244 denied, the sponsor shall, within 10 calendar days after such
245 denial, articulate in writing the specific reasons, based upon
246 good cause, supporting its denial of the application and shall
247 provide the letter of denial and supporting documentation to the
248 applicant and to the Department of Education.

249 b. An application submitted by a high-performing charter
250 school identified pursuant to s. 1002.331 or a high-performing

251 charter school system identified pursuant to s. 1002.332 may be
252 denied by the sponsor only if the sponsor demonstrates by clear
253 and convincing evidence that:

254 (I) The application of a high-performing charter school
255 does not materially comply with the requirements in paragraph
256 (a) or, for a high-performing charter school system, the
257 application does not materially comply with s. 1002.332(2)(b);

258 (II) The charter school proposed in the application does
259 not materially comply with the requirements in paragraphs
260 (9)(a)-(f);

261 (III) The proposed charter school's educational program
262 does not substantially replicate that of the applicant or one of
263 the applicant's high-performing charter schools;

264 (IV) The applicant has made a material misrepresentation
265 or false statement or concealed an essential or material fact
266 during the application process; or

267 (V) The proposed charter school's educational program and
268 financial management practices do not materially comply with the
269 requirements of this section.

270
271 Material noncompliance is a failure to follow requirements or a
272 violation of prohibitions applicable to charter school
273 applications, which failure is quantitatively or qualitatively
274 significant either individually or when aggregated with other
275 noncompliance. An applicant is considered to be replicating a

276 high-performing charter school if the proposed school is
277 substantially similar to at least one of the applicant's high-
278 performing charter schools and the organization or individuals
279 involved in the establishment and operation of the proposed
280 school are significantly involved in the operation of replicated
281 schools.

282 c. If the sponsor denies an application submitted by a
283 high-performing charter school or a high-performing charter
284 school system, the sponsor must, within 10 calendar days after
285 such denial, state in writing the specific reasons, based upon
286 the criteria in sub-subparagraph b., supporting its denial of
287 the application and must provide the letter of denial and
288 supporting documentation to the applicant and to the Department
289 of Education. The applicant may appeal the sponsor's denial of
290 the application in accordance with paragraph (c).

291 4. For budget projection purposes, the sponsor shall
292 report to the Department of Education the approval or denial of
293 an application within 10 calendar days after such approval or
294 denial. In the event of approval, the report to the Department
295 of Education shall include the final projected FTE for the
296 approved charter school.

297 5. Upon approval of an application, the initial startup
298 shall commence with the beginning of the public school calendar
299 for the district in which the charter is granted. A charter
300 school may defer the opening of the school's operations for up

301 to 3 years to provide time for adequate facility planning. The
302 charter school must provide written notice of such intent to the
303 sponsor and the parents of enrolled students at least 30
304 calendar days before the first day of school.

305 (10) ELIGIBLE STUDENTS.—

306 (e) A charter school may limit the enrollment process only
307 to target the following student populations:

308 1. Students within specific age groups or grade levels.

309 2. Students considered at risk of dropping out of school
310 or academic failure. Such students shall include exceptional
311 education students.

312 3. Students enrolling in a charter school-in-the-workplace
313 or charter school-in-a-municipality established pursuant to
314 subsection (15).

315 4. Students residing within a reasonable distance of the
316 charter school, as described in paragraph (20)(c). Such students
317 shall be subject to a random lottery and to the racial/ethnic
318 balance provisions described in subparagraph (7)(a)8. or any
319 federal provisions that require a school to achieve a
320 racial/ethnic balance reflective of the community it serves or
321 within the racial/ethnic range of other public schools in the
322 same school district.

323 5. Students who meet reasonable academic, artistic, or
324 other eligibility standards established by the charter school
325 and included in the charter school application and charter or,

326 in the case of existing charter schools, standards that are
327 consistent with the school's mission and purpose. Such standards
328 shall be in accordance with current state law and practice in
329 public schools and may not discriminate against otherwise
330 qualified individuals.

331 6. Students articulating from one charter school to
332 another pursuant to an articulation agreement between the
333 charter schools that has been approved by the sponsor.

334 7. Students living in a development in which a developer,
335 including any affiliated business entity or charitable
336 foundation, contributes to the formation, acquisition,
337 construction, or operation of one or more charter schools or
338 charter ~~provides the school facilities facility~~ and related
339 property in an amount equal to or having a total an appraised
340 value of at least \$5 million to be used as a charter schools
341 ~~school~~ to mitigate the educational impact created by the
342 development of new residential dwelling units. Students living
343 in the development shall be entitled to ~~no more than~~ 50 percent
344 of the student stations in the charter schools ~~school~~. The
345 students who are eligible for enrollment are subject to a random
346 lottery, the racial/ethnic balance provisions, or any federal
347 provisions, as described in subparagraph 4. The remainder of the
348 student stations shall be filled in accordance with subparagraph
349 4.

350 (18) FACILITIES.—

351 (c) Any facility, or portion thereof, used to house a
352 charter school whose charter has been approved by the sponsor
353 and the governing board, pursuant to subsection (7), shall be
354 exempt from ad valorem taxes pursuant to s. 196.1983. Library,
355 community service organization, museum, performing arts,
356 theatre, cinema, church, house of worship, temple, Florida
357 College System institution, college, and university facilities
358 may provide space or land to charter schools within their
359 facilities, land on which facilities are located, or adjacent
360 properties under their preexisting zoning and land use
361 designations without obtaining a special exception, rezoning, or
362 a land use change.

363 Section 3. Subsections (1), (2), and (4), paragraphs (b),
364 (d), and (h) of subsection (5), paragraph (d) of subsection (7),
365 paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of subsection (10), and paragraphs
366 (b) and (d) of subsection (11) of section 1002.333, Florida
367 Statutes, are amended to read:

368 1002.333 Persistently low-performing schools.—

369 (1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

370 (a) "Florida Opportunity Zone" means a population census
371 tract that has been designated by the United States Department
372 of the Treasury as a Qualified Opportunity Zone pursuant to
373 Internal Revenue Code s. 1400Z-1(b)(1)(B).

374 ~~(b)-(a)~~ "Hope operator" means an entity identified by the
375 department pursuant to subsection (2).

376 (c)~~(b)~~ "Persistently low-performing school" means a school
 377 that has earned three ~~consecutive~~ grades lower than a "C,"
 378 pursuant to s. 1008.34, in at least 3 of the last 5 years, and a
 379 school that was closed pursuant to s. 1008.33(4) within 2 years
 380 after the submission of a notice of intent.

381 (d)~~(e)~~ "School of hope" means:

382 1. A charter school operated by a hope operator which:

383 a. Serves students from one or more persistently low-
 384 performing schools and students who reside in a Florida
 385 Opportunity Zone;

386 b. Is located in a Florida Opportunity Zone or in the
 387 attendance zone of a persistently low-performing school or
 388 within a 5-mile radius of such school, whichever is greater; and

389 c. Is a Title I eligible school; or

390 2. A school operated by a hope operator pursuant to s.
 391 1008.33(4)(b)2. ~~s. 1008.33(4)(b)3.~~

392 (2) HOPE OPERATOR.—A hope operator is a nonprofit
 393 organization with tax exempt status under s. 501(c)(3) of the
 394 Internal Revenue Code that operates three or more charter
 395 schools that serve students in grades K-12 in Florida or other
 396 states with a record of serving students from low-income
 397 families and is designated by the State Board of Education as a
 398 hope operator based on a determination that:

399 (a) The past performance of the hope operator meets or
 400 exceeds the following criteria:

- 401 1. The achievement of enrolled students exceeds the
402 district and state averages of the states in which the
403 operator's schools operate;
- 404 2. The average college attendance rate at all schools
405 currently operated by the operator exceeds 80 percent, if such
406 data is available;
- 407 3. The percentage of students eligible for a free or
408 reduced price lunch under the National School Lunch Act enrolled
409 at all schools currently operated by the operator exceeds 70
410 percent;
- 411 4. The operator is in good standing with the authorizer in
412 each state in which it operates;
- 413 5. The audited financial statements of the operator are
414 free of material misstatements and going concern issues; and
- 415 6. Other outcome measures as determined by the State Board
416 of Education;
- 417 (b) The operator was awarded a United States Department of
418 Education Charter School Program Grant for Replication and
419 Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools within the preceding 3
420 years before applying to be a hope operator;
- 421 (c) The operator receives funding through the National
422 Fund of the Charter School Growth Fund to accelerate the growth
423 of the nation's best charter schools; or
- 424 (d) The operator is selected by a district school board in
425 accordance with s. 1008.33.

426
 427 An entity that meets the requirements of paragraph (b),
 428 paragraph (c), or paragraph (d) before the adoption by the state
 429 board of measurable criteria pursuant to paragraph (a) shall be
 430 designated as a hope operator. After the adoption of the
 431 measurable criteria, an entity, including a governing board that
 432 operates a school established pursuant to s. 1008.33(4)(b)3.,
 433 shall be designated as a hope operator if it meets the criteria
 434 of paragraph (a) or paragraph (c).

435 (4) ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOOLS OF HOPE.—A hope operator
 436 seeking to open a school of hope must submit a notice of intent
 437 to the school district in which a persistently low-performing
 438 school has been identified by the State Board of Education
 439 pursuant to subsection (10) or in which a Florida Opportunity
 440 Zone is located.

- 441 (a) The notice of intent must include:
- 442 1. An academic focus and plan.
 - 443 2. A financial plan.
 - 444 3. Goals and objectives for increasing student achievement
 445 for the students from low-income families.
 - 446 4. A completed or planned community outreach plan.
 - 447 5. The organizational history of success in working with
 448 students with similar demographics.
 - 449 6. The grade levels to be served and enrollment
 450 projections.

451 7. The proposed location or geographic area proposed for
452 the school consistent with the requirements of sub-subparagraphs
453 (1) (d) 1.a. and b ~~and its proximity to the persistently low-~~
454 ~~performing school.~~

455 8. A staffing plan.

456 (b) Notwithstanding the requirements of s. 1002.33, a
457 school district shall enter into a performance-based agreement
458 with a hope operator to open schools to serve students from
459 persistently low-performing schools and students residing in a
460 Florida Opportunity Zone.

461 (5) PERFORMANCE-BASED AGREEMENT.—The following shall
462 comprise the entirety of the performance-based agreement:

463 (b) The location or geographic area proposed for the
464 school of hope and its proximity to the persistently low-
465 performing school, as applicable.

466 (d) A plan of action and specific milestones for student
467 recruitment and the enrollment of students from persistently
468 low-performing schools and students residing in a Florida
469 Opportunity Zone, including enrollment preferences and
470 procedures for conducting transparent admissions lotteries that
471 are open to the public. Students from persistently low-
472 performing schools and students residing in a Florida
473 Opportunity Zone shall be exempt from any enrollment lottery to
474 the extent permitted by federal grant requirements.

475 (h) A provision allowing the hope operator to open

476 additional schools to serve students enrolled in or zoned for a
477 persistently low-performing school and students residing in a
478 Florida Opportunity Zone if the hope operator maintains its
479 status under subsection (3).

480 (7) FACILITIES.—

481 (d) No later than January ~~October~~ 1, the department ~~each~~
482 ~~school district~~ shall annually provide to school districts ~~the~~
483 ~~Department of Education~~ a list of all underused, vacant, or
484 surplus facilities owned or operated by the school district as
485 reported in the Florida Inventory of School Houses. A school
486 district may provide evidence to the department within 30 days
487 that the list contains errors or omissions. No later than April
488 1, annually, the department shall publish a final list of all
489 underused, vacant, or surplus facilities owned or operated by
490 each school district. A hope operator establishing a school of
491 hope may use an educational facility identified in this
492 paragraph at no cost or at a mutually agreeable cost not to
493 exceed \$600 per student. A hope operator using a facility
494 pursuant to this paragraph may not sell or dispose of such
495 facility without the written permission of the school district.
496 For purposes of this paragraph, the term "underused, vacant, or
497 surplus facility" means an entire facility or portion thereof
498 which is not fully used or is used irregularly or intermittently
499 by the school district for instructional or program use.

500 (10) SCHOOLS OF HOPE PROGRAM.—The Schools of Hope Program

501 is created within the Department of Education.

502 (a) A ~~school of~~ hope operator is eligible to receive funds
503 from the Schools of Hope Program for the following expenditures:

504 1. Preparing teachers, school leaders, and specialized
505 instructional support personnel, including costs associated
506 with:

507 a. Providing professional development.

508 b. Hiring and compensating teachers, school leaders,
509 executive directors, regional directors, and specialized
510 instructional support personnel until the school reaches full
511 enrollment for services beyond the school day and year.

512 2. Acquiring supplies, training, equipment, and
513 educational materials, including developing and acquiring
514 instructional materials.

515 3. Providing one-time startup costs associated with
516 providing transportation to students to and from the charter
517 school.

518 4. Carrying out community engagement activities, which may
519 include paying the cost of student and staff recruitment.

520 5. Providing funds to cover the nonvoted ad valorem
521 millage that would otherwise be required for schools and the
522 required local effort funds calculated pursuant to s. 1011.62
523 when the state board enters into an agreement with a hope
524 operator pursuant to subsection (5).

525 6. Providing funds for eligible capital outlay

526 expenditures pursuant to s. 1013.62(4), up to the amount
527 calculated pursuant to s. 1013.62(2), until the school is
528 eligible to receive charter school capital outlay pursuant to s.
529 1013.62(1).

530 7. Providing funds for the initial leasing, and related
531 costs, of a school facility in the event that a suitable
532 district-owned facility is unavailable or not leased in a timely
533 manner pursuant to paragraph (7) (d).

534 (b) A traditional public school that is required to submit
535 a turnaround plan for implementation pursuant to s. 1008.33(4)
536 is eligible to receive up to \$500 ~~\$2,000~~ per full-time
537 equivalent student from the Schools of Hope Program. Awards
538 shall continue during the implementation of the turnaround plan
539 and for 1 school year after the school exits turnaround status.
540 Awards for a traditional public school that is required to
541 submit a subsequent turnaround plan is contingent upon approval
542 of the turnaround plan by the state board and a subsequent plan
543 submitted pursuant to this paragraph. Awards shall be based upon
544 the strength of the school's plan for implementation and its
545 focus on evidence-based interventions that lead to student
546 success by providing wrap-around services that leverage
547 community assets, improve school and community collaboration,
548 and develop family and community partnerships. Wrap-around
549 services include, but are not limited to, tutorial and after-
550 school programs, student counseling, nutrition education,

551 parental counseling, health services, drug prevention programs,
552 food and clothing banks, and adult education. Plans for
553 implementation may also include models that develop a culture of
554 attending college, high academic expectations, character
555 development, dress codes, and an extended school day and school
556 year. The school district may enter into a contract with a
557 nonprofit organization to implement wrap-around services as part
558 of an integrated student support services model. At a minimum, a
559 plan for implementation must:

560 1. Establish wrap-around services that develop family and
561 community partnerships.

562 2. Establish clearly defined and measurable high academic
563 and character standards.

564 3. Increase parental involvement and engagement in the
565 child's education.

566 4. Describe how the school district will identify,
567 recruit, retain, and reward instructional personnel. The state
568 board may waive the requirements of s. 1012.22(1)(c)5., and
569 suspend the requirements of s. 1012.34, to facilitate
570 implementation of the plan.

571 5. Identify a knowledge-rich curriculum that the school
572 will use that focuses on developing a student's background
573 knowledge.

574 6. Provide professional development that focuses on
575 academic rigor, direct instruction, and creating high academic

576 and character standards.

577 7. Identify public and private funds that will be used to
578 sustain the plan beyond the grant award and provide assurances
579 that the grant award will not supplant existing funds provided
580 to the school.

581 (c) The state board shall:

582 1. Provide awards for up to 75 ~~25~~ schools and prioritize
583 awards for plans submitted pursuant to paragraph (b) that are
584 based on whole school transformation, ~~and that are~~ developed in
585 consultation with the school's principal, and demonstrate that
586 the plan will continue beyond the term of the award.

587 2. Annually report on the implementation of this
588 subsection in the report required by s. 1008.345(5), and provide
589 summarized academic performance reports of each traditional
590 public school receiving funds.

591 (11) STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AUTHORITY AND OBLIGATIONS.—
592 Pursuant to Art. IX of the State Constitution, which prescribes
593 the duty of the State Board of Education to supervise the public
594 school system, the State Board of Education shall:

595 (b) Adopt a standard notice of intent and performance-
596 based agreement that must be used by hope operators and district
597 school boards to eliminate regulatory and bureaucratic barriers
598 that delay access to high quality schools for students in
599 persistently low-performing schools and students residing in
600 Florida Opportunity Zones.

601 (d) Provide students in persistently low-performing
602 schools and students residing in Florida Opportunity Zones with
603 a public school that meets accountability standards. The State
604 Board of Education may enter into a performance-based agreement
605 with a hope operator when a school district has not improved the
606 school after 3 years of the interventions and support provided
607 under s. 1008.33 or has not complied with the requirements of
608 subsection (4). Upon the State Board of Education entering into
609 a performance-based agreement with a hope operator, the school
610 district shall transfer to the school of hope the proportionate
611 share of state funds allocated from the Florida Education
612 Finance Program.

613 Section 4. Subsection (5) of section 1002.40, Florida
614 Statutes, is amended to read:

615 1002.40 The Hope Scholarship Program.—

616 (5) TERM OF HOPE SCHOLARSHIP.—For purposes of continuity
617 of educational choice, a Hope scholarship shall remain in force
618 until the student returns to public school or graduates from
619 high school, whichever occurs first. A scholarship student who
620 enrolls in a public school or public school program within the
621 district is considered to have returned to a public school for
622 the purpose of determining the end of the scholarship's term. A
623 scholarship student who enrolls in a public school located
624 outside of the district in which the incident occurred shall
625 receive only a scholarship pursuant to paragraph (11)(b).

626 Section 5. Paragraph (m) of subsection (1) of section
 627 1002.421, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

628 1002.421 State school choice scholarship program
 629 accountability and oversight.—

630 (1) PRIVATE SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY AND OBLIGATIONS.—A private
 631 school participating in an educational scholarship program
 632 established pursuant to this chapter must be a private school as
 633 defined in s. 1002.01(2) in this state, be registered, and be in
 634 compliance with all requirements of this section in addition to
 635 private school requirements outlined in s. 1002.42, specific
 636 requirements identified within respective scholarship program
 637 laws, and other provisions of Florida law that apply to private
 638 schools, and must:

639 (m) Require each employee and contracted personnel with
 640 direct student contact, upon employment or engagement to provide
 641 services, to undergo a state and national background screening,
 642 pursuant to s. 943.0542, by electronically filing with the
 643 Department of Law Enforcement a complete set of fingerprints
 644 taken by an authorized law enforcement agency or an employee of
 645 the private school, a school district, or a private company who
 646 is trained to take fingerprints and deny employment to or
 647 terminate an employee if he or she fails to meet the screening
 648 standards under s. 435.04. Results of the screening shall be
 649 provided to the participating private school. For purposes of
 650 this paragraph:

651 1. An "employee or contracted personnel with direct
652 student contact" means any employee or contracted personnel who
653 has unsupervised access to a scholarship student for whom the
654 private school is responsible.

655 2. The costs of fingerprinting and the background check
656 shall not be borne by the state.

657 3. Continued employment of an employee or contracted
658 personnel after notification that he or she has failed the
659 background screening under this paragraph shall cause a private
660 school to be ineligible for participation in a scholarship
661 program.

662 ~~4. An employee or contracted personnel holding a valid
663 Florida teaching certificate who has been fingerprinted pursuant
664 to s. 1012.32 is not required to comply with the provisions of
665 this paragraph.~~

666 4.5. All fingerprints submitted to the Department of Law
667 Enforcement as required by this section shall be retained by the
668 Department of Law Enforcement in a manner provided by rule and
669 entered in the statewide automated biometric identification
670 system authorized by s. 943.05(2)(b). Such fingerprints shall
671 thereafter be available for all purposes and uses authorized for
672 arrest fingerprints entered in the statewide automated biometric
673 identification system pursuant to s. 943.051.

674 ~~5.6.~~ The Department of Law Enforcement shall search all
675 arrest fingerprints received under s. 943.051 against the

676 fingerprints retained in the statewide automated biometric
677 identification system under subparagraph 4. ~~subparagraph 5.~~ Any
678 arrest record that is identified with the retained fingerprints
679 of a person subject to the background screening under this
680 section shall be reported to the employing school with which the
681 person is affiliated. Each private school participating in a
682 scholarship program is required to participate in this search
683 process by informing the Department of Law Enforcement of any
684 change in the employment or contractual status of its personnel
685 whose fingerprints are retained under subparagraph 4.
686 ~~subparagraph 5.~~ The Department of Law Enforcement shall adopt a
687 rule setting the amount of the annual fee to be imposed upon
688 each private school for performing these searches and
689 establishing the procedures for the retention of private school
690 employee and contracted personnel fingerprints and the
691 dissemination of search results. The fee may be borne by the
692 private school or the person fingerprinted.

693 ~~6.7.~~ Employees and contracted personnel whose fingerprints
694 are not retained by the Department of Law Enforcement under
695 subparagraphs 4. and 5. ~~subparagraphs 5. and 6.~~ are required to
696 be refingerprinted and must meet state and national background
697 screening requirements upon reemployment or reengagement to
698 provide services in order to comply with the requirements of
699 this section.

700 ~~7.8.~~ Every 5 years following employment or engagement to

701 provide services with a private school, employees or contracted
702 personnel required to be screened under this section must meet
703 screening standards under s. 435.04, at which time the private
704 school shall request the Department of Law Enforcement to
705 forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation
706 for national processing. If the fingerprints of employees or
707 contracted personnel are not retained by the Department of Law
708 Enforcement under subparagraph 4. ~~subparagraph 5.~~, employees and
709 contracted personnel must electronically file a complete set of
710 fingerprints with the Department of Law Enforcement. Upon
711 submission of fingerprints for this purpose, the private school
712 shall request that the Department of Law Enforcement forward the
713 fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for national
714 processing, and the fingerprints shall be retained by the
715 Department of Law Enforcement under subparagraph 4. ~~subparagraph~~
716 ~~5.~~

717 The department shall suspend the payment of funds to a private
718 school that knowingly fails to comply with this subsection, and
719 shall prohibit the school from enrolling new scholarship
720 students, for 1 fiscal year and until the school complies. If a
721 private school fails to meet the requirements of this subsection
722 or has consecutive years of material exceptions listed in the
723 report required under paragraph (q), the commissioner may
724 determine that the private school is ineligible to participate
725 in a scholarship program.

726 Section 6. Paragraphs (a) and (d) of subsection (1) of
 727 section 1003.621, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

728 1003.621 Academically high-performing school districts.—It
 729 is the intent of the Legislature to recognize and reward school
 730 districts that demonstrate the ability to consistently maintain
 731 or improve their high-performing status. The purpose of this
 732 section is to provide high-performing school districts with
 733 flexibility in meeting the specific requirements in statute and
 734 rules of the State Board of Education.

735 (1) ACADEMICALLY HIGH-PERFORMING SCHOOL DISTRICT.—

736 (a) A school district is an academically high-performing
 737 school district if it meets the following criteria:

738 1.a. Earns at least two grades ~~a grade~~ of "A" and no grade
 739 below "B," "A" under s. 1008.34 during each of the previous 3
 740 school years or earned ~~for~~ 2 consecutive grades of "A" in the
 741 most recent 2 school years; and

742 b. Has no district-operated school that earns a grade of
 743 "F" under s. 1008.34;

744 2. Complies with all class size requirements in s. 1, Art.
 745 IX of the State Constitution and s. 1003.03; and

746 3. Has no material weaknesses or instances of material
 747 noncompliance noted in the annual financial audit conducted
 748 pursuant to s. 11.45 or s. 218.39.

749 (d) In order to maintain the designation as an
 750 academically high-performing school district pursuant to this

751 section, a school district must ~~meet the following requirements:~~

752 1. Comply with the provisions of subparagraphs (a)2. and
753 3.; and

754 2. earn a grade of "A" under s. 1008.34 for 2 years within
755 a 3-year period with no grade below a "B" during the same 3-year
756 period.

757
758 However, a district in which a district-operated school earns a
759 grade of "F" under s. 1008.34 during the 3-year period may not
760 continue to be designated as an academically high-performing
761 school district during the remainder of that 3-year period. The
762 district must meet the criteria in paragraph (a) in order to be
763 redesignated as an academically high-performing school district.

764 Section 7. Section 1004.6499, Florida Statutes, is created
765 to read:

766 1004.6499 The Center for Community Schools.—

767 (1) PURPOSE.—The Center for Community Schools at the
768 University of Central Florida provides technical assistance,
769 university-assisted partnerships, training, assessment, and
770 evaluation for the establishment and implementation of community
771 school models.

772 (2) DEFINITIONS.—

773 (a) "Center" means the Center for Community Schools at the
774 University of Central Florida.

775 (b) "Community organization" means a nonprofit

776 organization that has been in existence for at least 3 years and
777 serves individuals within a county in which a public school
778 implementing the community school model is located. The
779 community organization serves as the lead partner in the
780 community school model and facilitates the use of grant funds
781 under this section.

782 (c) "Community school model" means a school service model
783 developed by the center that utilizes a long-term partnership
784 among a school district, a community organization, a college or
785 university, and a healthcare provider to establish, develop, and
786 sustain a system for addressing student, family, and community
787 needs during and outside of the school day. The model must
788 establish a collaborative governance structure among the
789 community partners for providing services and include standards
790 for effective implementation, reporting, and evaluation at each
791 participating school. The governance structure may include other
792 community leaders such as parent-teacher organizations,
793 community businesses, and faith leaders. The model must also
794 provide for family engagement and expanded learning
795 opportunities and support for students.

796 (3) GRANT PROGRAM.—Contingent upon available funds, the
797 center may facilitate the implementation of its community school
798 model in the state through grants that enable community
799 organizations to establish long-term partnerships and secure
800 resources for planning, staffing, and providing services to

801 students and families through the community school model. The
802 center shall:

803 (a) Require a participating public school to establish
804 long-term partnerships and, within 1 year after receiving grant
805 funding under this section, execute a memorandum of
806 understanding with the partners. Grant awards must be contingent
807 upon the attainment of matching funds as required by the center.

808 (b) Prioritize planning grant awards for schools in school
809 districts in which the community school model has not been
810 established and based on demonstration of the technical and
811 financial ability to sustain the community school model beyond
812 an initial grant award.

813 (4) REPORTING.—The center shall publish on its website
814 information on each community organization receiving a grant
815 from the center to implement the community school model,
816 including:

817 (a) The amount of grant funds provided through the center
818 for each participating school and the amount of matching funds
819 provided by the community organization for each year the
820 community organization has received a grant for that school.

821 (b) The long-term partners who have entered into a
822 memorandum of understanding for implementing the community
823 school model pursuant to paragraph (2)(c).

824 (c) A description of the services and community engagement
825 activities provided through the community school model.

826 (d) The number of students, families, and community
827 members served through the community school model.

828 (e) The academic progress of students enrolled at the
829 public school, including student progression data, attendance,
830 behavior, and student achievement and learning gains on
831 statewide, standardized assessments as determined pursuant to s.
832 1008.34.

833 Section 8. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.