By Senator Taddeo

	40-00173A-21 2021724
1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to education; amending s. 1002.69,
3	F.S.; requiring the Department of Education to adopt
4	native language versions of the school readiness
5	screener, the school readiness assessment, the Florida
6	Voluntary Prekindergarten Assessment, and the Florida
7	Kindergarten Readiness Screener; requiring certain
8	private schools to administer such screeners and
9	assessments to certain students; providing for the
10	determination of when it is appropriate to administer
11	native language versions of the screeners and
12	assessments; amending s. 1003.435, F.S.; requiring
13	that a high school equivalency examination
14	administered in any language other than English be
15	given the same weight as a high school equivalency
16	examination administered in English; amending s.
17	1008.22, F.S.; revising requirements of the statewide,
18	standardized assessment program to include native
19	language versions of related assessments; requiring
20	certain private schools to administer native language
21	versions of such assessments to English language
22	learners and other students for whom it is
23	appropriate; providing for the determination of when
24	it is appropriate to administer native language
25	versions of such assessments; requiring the department
26	to create a timetable and an action plan for the
27	development and adoption of native language versions
28	of the assessments; requiring the state to accept
29	results on the high school equivalency examination

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30	from any language version of the examination;
31	providing for the administration of language
32	proficiency assessments; defining terms; requiring the
33	department to develop or identify content assessments
34	in target languages; providing for the administration
35	of content assessments in target languages in certain
36	education programs; requiring the department to create
37	a timetable and an action plan for the development and
38	adoption of native language examinations; requiring
39	the state board to adopt standards for heritage
40	language courses; requiring the state board to develop
41	a timeline for phasing in standards for additional
42	languages; requiring the Commissioner of Education to
43	identify alternative assessments and passing scores
44	for a specified purpose; requiring the State Board of
45	Education to approve by rule passing scores on
46	alternative assessments; requiring the department to
47	provide funding for instructional materials for
48	heritage language courses, subject to legislative
49	appropriation; reenacting ss. 1002.385(7)(b) and
50	(8)(b), 1002.394(6)(b), (8)(c), and (9)(g),
51	1002.395(7)(e), (8)(b), and (10)(b), and
52	1002.40(6)(b), (7)(b), and (9)(f), F.S., relating to
53	the Gardiner Scholarship, the Family Empowerment
54	Scholarship Program, the Florida Tax Credit
55	Scholarship Program, and the Hope Scholarship Program,
56	respectively, to incorporate the amendments to s.
57	1008.22, in references thereto; providing an effective
58	date.

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60 WHEREAS, the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) 61 includes the purpose of assisting all English language learners, 62 including immigrant children and youth, in achieving at high 63 levels in academic subjects so that English language learners 64 can meet the same challenging state academic standards that all 65 students are expected to meet, and

66 WHEREAS, the ESSA requires states to make every effort to 67 develop annual academic assessments in languages other than 68 English which are present to a significant extent in the 69 participating student population, and

70 WHEREAS, this state's diversity of English language71 learners surpasses most states in the country, and

72 WHEREAS, Florida is ranked third in the nation in its 73 English language learner population and, although Spanish is the 74 native language of the majority of these students, English 75 language learners in this state speak more than 200 different 76 languages, and

WHEREAS, all students within this state should be given an equitable opportunity to study and learn subjects required for grade-to-grade progression and high school graduation, and

80 WHEREAS, the current system of testing students for 81 accountability purposes in a language they do not understand 82 does not provide accurate information about how well English 83 language learners are learning subject area content, NOW, 84 THEREFORE,

86 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 87

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88	Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 1002.69, Florida
89	Statutes, is amended to read:
90	1002.69 Statewide kindergarten screening; kindergarten
91	readiness rates; state-approved prekindergarten enrollment
92	screening; good cause exemption
93	(1) <u>(a)</u> The department shall adopt a statewide kindergarten
94	screening that assesses the readiness of each student for
95	kindergarten based upon the performance standards adopted by the
96	department under s. 1002.67(1) for the Voluntary Prekindergarten
97	Education Program. The department shall require that each school
98	district administer the statewide kindergarten screening to each
99	kindergarten student in the school district within the first 30
100	school days of each school year. Nonpublic schools may
101	administer the statewide kindergarten screening to each
102	kindergarten student in a nonpublic school who was enrolled in
103	the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.
104	(b) The department shall adopt native language versions of
105	the school readiness screener, the school readiness assessment,
106	the Florida Voluntary Prekindergarten Assessment, and the
107	Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener beginning with the two
108	most prevalent languages represented in the English language
109	learner population within this state. For students who are
110	English language learners and for whom it is appropriate, each
111	private school as defined in s. 1002.01 that accepts scholarship
112	students who participate in a state scholarship program under
113	chapter 1002 or that receives any state funding shall
114	administer, as appropriate, a native language version of the
115	school readiness screener, the school readiness assessment, the
116	Florida Voluntary Prekindergarten Assessment, and the Florida

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117Kindergarten Readiness Screener. A parent of a prekindergarten118dual language learner or a kindergarten dual language learner119must be given the opportunity to determine whether the120administration of a native language version screening or121assessment is appropriate for his or her student. If a parent122does not exercise his or her right, the decision to determine123the appropriateness of the administration of a native language124version screening or assessment may be based on teacher125judgment.126Section 2. Subsection (5) of section 1003.435, Florida127Statutes, is amended to read:1281003.435 High school equivalency diploma program129(5) Each district school board shall develop, in130cooperation with the area Florida College System institution131board of trustees, a plan for the provision of advanced132instruction for those students who attain satisfactory133performance on the high school equivalency examination or the134subject area examinations or who demonstrate through other means135a readiness to engage in postsecondary-level academic work. The136plan shall include provisions for the equitable distribution of
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<pre>135 a readiness to engage in postsecondary-level academic work. The 136 plan shall include provisions for the equitable distribution of</pre>
136 plan shall include provisions for the equitable distribution of
137 generated funds to cover personnel, maintenance, and other costs
138 of offering the advanced instruction. Priority shall be given to
139 programs of advanced instruction offered in high school
140 facilities. <u>A high school equivalency examination administered</u>
141 in any language other than English must be given the same weight
142 as a high school equivalency examination administered in
143 English.
144Section 3. Present subsections (9) through (13) of section
145 1008.22, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (10)

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40-00173A-21 2021724 146 through (14), respectively, paragraph (h) of subsection (3) and 147 a new subsection (9) are added to that section, and paragraphs 148 (a) and (c) of subsection (3) of that section are amended, to 149 read: 150 1008.22 Student assessment program for public schools.-151 (3) STATEWIDE, STANDARDIZED ASSESSMENT PROGRAM.-The 152 Commissioner of Education shall design and implement a 153 statewide, standardized assessment program aligned to the core 154 curricular content established in the Next Generation Sunshine 155 State Standards. The commissioner also must develop or select 156 and implement a common battery of assessment tools that will be 157 used in all juvenile justice education programs in the state. 158 These tools must accurately measure the core curricular content 159 established in the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards. 160 Participation in the assessment program is mandatory for all 161 school districts and all students attending public schools, 162 including adult students seeking a standard high school diploma 163 under s. 1003.4282 and students in Department of Juvenile 164 Justice education programs, except as otherwise provided by law. 165 If a student does not participate in the assessment program, the school district must notify the student's parent and provide the 166 167 parent with information regarding the implications of such nonparticipation. The statewide, standardized assessment program 168 169 shall be designed and implemented as follows:

(a) Statewide, standardized comprehensive assessments.-The
statewide, standardized Reading assessment shall be administered
annually in grades 3 through 10. The statewide, standardized
Writing assessment shall be administered annually at least once
at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. When the

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40-00173A-21 2021724 175 Reading and Writing assessments are replaced by English Language 176 Arts (ELA) assessments, ELA assessments shall be administered to 177 students in grades 3 through 10. Retake opportunities for the 178 grade 10 Reading assessment or, upon implementation, the grade 179 10 ELA assessment must be provided. Students taking the ELA assessments shall not take the statewide, standardized 180 181 assessments in Reading or Writing. Reading passages and writing 182 prompts for ELA assessments shall incorporate grade-level core curricula content from social studies. The statewide, 183 184 standardized Mathematics assessments shall be administered 185 annually in grades 3 through 8. Students taking a revised 186 Mathematics assessment shall not take the discontinued 187 assessment. The statewide, standardized Science assessment shall 188 be administered annually at least once at the elementary and 189 middle grades levels. In order to earn a standard high school 190 diploma, a student who has not earned a passing score on the 191 grade 10 Reading assessment or, upon implementation, the grade 192 10 ELA assessment must earn a passing score on the assessment 193 retake or earn a concordant score as authorized under subsection 194 (10) (9).

195 (c) Students with disabilities; Florida Alternate 196 Assessment; English language learners.-

197 1. Each district school board must provide instruction to 198 prepare students with disabilities in the core content knowledge 199 and skills necessary for successful grade-to-grade progression 200 and high school graduation.

201 2. A student with a disability, as defined in s. 1007.02,
202 for whom the individual education plan (IEP) team determines
203 that the statewide, standardized assessments under this section

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40-00173A-21 2021724 204 cannot accurately measure the student's abilities, taking into 205 consideration all allowable accommodations, shall have 206 assessment results waived for the purpose of receiving a course 207 grade and a standard high school diploma. Such waiver shall be 208 designated on the student's transcript. The statement of waiver 209 shall be limited to a statement that performance on an 210 assessment was waived for the purpose of receiving a course 211 grade or a standard high school diploma, as applicable. 3. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules, based 212 upon recommendations of the commissioner, for the provision of 213 214 assessment accommodations for students with disabilities and for 215 students who have limited English proficiency. a. Accommodations that negate the validity of a statewide, 216 217 standardized assessment are not allowed during the 218 administration of the assessment. However, instructional 219 accommodations are allowed in the classroom if identified in a 220 student's IEP. Students using instructional accommodations in 221 the classroom that are not allowed on a statewide, standardized 222 assessment may have assessment results waived if the IEP team 223 determines that the assessment cannot accurately measure the 224 student's abilities. 225 b. If a student is provided with instructional 226 accommodations in the classroom that are not allowed as 227 accommodations for statewide, standardized assessments, the 228 district must inform the parent in writing and provide the 229 parent with information regarding the impact on the student's 230 ability to meet expected performance levels. A parent must

231 provide signed consent for a student to receive classroom 232 instructional accommodations that would not be available or

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233	permitted on a statewide, standardized assessment and
234	acknowledge in writing that he or she understands the
235	implications of such instructional accommodations.
236	c. If a student's IEP states that online administration of
237	a statewide, standardized assessment will significantly impair
238	the student's ability to perform, the assessment shall be
239	administered in hard copy.
240	d.(I) Each private school, as defined in s. 1002.01, that
241	accepts scholarship students who participate in a state
242	scholarship program under chapter 1002 and has chosen to offer
243	statewide assessments shall administer, as appropriate, native
244	language versions of statewide, standardized comprehensive
245	assessments and EOC assessments to English language learners and
246	for whom it is appropriate.
247	(A) A parent of an English language learner in
248	prekindergarten through grade 5 or a parent of a student with
249	disabilities in any grade level may determine whether the
250	administration of a native language version of a standardized
251	comprehensive assessment and EOC assessment is appropriate.
252	(B) An English language learner in grades 6 through 12 may
253	determine whether the administration of a native language
254	version of a standardized comprehensive assessment and EOC
255	assessment is appropriate. The parent of an English language
256	learner in grades 6 through 12 may prohibit his or her student
257	from being administered the native language versions of the
258	assessments.
259	(II) The Department of Education shall develop a timetable
260	and an action plan to phase in the development and adoption of
261	the native language assessments, beginning with assessments for

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262	the two most prevalent languages represented in the English
263	language learner population within this state and with
264	assessments required for high school graduation. The state shall
265	accept results on the high school equivalency examination from
266	any language version of the examination.
267	4. For students with significant cognitive disabilities,
268	the Department of Education shall provide for implementation of
269	the Florida Alternate Assessment to accurately measure the core
270	curricular content established in the Next Generation Sunshine
271	State Standards.
272	(h) Language proficiency assessments and content
273	assessments in the target language of instruction
274	1. Language proficiency assessments in the target language
275	identified or developed by the department must be administered
276	annually for the target language in dual language programs,
277	bilingual education programs, and heritage language programs to
278	all participating students, including, but not limited to,
279	English language learners. For purposes of this paragraph, the
280	term "heritage language program" means a program for heritage
281	language speakers and the term "heritage language speakers"
282	means individuals who are exposed to a language other than
283	English at home but are educated primarily in English. Content
284	assessments in the target language must be identified or
285	developed by the department and administered annually in dual
286	language and bilingual education programs for content knowledge
287	taught in a language other than English to all participating
288	students, including, but not limited to, English language
289	learners.
290	2. The department shall develop a timetable and an action

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291	plan to phase in the identification or development and adoption
292	of native language examinations of progress in acquisition of
293	the target language and examinations of achievement in the
294	content areas taught through the target language, beginning with
295	examinations for the most frequently taught language and content
296	area in bilingual or dual language programs in public schools.
297	3. The state board shall adopt standards for heritage
298	language courses, beginning with the heritage languages with the
299	largest enrollment, and shall develop a timeline for phasing in
300	standards for additional languages.
301	(9) ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS; ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENTSThe
302	Commissioner of Education shall identify alternative assessments
303	and their respective passing scores to be offered in languages
304	other than English and that are appropriate for demonstrating
305	the college readiness of English language learners. The passing
306	scores on alternative assessments identified pursuant to this
307	subsection must be approved by state board rule.
308	Section 4. Subject to legislative appropriation, the
309	Department of Education shall provide funds to school districts
310	to purchase instructional materials for heritage language
311	program courses as provided in s. 1008.22(3)(h), Florida
312	Statutes.
313	Section 5. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment
314	made by this act to section 1008.22, Florida Statutes, in
315	references thereto, paragraph (b) of subsection (7) and
316	paragraph (b) of subsection (8) of section 1002.385, Florida
317	Statutes, are reenacted to read:
318	1002.385 The Gardiner Scholarship
319	(7) SCHOOL DISTRICT OBLIGATIONS; PARENTAL OPTIONS
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          (b) For each student participating in the program who
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     chooses to participate in statewide, standardized assessments
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     under s. 1008.22 or the Florida Alternate Assessment, the school
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     district in which the student resides must notify the student
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     and his or her parent about the locations and times to take all
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     statewide, standardized assessments.
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           (8) PRIVATE SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY AND OBLIGATIONS.-An eligible
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     private school may be sectarian or nonsectarian and shall:
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           (b)1. Annually administer or make provision for students
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     participating in the program in grades 3 through 10 to take one
     of the nationally norm-referenced tests identified by the
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     Department of Education or the statewide assessments pursuant to
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     s. 1008.22. Students with disabilities for whom standardized
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     testing is not appropriate are exempt from this requirement. A
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     participating private school shall report a student's scores to
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     the parent.
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          2. Administer the statewide assessments pursuant to s.
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     1008.22 if a private school chooses to offer the statewide
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     assessments. A participating private school may choose to offer
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     and administer the statewide assessments to all students who
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     attend the private school in grades 3 through 10 and must submit
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     a request in writing to the Department of Education by March 1
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     of each year in order to administer the statewide assessments in
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     the subsequent school year.
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     If a private school fails to meet the requirements of this
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     subsection or s. 1002.421, the commissioner may determine that
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     the private school is ineligible to participate in the
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348 scholarship program.

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40-00173A-21 2021724 349 Section 6. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment 350 made by this act to section 1008.22, Florida Statutes, in 351 references thereto, paragraph (b) of subsection (6), paragraph 352 (c) of subsection (8), and paragraph (g) of subsection (9) of 353 section 1002.394, Florida Statutes, are reenacted to read: 354 1002.394 The Family Empowerment Scholarship Program.-355 (6) SCHOOL DISTRICT OBLIGATIONS.-356 (b) The school district in which a participating student 357 resides must notify the student and his or her parent about the 358 locations and times to take all statewide assessments under s. 359 1008.22 if the student chooses to participate in such 360 assessments. Upon the request of the department, a school 361 district shall coordinate with the department to provide to a 362 participating private school the statewide assessments 363 administered under s. 1008.22 and any related materials for 364 administering the assessments. For a student who participates in 365 the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program whose parent requests 366 that the student take the statewide assessments under s. 367 1008.22, the district in which the student attends a private 368 school shall provide locations and times to take all statewide 369 assessments. A school district is responsible for implementing 370 test administrations at a participating private school, 371 including the: 372 1. Provision of training for private school staff on test 373 security and assessment administration procedures; 374 2. Distribution of testing materials to a private school; 375 3. Retrieval of testing materials from a private school; 376 4. Provision of the required format for a private school to 377 submit information to the district for test administration and

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378	enrollment purposes; and
379	5. Provision of any required assistance, monitoring, or
380	investigation at a private school.
381	(8) PRIVATE SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY AND OBLIGATIONSTo be
382	eligible to participate in the Family Empowerment Scholarship
383	Program, a private school may be sectarian or nonsectarian and
384	must:
385	(c)1. Annually administer or make provision for students
386	participating in the program in grades 3 through 10 to take one
387	of the nationally norm-referenced tests that are identified by
388	the department pursuant to paragraph (7)(c) or to take the
389	statewide assessments pursuant to s. 1008.22. Students with
390	disabilities for whom standardized testing is not appropriate
391	are exempt from this requirement. A participating private school
392	shall report a student's scores to his or her parent. By August
393	15 of each year, a participating private school must report the
394	scores of all participating students to a state university as
395	described in s. 1002.395(9)(f).
396	2. Administer the statewide assessments pursuant to s.
397	1008.22 if the private school chooses to offer the statewide
398	assessments. A participating private school may choose to offer
399	and administer the statewide assessments to all students who
400	attend the private school in grades 3 through 10 and must submit
401	a request in writing to the department by March 1 of each year
402	in order to administer the statewide assessments in the
403	subsequent school year.
404	
405	If a private school fails to meet the requirements of this

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subsection or s. 1002.421, the commissioner may determine that

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40-00173A-21 2021724 407 the private school is ineligible to participate in the 408 scholarship program. 409 (9) PARENT AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PROGRAM 410 PARTICIPATION.-A parent who applies for a Family Empowerment 411 Scholarship is exercising his or her parental option to place 412 his or her child in a private school. 413 (g) If the parent requests that the student participating 414 in the program take all statewide assessments required pursuant to s. 1008.22, the parent is responsible for transporting the 415 416 student to the assessment site designated by the school 417 district. 418 Section 7. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment 419 made by this act to section 1008.22, Florida Statutes, in 420 references thereto, paragraph (e) of subsection (7), paragraph 421 (b) of subsection (8), and paragraph (b) of subsection (10) of 422 section 1002.395, Florida Statutes, are reenacted to read: 423 1002.395 Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program.-424 (7) PARENT AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PROGRAM 425 PARTICIPATION.-426 (e) The parent shall ensure that the student participating 427 in the scholarship program takes the norm-referenced assessment 428 offered by the private school. The parent may also choose to 429 have the student participate in the statewide assessments 430 pursuant to s. 1008.22. If the parent requests that the student 431 participating in the scholarship program take statewide 432 assessments pursuant to s. 1008.22 and the private school has 433 not chosen to offer and administer the statewide assessments, 434 the parent is responsible for transporting the student to the 435 assessment site designated by the school district.

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CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

40-00173A-21 2021724 436 (8) PRIVATE SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY AND OBLIGATIONS.-An eligible 437 private school may be sectarian or nonsectarian and must: 438 (b)1. Annually administer or make provision for students 439 participating in the scholarship program in grades 3 through 10 440 to take one of the nationally norm-referenced tests identified 441 by the Department of Education or the statewide assessments 442 pursuant to s. 1008.22. Students with disabilities for whom 443 standardized testing is not appropriate are exempt from this requirement. A participating private school must report a 444 445 student's scores to the parent. A participating private school 446 must annually report by August 15 the scores of all 447 participating students to a state university described in 448 paragraph (9)(f). 449 2. Administer the statewide assessments pursuant to s. 450 1008.22 if a private school chooses to offer the statewide 451 assessments. A participating private school may choose to offer 452 and administer the statewide assessments to all students who 453 attend the private school in grades 3 through 10 and must submit 454 a request in writing to the Department of Education by March 1 455 of each year in order to administer the statewide assessments in 456 the subsequent school year. 457 458 If a private school fails to meet the requirements of this

459 subsection or s. 1002.421, the commissioner may determine that 460 the private school is ineligible to participate in the 461 scholarship program.

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(10) SCHOOL DISTRICT OBLIGATIONS; PARENTAL OPTIONS.-

(b) Upon the request of the Department of Education, aschool district shall coordinate with the department to provide

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465	to a participating private school the statewide assessments
466	administered under s. 1008.22 and any related materials for
467	administering the assessments. A school district is responsible
468	for implementing test administrations at a participating private
469	school, including the:
470	1. Provision of training for private school staff on test
471	security and assessment administration procedures;
472	2. Distribution of testing materials to a private school;
473	3. Retrieval of testing materials from a private school;
474	4. Provision of the required format for a private school to
475	submit information to the district for test administration and
476	enrollment purposes; and
477	5. Provision of any required assistance, monitoring, or
478	investigation at a private school.
479	Section 8. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment
480	made by this act to section 1008.22, Florida Statutes, in
481	references thereto, paragraph (b) of subsection (6), paragraph
482	(b) of subsection (7), and paragraph (f) of subsection (9) of
483	section 1002.40, Florida Statutes, are reenacted to read:
484	1002.40 The Hope Scholarship Program
485	(6) SCHOOL DISTRICT OBLIGATIONS; PARENTAL OPTIONS
486	(b) For each student participating in the program in an
487	eligible private school who chooses to participate in the
488	statewide assessments under s. 1008.22 or the Florida Alternate
489	Assessment, the school district in which the student resides
490	must notify the student and his or her parent about the
491	locations and times to take all statewide assessments.
492	(7) PRIVATE SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY AND OBLIGATIONS.—An eligible
493	private school may be sectarian or nonsectarian and shall:
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40-00173A-21 2021724 494 (b)1. Annually administer or make provision for students 495 participating in the program in grades 3 through 10 to take one 496 of the nationally norm-referenced tests identified by the 497 department or the statewide assessments pursuant to s. 1008.22. 498 Students with disabilities for whom standardized testing is not 499 appropriate are exempt from this requirement. A participating 500 private school shall report a student's scores to his or her 501 parent. 2. Administer the statewide assessments pursuant to s. 502 503 1008.22 if a private school chooses to offer the statewide 504 assessments. A participating private school may choose to offer 505 and administer the statewide assessments to all students who 506 attend the private school in grades 3 through 10 and must submit 507 a request in writing to the department by March 1 of each year in order to administer the statewide assessments in the 508 509 subsequent school year. 510 511 If a private school fails to meet the requirements of this 512 subsection or s. 1002.421, the commissioner may determine that 513 the private school is ineligible to participate in the program. 514 (9) PARENT AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PROGRAM 515 PARTICIPATION.-A parent who applies for a Hope scholarship is 516 exercising his or her parental option to place his or her 517 student in an eligible private school. 518 (f) The parent must ensure that the student participating 519 in the program takes the norm-referenced assessment offered by 520 the private school. The parent may also choose to have the

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student participate in the statewide assessments pursuant to s.

1008.22. If the parent requests that the student take the

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523	statewide assessments pursuant to s. 1008.22 and the private
524	school has not chosen to offer and administer the statewide
525	assessments, the parent is responsible for transporting the
526	student to the assessment site designated by the school
527	district.
528	Section 9. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.