

By Senator Thurston

33-00877A-21

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to COVID-19 impact on school  
3       accountability; amending s. 1008.34, F.S.; prohibiting  
4       a school from being required to select and implement a  
5       turnaround option in the 2021-2022 school year based  
6       on the school's 2020-2021 school grade or improvement  
7       rating; prohibiting a school or an approved provider  
8       from being subject to sanctions or penalties as a  
9       result of its 2020-2021 school grade or improvement  
10      rating; prohibiting a high-performing charter school  
11      system or school district from losing such designation  
12      based on 2020-2021 school grades; prohibiting student  
13      performance results from the 2020-2021 statewide,  
14      standardized assessments from being used for  
15      determining grade 3 retention or high school  
16      graduation or for calculating student performance  
17      measurement and evaluating personnel; providing an  
18      effective date.

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20 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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22       Section 1. Present subsection (6) of section 1008.34,  
23       Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (7), and a new  
24       subsection (6) is added to that section, to read:

25       1008.34 School grading system; school report cards;  
26       district grade.—

27       (6) HEALTH EMERGENCY PROVISION.—In recognition of the  
28       public health emergency caused by COVID-19, and notwithstanding  
29       any other provision of law:

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30       (a) A school may not be required to select and implement a  
31 turnaround option pursuant to s. 1008.33 in the 2021-2022 school  
32 year based on the school's 2020-2021 school grade or school  
33 improvement rating pursuant to s. 1008.341, as applicable.

34       (b) A school or approved provider under s. 1002.45 that  
35 receives the same or a lower school grade or school improvement  
36 rating for the 2020-2021 school year compared to the 2018-2019  
37 school year is not subject to sanctions or penalties that would  
38 otherwise occur as a result of the 2020-2021 school grade or  
39 school improvement rating. A charter school system or a school  
40 district designated as high performing may not lose the  
41 designation based on the 2020-2021 school grade of any of the  
42 schools within the charter school system or school district, as  
43 applicable.

44       (c) Student performance results from the 2020-2021  
45 statewide, standardized assessments may not be used for purposes  
46 of determining grade 3 retention pursuant to s. 1008.25(5) and  
47 high school graduation pursuant to s. 1003.4282 or for  
48 calculating student performance measurement and evaluating  
49 personnel pursuant to s. 1012.34.

50       (d) This subsection is repealed July 1, 2023.

51       Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.