

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to digital learning for low-income  
 3           students; amending s. 1002.321, F.S.; providing that  
 4           infrastructure includes digital devices and home-based  
 5           Internet access; requiring each district school board  
 6           to adopt a digital learning plan by a specified date;  
 7           requiring that the plan includes certain elements;  
 8           requiring a school board to annually submit a copy of  
 9           the digital learning plan to the department; requiring  
 10          that the Department of Education collaborate with the  
 11          Office of Broadband for specified purposes; requiring  
 12          that the Department of Education develop state term  
 13          contracts; amending ss. 1003.01 and 1003.499, F.S.;  
 14          conforming cross-references; providing an effective  
 15          date.

16  
 17   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 19           Section 1. Subsections (3) through (6) of section  
 20   1002.321, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (5)  
 21   through (8), respectively, paragraph (i) of subsection (2) is  
 22   amended, and new subsections (3), (4), and (9) are added to that  
 23   section, to read:

24           1002.321 Digital learning.—

25           (2) ELEMENTS OF HIGH-QUALITY DIGITAL LEARNING.—The

26 | Legislature finds that each student should have access to a  
27 | high-quality digital learning environment that provides:

28 |       (i) Infrastructure, including digital devices and home-  
29 | based Internet access, that supports digital learning.

30 |       (3) DIGITAL LEARNING PLAN.—Each district school board  
31 | shall adopt a digital learning plan by August 1, 2021, that  
32 | includes all of the following:

33 |       (a) A plan for deployment of district-provided digital  
34 | learning infrastructure to low-income students who do not have a  
35 | digital device or Internet service capable of accessing digital  
36 | learning.

37 |       1. The digital device must be a grade-level appropriate  
38 | laptop, tablet, or other distance learning device.

39 |       2. The home-based Internet access may use any available  
40 | technology but must be a broadband connection, as defined by the  
41 | Federal Communications Commission.

42 |       (b) A plan for training teachers and parents of students  
43 | who need digital literacy support.

44 |       (c) The number of students who will be provided learning  
45 | infrastructure under paragraph (a).

46 |  
47 | To assist the district with the adoption of a digital learning  
48 | plan, the Department of Education shall collaborate with the  
49 | Office of Broadband for consistency in the state's overall  
50 | broadband deployment and adoption efforts and to identify any

51 grants or resources which may be used to support the digital  
52 learning plan.

53 (4) By October 1, 2021, and by March 1 of each year  
54 thereafter, the district school board shall submit a copy of the  
55 district's digital learning plan to the department.

56 (9) STATE CONTRACT.—To maximize district funds for  
57 purchasing digital devices under subsection (3), the department  
58 shall develop one or more state term contracts.

59 Section 2. Subsection (14) of section 1003.01, Florida  
60 Statutes, is amended to read:

61 1003.01 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

62 (14) "Core-curricula courses" means:

63 (a) Courses in language arts/reading, mathematics, social  
64 studies, and science in prekindergarten through grade 3,  
65 excluding extracurricular courses pursuant to subsection (15);

66 (b) Courses in grades 4 through 8 in subjects that are  
67 measured by state assessment at any grade level and courses  
68 required for middle school promotion, excluding extracurricular  
69 courses pursuant to subsection (15);

70 (c) Courses in grades 9 through 12 in subjects that are  
71 measured by state assessment at any grade level and courses that  
72 are specifically identified by name in statute as required for  
73 high school graduation and that are not measured by state  
74 assessment, excluding extracurricular courses pursuant to  
75 subsection (15);

- 76 (d) Exceptional student education courses; and
- 77 (e) English for Speakers of Other Languages courses.

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79 The term is limited in meaning and used for the sole purpose of  
 80 designating classes that are subject to the maximum class size  
 81 requirements established in s. 1, Art. IX of the State  
 82 Constitution. This term does not include courses offered under  
 83 ss. 1002.321(6)(e) ~~ss. 1002.321(4)(e)~~, 1002.33(7)(a)2.b.,  
 84 1002.37, 1002.45, and 1003.499.

85 Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 1003.499, Florida  
 86 Statutes, is amended to read:

87 1003.499 Florida Approved Courses and Tests (FACT)  
 88 Initiative.—

89 (2) FLORIDA APPROVED COURSES.—The Department of Education  
 90 shall annually publish online a list of providers approved to  
 91 offer Florida approved courses which shall be listed in the  
 92 online catalog pursuant to s. 1002.321(8) ~~s. 1002.321(6)~~.

93 (a) As used in this section, the term "Florida approved  
 94 courses" means online courses provided by individuals which  
 95 include, but are not limited to, massive open online courses or  
 96 remedial education associated with the courses that are measured  
 97 pursuant to s. 1008.22. Massive open online courses may be  
 98 authorized in the following subject areas: Algebra I, biology,  
 99 geometry, and civics. Courses may be applied toward requirements  
 100 for promotion or graduation in whole, in subparts, or in a

101 combination of whole and subparts. A student may not be required  
102 to repeat subparts that are satisfactorily completed.

103 (b) A Florida approved course must be annually identified,  
104 approved, published, and shared for consideration by interested  
105 students and school districts. The Commissioner of Education  
106 shall approve each Florida approved course for application in K-  
107 12 public schools in accordance with rules of the State Board of  
108 Education.

109 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.