

Amendment No. 4

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|
| ADOPTED | _____ | (Y/N) |
| ADOPTED AS AMENDED | _____ | (Y/N) |
| ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION | _____ | (Y/N) |
| FAILED TO ADOPT | _____ | (Y/N) |
| WITHDRAWN | _____ | (Y/N) |
| OTHER | | |

1 Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Choice & Innovation
 2 Subcommittee

3 Representative Valdés offered the following:

4

5 **Amendment (with directory amendment)**

6 Between lines 1210 and 1211, insert:

7 Section 5. Paragraphs (d) and (j) of subsection (1) and
 8 paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 1002.421, Florida
 9 Statutes, are amended, and paragraphs (s), (t), and (u) are
 10 added to subsection (1) to read:

11 1002.421 State school choice scholarship program
 12 accountability and oversight.—

13 (1) PRIVATE SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY AND OBLIGATIONS.—A private
 14 school participating in an educational scholarship program
 15 established pursuant to this chapter must be a private school as
 16 defined in s. 1002.01(2) in this state, be registered, and be in

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17 compliance with all requirements of this section in addition to
18 private school requirements outlined in s. 1002.42, specific
19 requirements identified within respective scholarship program
20 laws, and other provisions of Florida law that apply to private
21 schools, and must:

22 (d) Provide to the department or scholarship-funding
23 organization all documentation required for a student's
24 participation, including the private school's and student's
25 individual fee schedule, and attendance verification as required
26 by the department or scholarship-funding organization, prior to
27 scholarship payment. A student's cost of attendance may not
28 increase more than the greater of 1.5 percent or the consumer
29 price index year over year.

30 (j) Publish on the school's website, or provide in a
31 written format, information for parents regarding the school,
32 including, but not limited to, programs, services, and the
33 qualifications of classroom teachers, and the available
34 accommodations for students with disabilities. The school must
35 disclose if a classroom teacher is not certified.

36 (s) Publish on the school's website, and provide to
37 parents in a written format, a clear and easy to understand
38 disclosure of any conditions of attendance or policies of the
39 school that require the following:

40 1. Compliance with religious tenants.

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41 2. Compliance with a student code of conduct or dress
42 code which specifies grooming or hair style requirements.

43 3. Compliance with provisions related to sexual
44 orientation or gender identity.

45 (t) Disclose to the school district, no later than
46 February 28, the number of vacant seats the school intends to
47 offer to eligible scholarship students during the subsequent
48 school year.

49 (u) Disclose to the department when a student is
50 disenrolled by the school, this does not include students
51 removed at a parent's choosing.

52
53 The department shall suspend the payment of funds to a private
54 school that disenrolls more than 25 percent of scholarship
55 students within a single school year, not at a parent's choosing
56 or who knowingly fails to comply with this subsection, and shall
57 prohibit the school from enrolling new scholarship students, for
58 1 fiscal year and until the school complies. If a private school
59 fails to meet the requirements of this subsection or has
60 consecutive years of material exceptions listed in the report
61 required under paragraph (q), the commissioner may determine
62 that the private school is ineligible to participate in a
63 scholarship program.

64 (2) DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OBLIGATIONS.-

65 (a) The Department of Education shall:

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66 1. Annually verify the eligibility of private schools that
67 meet the requirements of this section, specific requirements
68 identified within respective scholarship program laws, and other
69 provisions of state law that apply to private schools.

70 2. Establish a toll-free hotline that provides parents and
71 private schools with information on participation in the
72 scholarship programs.

73 3. Establish a process by which individuals may notify the
74 department of any violation by a parent, private school, or
75 school district of state laws relating to program participation.
76 If the department has reasonable cause to believe that a
77 violation of this section or any rule adopted by the State Board
78 of Education has occurred, it shall conduct an inquiry or make a
79 referral to the appropriate agency for an investigation. A
80 department inquiry is not subject to the requirements of chapter
81 120.

82 4. Require an annual, notarized, sworn compliance
83 statement from participating private schools certifying
84 compliance with state laws, and retain such records.

85 5. Coordinate with the entities conducting the health
86 inspection for a private school to obtain copies of the
87 inspection reports.

88 6. Conduct site visits to private schools entering a
89 scholarship program for the first time. Beginning with the 2019-
90 2020 school year, a private school is not eligible to receive

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91 scholarship payments until a satisfactory site visit has been
92 conducted and the school is in compliance with all other
93 requirements of this section.

94 7. Coordinate with the State Fire Marshal to obtain access
95 to fire inspection reports for private schools. The authority
96 conducting the fire safety inspection shall certify to the State
97 Fire Marshal that the annual inspection has been completed and
98 that the school is in full compliance. The certification shall
99 be made electronically or by such other means as directed by the
100 State Fire Marshal.

101 8. Upon the request of a participating private school
102 authorized to administer statewide assessments, provide at no
103 cost to the school the statewide assessments administered under
104 s. 1008.22 and any related materials for administering the
105 assessments. Students at a private school may be assessed using
106 the statewide assessments if the addition of those students and
107 the school does not cause the state to exceed its contractual
108 caps for the number of students tested and the number of testing
109 sites. The state shall provide the same materials and support to
110 a private school that it provides to a public school. A private
111 school that chooses to administer statewide assessments under s.
112 1008.22 shall follow the requirements set forth in ss. 1008.22
113 and 1008.24, rules adopted by the State Board of Education to
114 implement those sections, and district-level testing policies
115 established by the district school board.

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116 9. Prohibit a private school's continued participation in
117 a scholarship program if the department verifies, following
118 notification received under subparagraph (2)(a)3., that a school
119 is enforcing a condition of attendance or policy not disclosed
120 as required under paragraph (1)(s).
121
122

123 -----

124 **D I R E C T O R Y A M E N D M E N T**

125 Remove line 56 and insert:

126 1002.40, F.S.; conforming cross-references; amending s.
127 1002.421, F.S.; capping tuition growth for private schools
128 participating in scholarship programs; requiring private schools
129 participating in scholarship programs to publish specified
130 information on their websites; requiring private schools
131 participating in scholarship programs to make specified
132 disclosures to parents; requiring the department of education to
133 suspend a private school's participation in scholarship program
134 in specified circumstances; creating