

Amendment No.

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

.

Representative Bartleman offered the following:

Amendment (with title amendment)

Remove lines 442-980 and insert:

for 30 days following the conclusion of the prior fiscal year
~~student returns to a public school, graduates from high school,~~
~~or reaches the age of 21, whichever occurs first. A scholarship~~
~~student who enrolls in a public school or public school program~~
~~is considered to have returned to a public school for the~~
~~purpose of determining the end of the scholarship's term.~~
~~However, if a student enters a Department of Juvenile Justice~~
~~detention center for a period of no more than 21 days, the~~

325755

Approved For Filing: 3/14/2023 2:39:33 PM

Amendment No.

13 ~~student is not considered to have returned to a public school~~
14 ~~for that purpose.~~

15 (6) SCHOLARSHIP PROHIBITIONS.—A student is not eligible
16 for a Family Empowerment Scholarship while he or she is:

17 (f) Participating in virtual instruction pursuant to s.
18 1002.455 that receives state funding pursuant to the student's
19 participation.

20 (7) SCHOOL DISTRICT OBLIGATIONS.—

21 (b)1. The parent of a student with a disability who does
22 not have an IEP in accordance with subparagraph (3)(b)4. or who
23 seeks a reevaluation of an existing IEP may request an IEP
24 meeting and evaluation from the school district in order to
25 obtain or revise a matrix of services. The school district shall
26 notify a parent who has made a request for an IEP that the
27 district is required to complete the IEP and matrix of services
28 within 30 days after receiving notice of the parent's request.
29 The school district shall conduct a meeting and develop an IEP
30 and a matrix of services within 30 days after receipt of the
31 parent's request in accordance with State Board of Education
32 rules. The district must accept the diagnosis and consider the
33 service plan of the licensed professional providing the
34 diagnosis pursuant to subparagraph (3)(b)4. The school district
35 must complete a matrix that assigns the student to one of the
36 levels of service as they existed before the 2000-2001 school
37 year. For a nonpublic school student without an IEP, the school

325755

Approved For Filing: 3/14/2023 2:39:33 PM

Amendment No.

38 district is authorized to use evaluation reports and plans of
39 care developed by the licensed professionals under subparagraph
40 (4)(b)3. to complete the matrix of services.

41 2.a. The school district must provide the student's parent
42 and the department with the student's matrix level within 10
43 calendar days after its completion.

44 b. The department shall notify the parent and the
45 organization of the amount of the funds awarded within 10 days
46 after receiving the school district's notification of the
47 student's matrix level.

48 c. A school district may change a matrix of services only
49 if the change is a result of an IEP reevaluation or to correct a
50 technical, typographical, or calculation error.

51 ~~(d) The school district in which a participating student~~
52 ~~resides must notify the student and his or her parent about the~~
53 ~~locations and times to take all statewide assessments under s.~~
54 ~~1008.22 if the student chooses to participate in such~~
55 ~~assessments.~~ Upon the request of the department, a school
56 district shall coordinate with the department to provide to a
57 participating private school the statewide assessments
58 administered under s. 1008.22 and any related materials for
59 administering the assessments. For a student who participates in
60 the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program whose parent requests
61 that the student take the statewide assessments under s.
62 1008.22, the district in which the student attends a private

325755

Approved For Filing: 3/14/2023 2:39:33 PM

Amendment No.

63 school shall provide locations and times to take all statewide
64 assessments. A school district is responsible for implementing
65 test administrations at a participating private school,
66 including the:

67 1. Provision of training for private school staff on test
68 security and assessment administration procedures;

69 2. Distribution of testing materials to a private school;

70 3. Retrieval of testing materials from a private school;

71 4. Provision of the required format for a private school
72 to submit information to the district for test administration
73 and enrollment purposes; and

74 5. Provision of any required assistance, monitoring, or
75 investigation at a private school.

76 ~~(f) A school district shall report all students who are~~
77 ~~receiving a scholarship under this program. Students receiving a~~
78 ~~scholarship shall be reported separately from other students~~
79 ~~reported for purposes of the Florida Education Finance Program.~~

80 ~~(g) A school district shall be held harmless for students~~
81 ~~who are receiving a scholarship under this program from the~~
82 ~~weighted enrollment ceiling for group 2 programs in s.~~
83 ~~1011.62(1)(d)3.b. during the first school year in which the~~
84 ~~students are reported.~~

85 (8) DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OBLIGATIONS.-

86 (a) The department shall:

325755

Approved For Filing: 3/14/2023 2:39:33 PM

Amendment No.

87 1. Publish and update, as necessary, information on the
88 department website about the Family Empowerment Scholarship
89 Program, including, but not limited to, student eligibility
90 criteria, parental responsibilities, and relevant data.

91 2. Report, as part of the determination of full-time
92 equivalent membership pursuant to s. 1011.62(1)(a), all students
93 who are receiving a scholarship under the program and are funded
94 through the Florida Education Finance Program, and cross-check
95 the list of participating scholarship students with the public
96 school enrollment lists to avoid duplication.

97 3. Maintain and annually publish a list of nationally
98 norm-referenced tests identified for purposes of satisfying the
99 testing requirement in subparagraph (9)(c)1. The tests must meet
100 industry standards of quality in accordance with state board
101 rule.

102 4. Notify eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding
103 organizations of the deadlines for submitting the verified list
104 of students determined to be eligible for a scholarship. An
105 eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization may not
106 submit a student for funding after February 1.

107 ~~5. Notify each school district of a parent's participation~~
108 ~~in the scholarship program for purposes of paragraph (7)(f).~~

109 ~~5.6.~~ Deny or terminate program participation upon a
110 parent's failure to comply with subsection (10).

325755

Approved For Filing: 3/14/2023 2:39:33 PM

Amendment No.

111 ~~6.7.~~ Notify the parent and the organization when a
112 scholarship account is closed and program funds revert to the
113 state.

114 ~~7.8.~~ Notify an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding
115 organization of any of the organization's or other
116 organization's identified students who are receiving
117 scholarships under this chapter.

118 ~~8.9.~~ Maintain on its website a list of approved providers
119 as required by s. 1002.66, eligible postsecondary educational
120 institutions, eligible private schools, and eligible
121 organizations and may identify or provide links to lists of
122 other approved providers.

123 ~~9.10.~~ Require each organization to verify eligible
124 expenditures before the distribution of funds for any
125 expenditures made pursuant to subparagraphs (4) (b)1. and 2.
126 Review of expenditures made for services specified in
127 subparagraphs (4) (b)3.-15. may be completed after the purchase
128 is made.

129 ~~10.11.~~ Investigate any written complaint of a violation of
130 this section by a parent, a student, a private school, a public
131 school, a school district, an organization, a provider, or
132 another appropriate party in accordance with the process
133 established under s. 1002.421.

134 ~~11.12.~~ Require quarterly reports by an organization, which
135 must include, at a minimum, the number of students participating

325755

Approved For Filing: 3/14/2023 2:39:33 PM

Amendment No.

136 in the program; the demographics of program participants; the
137 disability category of program participants; the matrix level of
138 services, if known; the program award amount per student; the
139 total expenditures for the purposes specified in paragraph
140 (4) (b); the types of providers of services to students; and any
141 other information deemed necessary by the department.

142 ~~12.13.~~ Notify eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding
143 organizations that scholarships may not be awarded in a school
144 district in which the award will exceed 99 percent of the school
145 district's share of state funding through the Florida Education
146 Finance Program as calculated by the department.

147 ~~13.14.~~ Adjust payments to eligible nonprofit scholarship-
148 funding organizations and, when the Florida Education Finance
149 Program is recalculated, adjust the amount of state funds
150 allocated to school districts through the Florida Education
151 Finance Program based upon the results of the cross-check
152 completed pursuant to subparagraph 2.

153 (c) The department shall notify each school district of
154 the full-time equivalent student consensus estimate of students
155 participating in the program developed pursuant to s.
156 216.136(4) (a).

157 (9) PRIVATE SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY AND OBLIGATIONS.—To be
158 eligible to participate in the Family Empowerment Scholarship
159 Program, a private school may be sectarian or nonsectarian and
160 must:

325755

Approved For Filing: 3/14/2023 2:39:33 PM

Amendment No.

161 (d) For a student determined eligible pursuant to
162 paragraph (3)(b), discuss the school's academic programs and
163 policies, specialized services, code of conduct, and attendance
164 policies before enrollment with the parent to determine which
165 programs and services may meet the student's individual needs.
166

167 If a private school fails to meet the requirements of this
168 subsection or s. 1002.421, the commissioner may determine that
169 the private school is ineligible to participate in the
170 scholarship program.

171 (10) PARENT AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PROGRAM
172 PARTICIPATION.—

173 (a) A parent who applies for program participation under
174 paragraph (3)(a) whose student will be enrolled full time ~~is~~
175 ~~exercising his or her parental option to place his or her child~~
176 in a private school ~~and~~ must:

177 1. Select the private school and apply for the admission
178 of his or her student.

179 2. Request the scholarship by a date established by the
180 organization, in a manner that creates a written or electronic
181 record of the request and the date of receipt of the request.

182 3. Inform the applicable school district when the parent
183 withdraws his or her student from a public school to attend an
184 eligible private school.

325755

Approved For Filing: 3/14/2023 2:39:33 PM

Amendment No.

185 4. Require his or her student participating in the program
186 to remain in attendance throughout the school year unless
187 excused by the school for illness or other good cause.

188 5. Meet with the private school's principal or the
189 principal's designee to review the school's academic programs
190 and policies, specialized services ~~customized educational~~
191 ~~programs~~, code of student conduct, and attendance policies
192 before ~~prior to~~ enrollment.

193 6. Require that the student participating in the
194 scholarship program takes the norm-referenced assessment offered
195 by the private school. The parent may also choose to have the
196 student participate in the statewide assessments pursuant to
197 paragraph (7)(d). If the parent requests that the student
198 participating in the program take all statewide assessments
199 required pursuant to s. 1008.22, the parent is responsible for
200 transporting the student to the assessment site designated by
201 the school district.

202 7. Approve each payment before the scholarship funds may
203 be deposited by funds transfer ~~Restrictively endorse the~~
204 ~~warrant, issued in the name of the parent pursuant to~~
205 ~~subparagraph (12)(a)4. (12)(a)6., to the private school for~~
206 ~~deposit into the private school's account.~~ The parent may not
207 designate any entity or individual associated with the
208 participating private school as the parent's attorney in fact to

325755

Approved For Filing: 3/14/2023 2:39:33 PM

Amendment No.

209 approve a funds transfer. A participant who fails to comply with
210 this paragraph forfeits the ~~endorse~~ a scholarship warrant.

211 8. Agree to have the organization commit scholarship funds
212 on behalf of his or her student for tuition and fees for which
213 the parent is responsible for payment at the private school
214 before using empowerment account funds for additional authorized
215 uses under paragraph (4)(a). A parent is responsible for all
216 eligible expenses in excess of the amount of the scholarship.

217 (b) A parent who applies for program participation under
218 paragraph (3)(b) is exercising his or her parental option to
219 determine the appropriate placement or the services that best
220 meet the needs of his or her child and must:

221 1. Apply to an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding
222 organization to participate in the program by a date set by the
223 organization. The request must be communicated directly to the
224 organization in a manner that creates a written or electronic
225 record of the request and the date of receipt of the request.

226 2. Sign an agreement with the organization and annually
227 submit a sworn compliance statement to the organization to
228 satisfy or maintain program eligibility, including eligibility
229 to receive and spend program payments by:

230 a. Affirming that the student is enrolled in a program
231 that meets regular school attendance requirements as provided in
232 s. 1003.01(13)(b), (c), or (d).

325755

Approved For Filing: 3/14/2023 2:39:33 PM

Amendment No.

233 b. Affirming that the program funds are used only for
234 authorized purposes serving the student's educational needs, as
235 described in paragraph (4)(b); that any prepaid college plan or
236 college savings plan funds contributed pursuant to subparagraph
237 (4)(b)6. will not be transferred to another beneficiary while
238 the plan contains funds contributed pursuant to this section;
239 and that they will not receive a payment, refund, or rebate of
240 any funds provided under this section.

241 c. Affirming that the parent is responsible for all
242 eligible expenses in excess of the amount of the scholarship and
243 for the education of his or her student by, as applicable:

244 (I) Requiring the student to take an assessment in
245 accordance with paragraph (9)(c);

246 (II) Providing an annual evaluation in accordance with s.
247 1002.41(1)(f); or

248 (III) Requiring the child to take any preassessments and
249 postassessments selected by the provider if the child is 4 years
250 of age and is enrolled in a program provided by an eligible
251 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program provider. A student
252 with disabilities for whom the physician or psychologist who
253 issued the diagnosis or the IEP team determines that a
254 preassessment and postassessment is not appropriate is exempt
255 from this requirement. A participating provider shall report a
256 student's scores to the parent.

325755

Approved For Filing: 3/14/2023 2:39:33 PM

Amendment No.

257 d. Affirming that the student remains in good standing
258 with the provider or school if those options are selected by the
259 parent.

260 e. Enrolling his or her child in a program from a
261 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program provider authorized
262 under s. 1002.55, a school readiness provider authorized under
263 s. 1002.88, or an eligible private school if either option is
264 selected by the parent.

265 f. Renewing participation in the program each year. A
266 student whose participation in the program is not renewed may
267 continue to spend scholarship funds that are in his or her
268 account from prior years unless the account must be closed
269 pursuant to subparagraph (5)(b)3. Notwithstanding any changes to
270 the student's IEP, a student who was previously eligible for
271 participation in the program shall remain eligible to apply for
272 renewal. However, for a high-risk child to continue to
273 participate in the program in the school year after he or she
274 reaches 6 years of age, the child's application for renewal of
275 program participation must contain documentation that the child
276 has a disability defined in paragraph (2)(e) ~~paragraph (2)(d)~~
277 other than high-risk status.

278 g. Procuring the services necessary to educate the
279 student. If such services include enrollment in an eligible
280 private school, the parent must meet with the private school's
281 principal or the principal's designee to review the school's

325755

Approved For Filing: 3/14/2023 2:39:33 PM

Amendment No.

282 academic programs and policies, specialized services, code of
283 student conduct, and attendance policies before his or her
284 student is enrolled ~~If a parent does not procure the necessary~~
285 ~~educational services for the student and the student's account~~
286 ~~has been inactive for 2 consecutive fiscal years, the student is~~
287 ~~ineligible for additional scholarship payments until the~~
288 ~~scholarship-funding organization verifies that expenditures from~~
289 ~~the account have occurred.~~ When the student receives a
290 scholarship, the district school board is not obligated to
291 provide the student with a free appropriate public education.
292 For purposes of s. 1003.57 and the Individuals with Disabilities
293 in Education Act, a participating student has only those rights
294 that apply to all other unilaterally parentally placed students,
295 except that, when requested by the parent, school district
296 personnel must develop an IEP or matrix level of services.

297 (11) OBLIGATIONS OF ELIGIBLE SCHOLARSHIP-FUNDING
298 ORGANIZATIONS.—

299 (a) An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization
300 awarding scholarships to eligible students pursuant to paragraph
301 (3) (a):

302 1. Must receive applications, determine student
303 eligibility, notify parents in accordance with the requirements
304 of this section, and provide the department with information on
305 the student to enable the department to determine student
306 funding in accordance with paragraph (12) (a).

325755

Approved For Filing: 3/14/2023 2:39:33 PM

Amendment No.

307 2. Shall verify the household income level of students
308 ~~pursuant to subparagraph (3)(a)1.~~ and submit the verified list
309 of students and related documentation to the department when
310 necessary.

311 3. Shall award scholarships in priority order pursuant to
312 paragraph (3)(a).

313 4. Shall establish and maintain separate empowerment
314 accounts for each eligible student. For each account, the
315 organization must maintain a record of accrued interest that is
316 retained in the student's account and available only for
317 authorized program expenditures.

318 5. May permit eligible students to use program funds for
319 the purposes specified in paragraph (4)(a) by paying for the
320 authorized use directly, then submitting a reimbursement request
321 to the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization.
322 However, an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization
323 may require the use of an online platform for direct purchases
324 of products so long as such use does not limit a parent's choice
325 of curriculum or academic programs. If a parent purchases a
326 product identical to one offered by an organization's online
327 platform for a lower price, the organization shall reimburse the
328 parent the cost of the product.

329 6. May, from eligible contributions received pursuant to
330 s. 1002.395(6)(l)1. ~~s. 1002.395(6)(j)1.,~~ use an amount not to
331 exceed 2.5 percent of the total amount of all scholarships

325755

Approved For Filing: 3/14/2023 2:39:33 PM

Amendment No.

332 funded under this section for administrative expenses associated
333 with performing functions under this section. An eligible
334 nonprofit scholarship-funding organization that has, for the
335 prior fiscal year, complied with the expenditure requirements of
336 s. 1002.395(6)(1)2., may use an amount not to exceed 3 percent.

337 Such administrative expense amount is considered within the 3
338 percent limit on the total amount an organization may use to
339 administer scholarships under this chapter.

340 ~~7.5.~~ Must, in a timely manner, submit any information
341 requested by the department relating to the scholarship under
342 this section.

343 ~~8.6.~~ Must notify the department about any violation of
344 this section ~~by a parent or a private school.~~

345 9. Must document each student's eligibility for a fiscal
346 year before granting a scholarship for that fiscal year. A
347 student is ineligible for a scholarship if the student's account
348 has been inactive for 2 consecutive fiscal years.

349 10. Must notify each parent that participation in the
350 scholarship program does not guarantee enrollment.

351 11. Shall commit scholarship funds on behalf of the
352 student for tuition and fees for which the parent is responsible
353 for payment at the private school before using empowerment
354 account funds for additional authorized uses under paragraph (4)
355 (a).

356 (12) SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING AND PAYMENT.—

325755

Approved For Filing: 3/14/2023 2:39:33 PM

Amendment No.

357 (a)1. Scholarships for students determined eligible
358 pursuant to paragraph (3) (a) may be funded once all scholarships
359 have been funded in accordance with s. 1002.395(6)(1)2. ~~are~~
360 ~~established for up to 18,000 students annually beginning in the~~
361 ~~2019-2020 school year. Beginning in the 2020-2021 school year,~~
362 ~~the maximum number of students participating in the scholarship~~
363 ~~program under this section shall annually increase by 1.0~~
364 ~~percent of the state's total full-time equivalent student~~
365 ~~membership. An eligible student who meets any of the following~~
366 ~~requirements shall be excluded from the maximum number of~~
367 ~~students if the student:~~

368 a. ~~Is a dependent child of a law enforcement officer or a~~
369 ~~member of the United States Armed Forces, a foster child, or an~~
370 ~~adopted child; or~~

371 b. ~~Is determined eligible pursuant to subparagraph~~
372 ~~(3)(a)1. or subparagraph (3)(a)2. and either spent the prior~~
373 ~~school year in attendance at a Florida public school; or,~~
374 ~~beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, is eligible to enroll in~~
375 ~~kindergarten. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "prior~~
376 ~~school year in attendance" means that the student was enrolled~~
377 ~~and reported by a school district for funding during either the~~
378 ~~preceding October or February full-time equivalent student~~
379 ~~membership surveys in kindergarten through grade 12, which~~
380 ~~includes time spent in a Department of Juvenile Justice~~

325755

Approved For Filing: 3/14/2023 2:39:33 PM

Amendment No.

381 ~~commitment program if funded under the Florida Education Finance~~
382 ~~Program.~~

383 ~~2. The scholarship amount provided to a student for any~~
384 ~~single school year shall be for tuition and fees for an eligible~~
385 ~~private school, not to exceed annual limits, which shall be~~
386 ~~determined in accordance with this subparagraph. The calculated~~
387 ~~scholarship amount for a participating student determined~~
388 ~~eligible pursuant to paragraph (3)(a) shall be based upon the~~
389 ~~grade level and school district in which the student was~~
390 ~~assigned as 100 percent of the funds per unweighted full-time~~
391 ~~equivalent in the Florida Education Finance Program for a~~
392 ~~student in the basic program established pursuant to s.~~
393 ~~1011.62(1)(c)1., plus a per-full-time equivalent share of funds~~
394 ~~for all categorical programs, except for the exceptional student~~
395 ~~education guaranteed allocation established pursuant to s.~~
396 ~~1011.62(1)(e).~~

397 ~~3. The amount of the scholarship shall be the calculated~~
398 ~~amount or the amount of the private school's tuition and fees,~~
399 ~~whichever is less. The amount of any assessment fee required by~~
400 ~~the participating private school and any costs to provide a~~
401 ~~digital device, including Internet access, if necessary, to the~~
402 ~~student may be paid from the total amount of the scholarship.~~

403 ~~2.4. A scholarship of \$750 or an amount equal to the~~
404 ~~school district expenditure per student riding a school bus, as~~
405 ~~determined by the department, whichever is greater, may be~~

325755

Approved For Filing: 3/14/2023 2:39:33 PM

Amendment No.

406 awarded to an eligible a student who is ~~determined eligible~~
407 ~~pursuant to subparagraph (3)(a)1. or subparagraph (3)(a)2.~~ and
408 enrolled in a Florida public school that is different from the
409 school to which the student was assigned or in a lab school as
410 defined in s. 1002.32 if the school district does not provide
411 the student with transportation to the school.

412 3.5. The organization must provide the department with the
413 documentation necessary to verify the student's participation.
414 Upon receiving the documentation, the department shall transfer,
415 beginning August 1, from state funds only, the amount calculated
416 pursuant to subparagraph 2. to the organization for quarterly
417 disbursement to parents of participating students each school
418 year in which the scholarship is in force. For a student exiting
419 a Department of Juvenile Justice commitment program who chooses
420 to participate in the scholarship program, the amount of the
421 Family Empowerment Scholarship calculated pursuant to
422 subparagraph 2. must be transferred from the school district in
423 which the student last attended a public school before
424 commitment to the Department of Juvenile Justice. When a student
425 enters the scholarship program, the organization must receive
426 all documentation required for the student's participation,
427 including the private school's and the student's fee schedules,
428 at least 30 days before the first quarterly scholarship payment
429 is made for the student.

325755

Approved For Filing: 3/14/2023 2:39:33 PM

Amendment No.

430 ~~4.6.~~ The initial payment shall be made after the
431 organization's verification of admission acceptance, and
432 subsequent payments shall be made upon verification of continued
433 enrollment and attendance at the private school. Payment must be
434 ~~by individual warrant made payable to the student's parent or by~~
435 funds transfer or any other means of payment that the department
436 deems to be commercially viable or cost-effective. ~~If the~~
437 ~~payment is made by warrant, the warrant must be delivered by the~~
438 ~~organization to the private school of the parent's choice, and~~
439 ~~the parent shall restrictively endorse the warrant to the~~
440 ~~private school.~~ An organization shall ensure that the parent ~~to~~
441 ~~whom the warrant is made has restrictively endorsed the warrant~~
442 ~~to the private school for deposit into the account of the~~
443 ~~private school or that the parent~~ has approved a funds transfer
444 before any scholarship funds are deposited.

445 (b)1. Scholarships for students determined eligible
446 pursuant to paragraph (3) (b) are established for up to 26,500
447 students annually beginning in the 2022-2023 school year.
448 Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, the maximum number of
449 students participating in the scholarship program under this
450 section shall annually increase by 3.0 ~~1.0~~ percent of the
451 state's total exceptional student education full-time equivalent
452 student membership, not including gifted students. An eligible
453 student who meets any of the following requirements shall be
454 excluded from the maximum number of students if the student:

325755

Approved For Filing: 3/14/2023 2:39:33 PM

Amendment No.

455 a. Received specialized instructional services under the
456 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program pursuant to s.
457 1002.66 during the previous school year and the student has a
458 current IEP developed by the district school board in accordance
459 with rules of the State Board of Education;

460 b. Is a dependent child of a law enforcement officer or a
461 member of the United States Armed Forces, a foster child, or an
462 adopted child; or

463 c. Spent the prior school year in attendance at a Florida
464 public school or the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.
465 For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "prior school year
466 in attendance" means that the student was enrolled and reported
467 by:

468 (I) A school district for funding during either the
469 preceding October or February full-time equivalent student
470 membership surveys in kindergarten through grade 12, which
471 includes time spent in a Department of Juvenile Justice
472 commitment program if funded under the Florida Education Finance
473 Program;

474 (II) The Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind during
475 the preceding October or February full-time equivalent student
476 membership surveys in kindergarten through grade 12;

477 (III) A school district for funding during the preceding
478 October or February full-time equivalent student membership

325755

Approved For Filing: 3/14/2023 2:39:33 PM

Amendment No.

479 surveys, was at least 4 years of age when enrolled and reported,
480 and was eligible for services under s. 1003.21(1)(e); or

481 (IV) Received a John M. McKay Scholarship for Students
482 with Disabilities in the 2021-2022 school year.

483 2. For a student who has a Level I to Level III matrix of
484 services or a diagnosis by a physician or psychologist, the
485 calculated scholarship amount for a student participating in the
486 program must be based upon the grade level and school district
487 in which the student would have been enrolled as the total funds
488 per unweighted full-time equivalent in the Florida Education
489 Finance Program for a student in the basic exceptional student
490 education program pursuant to s. 1011.62(1)(c)1. and (e)1.c.,
491 plus a per full-time equivalent share of funds for all
492 categorical programs, as funded in the General Appropriations
493 Act, except that for the exceptional student education
494 guaranteed allocation, as provided in s. 1011.62(1)(e)1.c. and
495 2., the funds must be allocated based on the school district's
496 average exceptional student education guaranteed allocation
497 funds per exceptional student education full-time equivalent
498 student.

499 3. For a student with a Level IV or Level V matrix of
500 services, the calculated scholarship amount must be based upon
501 the school district to which the student would have been
502 assigned as the total funds per full-time equivalent for the
503 Level IV or Level V exceptional student education program

325755

Approved For Filing: 3/14/2023 2:39:33 PM

Amendment No.

504 pursuant to s. 1011.62(1)(c)2.a. or b., plus a per-full time
505 equivalent share of funds for all categorical programs, as
506 funded in the General Appropriations Act.

507 4. For a student who received a Gardiner Scholarship
508 pursuant to s. 1002.385 in the 2020-2021 school year, the amount
509 shall be the greater of the amount calculated pursuant to
510 subparagraph 2. or the amount the student received for the 2020-
511 2021 school year.

512 5. For a student who received a John M. McKay Scholarship
513 pursuant to s. 1002.39 in the 2020-2021 school year, the amount
514 shall be the greater of the amount calculated pursuant to
515 subparagraph 2. or the amount the student received for the 2020-
516 2021 school year.

517 6. The organization must provide the department with the
518 documentation necessary to verify the student's participation.

519 7. Upon receiving the documentation, the department shall
520 release, from state funds only, the student's scholarship funds
521 to the organization, to be deposited into the student's account
522 in four equal amounts no later than September 1, November 1,
523 February 1, and April 1 of each school year in which the
524 scholarship is in force.

525 8. Accrued interest in the student's account is in
526 addition to, and not part of, the awarded funds. Program funds
527 include both the awarded funds and accrued interest.

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Amendment No.

528 9. The organization may develop a system for payment of
529 benefits by funds transfer, including, but not limited to, debit
530 cards, electronic payment cards, or any other means of payment
531 which the department deems to be commercially viable or cost-
532 effective. A student's scholarship award may not be reduced for
533 debit card or electronic payment fees. Commodities or services
534 related to the development of such a system must be procured by
535 competitive solicitation unless they are purchased from a state
536 term contract pursuant to s. 287.056.

537 10. Moneys received pursuant to this section do not
538

539 -----

540 **T I T L E A M E N D M E N T**

541 Remove lines 15-26 and insert:
542 for a specified time period; revising obligations of
543 school districts, the Department of Education, private
544 schools, and eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding
545 organizations; revising responsibilities of parents;
546 requiring scholarship funds to be deposited by funds
547 transfers rather than through warrant endorsement;
548 requiring certain criteria to be met before the
549 funding of certain scholarships; revising provisions
550 for the calculation of an award amount for certain
551 students; deleting obsolete language; conforming

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