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17 which shall incorporate the approved application and any addenda
18 approved with the application. Any term or condition of a
19 proposed charter contract or proposed virtual charter contract
20 that differs from the standard charter or virtual charter
21 contract adopted by rule of the State Board of Education shall
22 be presumed a limitation on charter school flexibility. The
23 sponsor may not impose unreasonable rules or regulations that
24 violate the intent of giving charter schools greater flexibility
25 to meet educational goals. The charter shall be signed by the
26 governing board of the charter school and the sponsor, following
27 a public hearing to ensure community input.

28 (a) The charter shall address and criteria for approval of
29 the charter shall be based on:

30 1. The school's mission, the types of students to be
31 served, and, for a virtual charter school, the types of students
32 the school intends to serve who reside outside of the sponsoring
33 school district, and the ages and grades to be included.

34 2. The focus of the curriculum, the instructional methods
35 to be used, any distinctive instructional techniques to be
36 employed, and identification and acquisition of appropriate
37 technologies needed to improve educational and administrative
38 performance which include a means for promoting safe, ethical,
39 and appropriate uses of technology which comply with legal and
40 professional standards.

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41 a. The charter shall ensure that reading is a primary
42 focus of the curriculum and that resources are provided to
43 identify and provide specialized instruction for students who
44 are reading below grade level. The curriculum and instructional
45 strategies for reading must be consistent with the Next
46 Generation Sunshine State Standards and grounded in
47 scientifically based reading research.

48 b. In order to provide students with access to diverse
49 instructional delivery models, to facilitate the integration of
50 technology within traditional classroom instruction, and to
51 provide students with the skills they need to compete in the
52 21st century economy, the Legislature encourages instructional
53 methods for blended learning courses consisting of both
54 traditional classroom and online instructional techniques.
55 Charter schools may implement blended learning courses which
56 combine traditional classroom instruction and virtual
57 instruction. Students in a blended learning course must be full-
58 time students of the charter school pursuant to s.
59 1011.61(1)(a)1. Instructional personnel certified pursuant to s.
60 1012.55 who provide virtual instruction for blended learning
61 courses may be employees of the charter school or may be under
62 contract to provide instructional services to charter school
63 students. At a minimum, such instructional personnel must hold
64 an active state or school district adjunct certification under
65 s. 1012.57 for the subject area of the blended learning course.

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66 The funding and performance accountability requirements for
67 blended learning courses are the same as those for traditional
68 courses.

69 3. The current incoming baseline standard of student
70 academic achievement, the outcomes to be achieved, and the
71 method of measurement that will be used. The criteria listed in
72 this subparagraph shall include a detailed description of:

73 a. How the baseline student academic achievement levels
74 and prior rates of academic progress will be established.

75 b. How these baseline rates will be compared to rates of
76 academic progress achieved by these same students while
77 attending the charter school.

78 c. To the extent possible, how these rates of progress
79 will be evaluated and compared with rates of progress of other
80 closely comparable student populations.

81
82 A district school board is required to provide academic student
83 performance data to charter schools for each of their students
84 coming from the district school system, as well as rates of
85 academic progress of comparable student populations in the
86 district school system.

87 4. The methods used to identify the educational strengths
88 and needs of students and how well educational goals and
89 performance standards are met by students attending the charter
90 school. The methods shall provide a means for the charter school

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91 to ensure accountability to its constituents by analyzing
92 student performance data and by evaluating the effectiveness and
93 efficiency of its major educational programs. Students in
94 charter schools shall, at a minimum, participate in the
95 statewide assessment program created under s. 1008.22.

96 5. In secondary charter schools, a method for determining
97 that a student has satisfied the requirements for graduation in
98 s. 1002.3105(5), s. 1003.4281, or s. 1003.4282.

99 6. A method for resolving conflicts between the governing
100 board of the charter school and the sponsor.

101 7. The admissions procedures and dismissal procedures,
102 including the school's code of student conduct. Admission or
103 dismissal must not be based on a student's academic performance,
104 except as authorized under subparagraph (10)(e)5.

105 8. The ways by which the school will achieve a
106 racial/ethnic balance reflective of the community it serves or
107 within the racial/ethnic range of other nearby public schools or
108 school districts.

109 9. The financial and administrative management of the
110 school, including a reasonable demonstration of the professional
111 experience or competence of those individuals or organizations
112 applying to operate the charter school or those hired or
113 retained to perform such professional services and the
114 description of clearly delineated responsibilities and the
115 policies and practices needed to effectively manage the charter

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116 school. A description of internal audit procedures and
117 establishment of controls to ensure that financial resources are
118 properly managed must be included. Both public sector and
119 private sector professional experience shall be equally valid in
120 such a consideration.

121 10. The asset and liability projections required in the
122 application which are incorporated into the charter and shall be
123 compared with information provided in the annual report of the
124 charter school.

125 11. A description of procedures that identify various
126 risks and provide for a comprehensive approach to reduce the
127 impact of losses; plans to ensure the safety and security of
128 students and staff; plans to identify, minimize, and protect
129 others from violent or disruptive student behavior; and the
130 manner in which the school will be insured, including whether or
131 not the school will be required to have liability insurance,
132 and, if so, the terms and conditions thereof and the amounts of
133 coverage.

134 12. The term of the charter which shall provide for
135 cancellation of the charter if insufficient progress has been
136 made in attaining the student achievement objectives of the
137 charter and if it is not likely that such objectives can be
138 achieved before expiration of the charter. The initial term of a
139 charter shall be for 5 years, excluding 2 planning years. In
140 order to facilitate access to long-term financial resources for

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141 charter school construction, charter schools that are operated
142 by a municipality or other public entity as provided by law are
143 eligible for up to a 15-year charter, subject to approval by the
144 sponsor. A charter lab school is eligible for a charter for a
145 term of up to 15 years. In addition, to facilitate access to
146 long-term financial resources for charter school construction,
147 charter schools that are operated by a private, not-for-profit,
148 s. 501(c)(3) status corporation are eligible for up to a 15-year
149 charter, subject to approval by the sponsor. Such long-term
150 charters remain subject to annual review and may be terminated
151 during the term of the charter, but only according to the
152 provisions set forth in subsection (8).

153 13. The facilities to be used and their location. The
154 sponsor may not require a charter school to have a certificate
155 of occupancy or a temporary certificate of occupancy for such a
156 facility earlier than 15 calendar days before the first day of
157 school.

158 14. The qualifications to be required of the teachers and
159 the potential strategies used to recruit, hire, train, and
160 retain qualified staff to achieve best value.

161 15. The governance structure of the school, including the
162 status of the charter school as a public or private employer as
163 required in paragraph (12)(i).

164 16. A timetable for implementing the charter which
165 addresses the implementation of each element thereof and the

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166 date by which the charter shall be awarded in order to meet this
167 timetable.

168 17. In the case of an existing public school that is being
169 converted to charter status, alternative arrangements for
170 current students who choose not to attend the charter school and
171 for current teachers who choose not to teach in the charter
172 school after conversion in accordance with the existing
173 collective bargaining agreement or district school board rule in
174 the absence of a collective bargaining agreement. However,
175 alternative arrangements shall not be required for current
176 teachers who choose not to teach in a charter lab school, except
177 as authorized by the employment policies of the state university
178 which grants the charter to the lab school.

179 18. Full disclosure of the identity of all relatives
180 employed by the charter school who are related to the charter
181 school owner, president, chairperson of the governing board of
182 directors, superintendent, governing board member, principal,
183 assistant principal, or any other person employed by the charter
184 school who has equivalent decisionmaking authority. For the
185 purpose of this subparagraph, the term "relative" means father,
186 mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, first
187 cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, father-in-law, mother-in-
188 law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law,
189 stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother,
190 stepsister, half brother, or half sister.

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191 19. Implementation of the activities authorized under s.
192 1002.331 by the charter school when it satisfies the eligibility
193 requirements for a high-performing charter school. A high-
194 performing charter school shall notify its sponsor in writing by
195 March 1 if it intends to increase enrollment or expand grade
196 levels the following school year. The written notice shall
197 specify the amount of the enrollment increase and the grade
198 levels that will be added, as applicable.

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

202

Remove line 2 and insert:

203

An act relating to education; amending s. 1002.33, F.S.;

204

providing clarifying language relating to admission and

205

dismissal procedures for charter schools; amending s. 1002.42,