

26 | reference; amending s. 1003.485, F.S.; providing that
27 | the University of Florida Lastinger Center for
28 | Learning is the administrator for the New Worlds
29 | Reading Initiative; revising definitions; deleting a
30 | requirement that the department designate an
31 | administrator for the initiative; requiring the
32 | department to provide specified data to the
33 | administrator within specified timeframe; requiring
34 | the administrator to include certain information in a
35 | specified annual report; revising eligibility criteria
36 | for the initiative; deleting obsolete language;
37 | amending s. 1003.499, F.S.; conforming a cross-
38 | reference; creating s. 1004.646, F.S.; creating the
39 | Lastinger Center for Learning at the University of
40 | Florida; providing duties and responsibilities of the
41 | center; amending s. 1008.25, F.S.; making technical
42 | changes; requiring progress monitoring results to be
43 | provided to prekindergarten instructors within a
44 | specified timeframe; creating s. 1008.366, F.S.;
45 | requiring an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding
46 | organization to administer a tutoring program to
47 | provide specified academic support for students;
48 | providing duties and responsibilities of the
49 | organization; requiring the organization to annually
50 | provide a report to the Legislature and the

51 Commissioner of Education by a specified date;
 52 providing an effective date.

53

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

55

56 Section 1. Subsections (4) and (5) of section 1002.321,
 57 Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (5) and (6),
 58 respectively, and subsection (3) of that section is amended to
 59 read:

60 1002.321 Digital learning.—

61 (3) CUSTOMIZED AND ACCELERATED LEARNING.—Artificial
 62 intelligence provides opportunities to customize and accelerate
 63 learning for students and reduce teacher workload. A school
 64 district may receive grant funds for subscription fees and
 65 professional learning to support and accelerate learning for
 66 students in grades 6 through 12 during the school day. Grant
 67 recipients must select an artificial intelligence platform that:

68 (a) Uses large language models based on GPT-4, its
 69 equivalent, or a successor, and is on a closed system.

70 (b) Provides professional learning to teachers.

71 (c) Provides one-on-one tutoring aligned to the Benchmarks
 72 for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards for reading
 73 and mathematics.

74 (d) Provides standards-aligned lesson plans and provides
 75 insights on student progress.

76 (e) Provides district and school-level reporting and
 77 parental access to artificial intelligence interactions.

78 (4) VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION.—A school district must establish
 79 multiple opportunities for student participation in part-time
 80 and full-time kindergarten through grade 12 virtual instruction.
 81 Options include, but are not limited to:

82 (a) School district operated part-time or full-time
 83 virtual instruction programs under s. 1002.45(1)(b) for
 84 kindergarten through grade 12 students enrolled in the school
 85 district. A full-time program shall operate under its own Master
 86 School Identification Number.

87 (b) Florida Virtual School instructional services
 88 authorized under s. 1002.37.

89 (c) Blended learning instruction provided by charter
 90 schools authorized under s. 1002.33.

91 (d) Virtual charter school instruction authorized under s.
 92 1002.33.

93 (e) Courses delivered in the traditional school setting by
 94 personnel providing direct instruction through virtual
 95 instruction or through blended learning courses consisting of
 96 both traditional classroom and online instructional techniques
 97 pursuant to s. 1003.498.

98 (f) Virtual courses offered in the course code directory
 99 to students within the school district or to students in other
 100 school districts throughout the state pursuant to s. 1003.498.

101 Section 2. Subsection (2), paragraph (a) of subsection
 102 (3), subsections (4) and (6), and paragraphs (c) and (e) through
 103 (h) of subsection (7) of section 1002.411, Florida Statutes, are
 104 amended to read:

105 1002.411 New Worlds Scholarship Accounts.—

106 (2) ELIGIBILITY.—Contingent upon available funds, and on a
 107 first-come, first-served basis, each student who is enrolled in
 108 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program pursuant to s.
 109 1002.53 or a Florida public school in kindergarten through grade
 110 5 is eligible for a scholarship account if the student:

111 (a) Exhibits a substantial deficiency in early literacy
 112 skills based upon the results of the most recent progress
 113 monitoring administered pursuant to s. 1008.25(9), has a
 114 substantial reading deficiency or exhibits characteristics of
 115 dyslexia as identified under s. 1008.25(5) (a) , or scored below a
 116 Level 3 on the most recent statewide, standardized English
 117 Language Arts (ELA) assessment ~~in the prior school year~~. An
 118 eligible student who is classified as an English Language
 119 Learner and is enrolled in a program or receiving services that
 120 are specifically designed to meet the instructional needs of
 121 English Language Learner students shall receive priority.

122 (b) Exhibits a substantial deficiency in early mathematics
 123 skills based upon the results of the most recent progress
 124 monitoring administered pursuant to s. 1008.25(9), has a
 125 substantial deficiency in mathematics or the characteristics of

126 | dyscalculia as identified under s. 1008.25(6)(a) l, or scored
127 | below a Level 3 on the most recent statewide, standardized
128 | Mathematics assessment ~~in the prior school year~~.

129 | (3) PARENT AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR
130 | PARTICIPATION.—

131 | (a) For an eligible student to receive a scholarship
132 | account, the student's parent must:

133 | 1. Submit an application to an eligible nonprofit
134 | scholarship-funding organization by the deadline established by
135 | such organization; and

136 | 2. If available, utilize the administrator's system to
137 | make direct purchases ~~Submit eligible expenses to the eligible~~
138 | ~~nonprofit scholarship-funding organization for reimbursement~~ of
139 | qualifying expenditures, which may include:

140 | a. Instructional materials.

141 | b. Curriculum. As used in this sub-subparagraph, the term
142 | "curriculum" means a complete course of study for a particular
143 | content area or grade level, including any required supplemental
144 | materials and associated online instruction.

145 | c. Tuition and fees for part-time tutoring services
146 | provided by a person who holds a valid Florida educator's
147 | certificate pursuant to s. 1012.56, a person who holds a
148 | baccalaureate or graduate degree in the subject area, a person
149 | who holds an adjunct teaching certificate pursuant to s.
150 | 1012.57, ~~or~~ a person who has demonstrated a mastery of subject

151 area knowledge pursuant to s. 1012.56(5), a person who holds a
 152 micro-credential under s. 1003.485, or, for a prekindergarten
 153 student, a person who holds a credential under s.
 154 1002.55(3)(c)1. or an educational credential under s.
 155 1002.55(4)(a) or (b).

156 d. Fees for summer education programs designed to improve
 157 reading, literacy, or mathematics skills.

158 e. Fees for after-school education programs designed to
 159 improve reading, literacy, or mathematics skills.

160
 161 A provider of any services receiving payments pursuant to this
 162 subparagraph may not share any moneys from the scholarship with,
 163 or provide a refund or rebate of any moneys from such
 164 scholarship to, the parent or participating student in any
 165 manner. A parent, student, or provider of any services may not
 166 bill an insurance company, Medicaid, or any other agency for the
 167 same services that are paid for using scholarship funds.

168 (4) ADMINISTRATOR ADMINISTRATION.—An eligible nonprofit
 169 scholarship-funding organization as defined in s. 1002.395(2)
 170 shall be the administrator and participating in the Florida Tax
 171 Credit Scholarship Program established by s. 1002.395 may
 172 establish scholarship accounts for eligible students in
 173 accordance with the requirements of eligible nonprofit
 174 scholarship-funding organizations under this chapter.

175 (6) SCHOOL DISTRICT AND PRIVATE PREKINDERGARTEN PROVIDER

176 OBLIGATIONS; PARENTAL OPTIONS.—

177 (a) ~~Each~~ By September 30, the school district and private
 178 prekindergarten provider shall notify the parent of each
 179 eligible student of the process to request and receive a
 180 scholarship, subject to available funds, when providing results
 181 from the standardized coordinated screening and progress
 182 monitoring pursuant to s. 1008.25(9)(c).

183 (b) A school district may not prohibit instructional
 184 personnel from providing services pursuant to this section on
 185 the instructional personnel's school campus outside regular work
 186 hours, subject to school district policies for safety and
 187 security operations to protect students, instructional
 188 personnel, and educational facilities.

189 (7) ACCOUNT FUNDING AND PAYMENT.—

190 (c) Upon ~~notification from the eligible nonprofit~~
 191 ~~scholarship-funding organization that~~ a student being ~~has been~~
 192 determined eligible for a scholarship, the department shall,
 193 within 45 days, release the student's scholarship funds to such
 194 organization to be deposited into the student's account.

195 (e) The eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding
 196 organization may develop a system that permits eligible students
 197 to use program funds to make direct purchases of qualifying
 198 expenditures for payment of scholarship funds by funds transfer,
 199 ~~including, but not limited to, debit cards, electronic payment~~
 200 ~~cards, or any other means of payment that the department deems~~

201 ~~to be commercially viable or cost-effective. A student's~~
 202 ~~scholarship award may not be reduced for debit card or~~
 203 ~~electronic payment fees.~~ Commodities or services related to the
 204 development of such a system shall be procured by competitive
 205 solicitation unless they are purchased from a state term
 206 contract pursuant to s. 287.056.

207 ~~(f) Payment of the scholarship shall be made by the~~
 208 ~~eligible nonprofit scholarship funding organization no less~~
 209 ~~frequently than on a quarterly basis.~~

210 (f)~~(g)~~ Moneys received pursuant to this section do not
 211 constitute taxable income to the qualified student or his or her
 212 parent.

213 (g)~~(h)~~ A student's scholarship account must be closed and
 214 any remaining funds shall revert to the state after:

215 1. Denial or revocation of scholarship eligibility by the
 216 commissioner for fraud or abuse, including, but not limited to,
 217 the student or student's parent accepting any payment, refund,
 218 or rebate, in any manner, from a provider of any services
 219 received pursuant to subsection (3); or

220 2. Three consecutive fiscal years in which an account has
 221 been inactive.

222 Section 3. Subsection (5) of section 1003.01, Florida
 223 Statutes, is amended to read:

224 1003.01 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

225 (5) "Core-curricula courses" means:

226 (a) Courses in language arts/reading, mathematics, social
 227 studies, and science in prekindergarten through grade 3,
 228 excluding extracurricular courses pursuant to subsection (11);

229 (b) Courses in grades 4 through 8 in subjects that are
 230 measured by state assessment at any grade level and courses
 231 required for middle school promotion, excluding extracurricular
 232 courses pursuant to subsection (11);

233 (c) Courses in grades 9 through 12 in subjects that are
 234 measured by state assessment at any grade level and courses that
 235 are specifically identified by name in statute as required for
 236 high school graduation and that are not measured by state
 237 assessment, excluding extracurricular courses pursuant to
 238 subsection (11);

239 (d) Exceptional student education courses; and

240 (e) English for Speakers of Other Languages courses.

241
 242 The term is limited in meaning and used for the sole purpose of
 243 designating classes that are subject to the maximum class size
 244 requirements established in s. 1, Art. IX of the State
 245 Constitution. This term does not include courses offered under
 246 ss. 1002.321(4)(e) ~~1002.321(3)(e)~~, 1002.33(7)(a)2.c., 1002.37,
 247 1002.45, and 1003.499.

248 Section 4. Section 1003.485, Florida Statutes, is amended
 249 to read:

250 1003.485 The New Worlds Reading Initiative.—

251 (1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

252 (a) "Administrator" means the a state University of
 253 Florida Lastinger Center for Learning ~~registered with the~~
 254 ~~department under s. 1002.395(15)(i) and designated to administer~~
 255 ~~the initiative under paragraph (3)(a).~~

256 (b) "Annual tax credit amount" means, for any state fiscal
 257 year, the sum of the amount of tax credits approved under
 258 paragraph (5)(b), including tax credits to be taken under s.
 259 211.0252, s. 212.1833, s. 220.1876, s. 561.1212, or s.
 260 624.51056, which are approved for taxpayers whose taxable years
 261 begin on or after January 1 of the calendar year preceding the
 262 start of the applicable state fiscal year.

263 (c) "Department" means the Department of Education.

264 (d) "Division" means the Division of Alcoholic Beverages
 265 and Tobacco of the Department of Business and Professional
 266 Regulation.

267 (e) "Eligible contribution" means a monetary contribution
 268 from a taxpayer, subject to the restrictions provided in this
 269 section, to the administrator.

270 (f) "Initiative" means the New Worlds Reading Initiative.

271 (g) "Micro-credential" means evidence-based professional
 272 learning development ~~development~~ activities grounded in the science of
 273 reading which are competency-based, personalized, and on-demand.
 274 Educators must demonstrate their competence via evidence
 275 submitted and reviewed by trained evaluators.

276 (2) NEW WORLDS READING INITIATIVE; PURPOSE.—The purpose of
 277 the New Worlds Reading Initiative established under the
 278 department is to instill a love of reading by providing high-
 279 quality, free books to students in prekindergarten through grade
 280 5 who are reading below grade level and to improve the literacy
 281 skills of students in prekindergarten through grade 12. The New
 282 Worlds Reading Initiative shall consist of:

283 (a) The program established under this section to provide
 284 high-quality, free books to students.

285 (b) The New Worlds Scholarship Program under s. 1002.411.

286 (c) The New Worlds Scholar program under s. 1008.365,
 287 which rewards high school students who instill a love of reading
 288 and improve the literacy skills of students in kindergarten
 289 through grade 3.

290 (d) The New Worlds micro-credential program established
 291 under this section which emphasizes strong core instruction and
 292 a tiered model of reading interventions for struggling readers.

293 (3) DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES.—The department shall:

294 ~~(a) Designate an administrator to implement the initiative~~
 295 ~~and to receive funding as provided in this section. The~~
 296 ~~administrator must have an academic innovation institution with~~
 297 ~~extensive experience in:~~

298 ~~1. Conducting academic research in early literacy~~
 299 ~~instruction.~~

300 ~~2. Implementing online delivery of early learning and~~

301 ~~literacy training for educators nationally.~~

302 ~~3. Developing online support materials that assist parents~~
303 ~~and caregivers in developing early literacy skills.~~

304 ~~4. Conducting fundraising and public awareness campaigns~~
305 ~~to support the development and growth of evidence-based~~
306 ~~educational initiatives that support learning at home and in~~
307 ~~schools.~~

308 ~~(a)-(b)~~ Publish information about the initiative and tax
309 credits under subsection (5) on its website, including the
310 process for a taxpayer to select the administrator as the
311 recipient of funding through a tax credit.

312 ~~(b)-(c)~~ ~~Beginning September 30, 2022, and Annually~~
313 ~~thereafter,~~ report on its website the number of students
314 participating in the initiative in each school district,
315 information from the annual financial report under paragraph
316 (4)(j), and the academic achievement and learning gains, as
317 applicable, of participating students based on data provided by
318 school districts as permitted under s. 1002.22. The department
319 shall establish a date by which the administrator and each
320 school district must annually provide the data necessary to
321 complete the report.

322 (c) Provide the administrator with progress monitoring
323 data for eligible prekindergarten through grade 12 students
324 within 30 days after the close of each progress monitoring
325 period.

326 (4) ADMINISTRATOR RESPONSIBILITIES.—The administrator
 327 shall:

328 (a) Develop, in consultation with the Just Read, Florida!
 329 Office under s. 1001.215, a selection of high-quality books
 330 encompassing diverse subjects and genres for each grade level to
 331 be mailed to students in the initiative.

332 (b) Distribute books at no cost to students as provided in
 333 paragraph (6)(c) either directly or through an agreement with a
 334 book distribution company.

335 (c) Assist local implementation of the initiative by
 336 providing marketing materials to school districts and any
 337 partnering nonprofit organizations to assist with public
 338 awareness campaigns and other activities designed to increase
 339 family engagement and instill a love of reading in students.

340 (d) Maintain a clearinghouse for information on national,
 341 state, and local nonprofit organizations that support efforts to
 342 improve literacy and provide books to children.

343 (e) Develop, for parents of students in the initiative,
 344 resources and training materials that engage families in reading
 345 and support the reading achievement of their students. The
 346 administrator shall periodically send to parents hyperlinks to
 347 these resources and materials, including video modules, via text
 348 message and e-mail.

349 (f) Provide professional learning development and
 350 resources to teachers that correlate with the books provided

351 through the initiative.

352 (g) Develop, in consultation with the Just Read, Florida!
 353 Office under s. 1001.215, an online repository of digital
 354 science of reading materials and science of reading
 355 instructional resources that is accessible to public school
 356 teachers, school leaders, parents, and educator preparation
 357 programs and associated faculty.

358 (h) Develop a micro-credential that requires teachers to
 359 demonstrate competency to:

360 1. Diagnose literacy difficulties and determine the
 361 appropriate range of literacy interventions based upon the age
 362 and literacy deficiency of the student;

363 2. Use evidence-based instructional and intervention
 364 practices grounded in the science of reading, including
 365 strategies identified by the Just Read, Florida! Office pursuant
 366 to s. 1001.215(7); and

367 3. Effectively use progress monitoring and intervention
 368 materials.

369 (i) Administer the early literacy micro-credential program
 370 established under this section, which must include components on
 371 content, student learning, pedagogy, and professional learning
 372 ~~development~~ and must build on a strong foundation of
 373 scientifically researched and evidence-based reading
 374 instructional and intervention programs that incorporate
 375 explicit, systematic, and sequential approaches to teaching

376 phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and text
377 comprehension and incorporate decodable or phonetic text
378 instructional strategies, as identified by the Just Read,
379 Florida! Office, pursuant to s. 1001.215(7).

380 1. At a minimum, the micro-credential curriculum must be
381 designed specifically for instructional personnel in
382 prekindergarten through grade 3 based upon the strategies and
383 techniques identified in s. 1002.59 and address foundational
384 literacy skills of students in grades 4 through 12.

385 2. The micro-credential must be competency based and
386 designed for eligible instructional personnel to complete the
387 credentialing process in no more than 60 hours, in an online
388 format. The micro-credential may be delivered in an in-person
389 format. Eligible instructional personnel may receive the micro-
390 credential once competency is demonstrated even if it is before
391 ~~prior to~~ the completion of 60 hours.

392 3. The micro-credential must be available by December 31,
393 2022, at no cost, to instructional personnel as defined in s.
394 1012.01(2); prekindergarten instructors as specified in ss.
395 1002.55, 1002.61, and 1002.63; and child care personnel as
396 defined in ss. 402.302(3) and 1002.88(1)(e).

397 (j) Annually submit to the department an annual financial
398 report that includes, at a minimum, the amount of eligible
399 contributions received by the administrator; the amount spent on
400 each activity required by this subsection, including

401 administrative expenses; the number of micro-credentials and
 402 reading endorsements earned; and the number of students and
 403 households served under each component of the initiative, by
 404 school district, including the means by which additional
 405 literacy support was provided to students.

406 (k) Maintain separate accounts for operating funds and
 407 funds for the purchase and delivery of books.

408 (l) Expend eligible contributions received only for the
 409 purchase and delivery of books and to implement the requirements
 410 of this section, as well as for administrative expenses not to
 411 exceed 2 percent of total eligible contributions.

412 Notwithstanding s. 1002.395(6)(l)2., the administrator may carry
 413 forward up to 25 percent of eligible contributions made before
 414 January 1 of each state fiscal year and 100 percent of eligible
 415 contributions made on or after January 1 of each state fiscal
 416 year to the following state fiscal year for purposes authorized
 417 by this subsection. Any eligible contributions in excess of the
 418 allowable carry forward not used to provide additional books
 419 throughout the year to eligible students shall revert to the
 420 state treasury.

421 (m) Upon receipt of a contribution, provide the taxpayer
 422 that made the contribution with a certificate of contribution. A
 423 certificate of contribution must include the taxpayer's name
 424 and, if available, its federal employer identification number;
 425 the amount contributed; the date of contribution; and the name

426 | of the administrator.

427 | (6) ELIGIBILITY; NOTIFICATION; SCHOOL DISTRICT
 428 | OBLIGATIONS.—

429 | (a) A student in prekindergarten through grade 5 must be
 430 | provided books through the initiative if the student is not yet
 431 | reading on grade level, has a substantial reading deficiency
 432 | identified under s. 1008.25(5)(a) ~~or (b)~~, has a substantial
 433 | deficiency in early literacy skills based upon the results of
 434 | the coordinated screening and progress monitoring under s.
 435 | 1008.25(9), or scored below a Level 3 on the most recent
 436 | ~~preceding year's~~ statewide, standardized English Language Arts
 437 | assessment under s. 1008.22.

438 | (b) Each school district shall notify the parent of a
 439 | student who meets the criteria under paragraph (a) that the
 440 | student is eligible to receive books at no cost through the New
 441 | Worlds Reading Initiative and provide the parent with the
 442 | application form developed by the administrator, which must
 443 | allow for the selection of specific book topics or genres for
 444 | the student.

445 | (c) Once an eligible student is identified, the school
 446 | district shall coordinate with the administrator to initiate
 447 | book delivery on a monthly basis during the school year, which
 448 | must begin no later than October and continue through at least
 449 | June. ~~However, for the 2021-2022 school year only, delivery may~~
 450 | ~~begin no later than December 31, 2021, provided that no fewer~~

451 ~~than 9 books are delivered to each student before book~~
452 ~~deliveries begin for the 2022-2023 school year.~~

453 (d) Upon enrollment and at the beginning of each school
454 year, students must be provided options for specific book topics
455 or genres in order to maximize student interest in reading.

456 (e) A student's eligibility for the initiative continues
457 until promotion to grade 6 or until the student's parent opts
458 out of the initiative.

459 (f) Each school district shall participate in the
460 initiative by partnering with local nonprofit organizations,
461 raising awareness of the initiative using marketing materials
462 developed by the administrator, coordinating book delivery, and
463 identifying students and notifying parents pursuant to this
464 subsection.

465 (g) Each school district shall coordinate with each
466 charter school it sponsors for purposes of identifying eligible
467 students, notifying parents, coordinating book delivery,
468 providing the opportunity to annually select book topics and
469 genres, and raising awareness of the initiative as provided by
470 this section.

471 (h) School districts and partnering nonprofit
472 organizations shall raise awareness of the initiative, including
473 information on eligibility and video training modules under
474 paragraph (4)(e), through, at least, the following:

475 1. The student handbook and the read-at-home plan under s.

476 | 1008.25 (5) (d) .

477 | 2. A parent or curriculum night or separate initiative
478 | awareness event at each elementary school.

479 | 3. Partnering with the county library to host awareness
480 | events, which should coincide with other initiatives such as
481 | library card drives, family library nights, summer access
482 | events, and other family engagement programming.

483 | (i) Each school district shall establish a data sharing
484 | agreement with the initiative's administrator which allows for a
485 | streamlined student verification and enrollment process.

486 | (7) ADMINISTRATION; RULES.—

487 | (a) The Department of Revenue, the division, and the
488 | Department of Education may develop a cooperative agreement to
489 | assist in the administration of this section, as needed.

490 | (b) The Department of Revenue may adopt rules necessary to
491 | administer this section and ss. 211.0252, 212.1833, 220.1876,
492 | 561.1212, and 624.51056, including rules establishing
493 | application forms, procedures governing the approval of tax
494 | credits and carryforward tax credits under subsection (5), and
495 | procedures to be followed by taxpayers when claiming approved
496 | tax credits on their returns.

497 | (c) The division may adopt rules necessary to administer
498 | its responsibilities under this section and s. 561.1212.

499 | (d) The Department of Education may adopt rules necessary
500 | to administer this section.

501 (e) Notwithstanding any provision of s. 213.053 to the
502 contrary, sharing information with the division related to this
503 tax credit is considered the conduct of the Department of
504 Revenue's official duties as contemplated in s. 213.053(8)(c),
505 and the Department of Revenue and the division are specifically
506 authorized to share information as needed to administer this
507 section.

508 Section 5. Subsection (2) of section 1003.499, Florida
509 Statutes, is amended to read:

510 1003.499 Florida Approved Courses and Tests (FACT)
511 Initiative.—

512 (2) FLORIDA APPROVED COURSES.—The Department of Education
513 shall annually publish online a list of providers approved to
514 offer Florida approved courses which shall be listed in the
515 online catalog pursuant to s. 1002.321(6) ~~s. 1002.321(5)~~.

516 (a) As used in this section, the term "Florida approved
517 courses" means online courses provided by individuals which
518 include, but are not limited to, massive open online courses or
519 remedial education associated with the courses that are measured
520 pursuant to s. 1008.22. Massive open online courses may be
521 authorized in the following subject areas: Algebra I, biology,
522 geometry, and civics. Courses may be applied toward requirements
523 for promotion or graduation in whole, in subparts, or in a
524 combination of whole and subparts. A student may not be required
525 to repeat subparts that are satisfactorily completed.

526 (b) A Florida approved course must be annually identified,
 527 approved, published, and shared for consideration by interested
 528 students and school districts. The Commissioner of Education
 529 shall approve each Florida approved course for application in K-
 530 12 public schools in accordance with rules of the State Board of
 531 Education.

532 Section 6. Section 1004.646, Florida Statutes, is created
 533 to read:

534 1004.646 University of Florida Lastinger Center For
 535 Learning.—There is created at the University of Florida, the
 536 Lastinger Center for Learning. The center shall:

537 (1) Develop and administer programs to improve student
 538 achievement outcomes in early learning, literacy, and
 539 mathematics.

540 (2) Provide professional learning for educators to improve
 541 the quality of instruction in early learning, literacy, and
 542 mathematics. Professional learning shall include the development
 543 of micro-credentials that require educators to demonstrate
 544 competency. Micro-credentials must be provided at low or no cost
 545 and be personalized, and may be provided online or in person.

546 (3) Provide technical assistance and support to school
 547 districts and schools in improving student achievement.

548 (4) Conduct and publish research on teaching and learning
 549 in early learning, literacy, and mathematics as well as
 550 professional learning for educators.

551 Section 7. Paragraph (d) of subsection (5), paragraph (c)
 552 of subsection (6), and paragraph (c) of subsection (9) of
 553 section 1008.25, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

554 1008.25 Public school student progression; student
 555 support; coordinated screening and progress monitoring;
 556 reporting requirements.—

557 (5) READING DEFICIENCY AND PARENTAL NOTIFICATION.—

558 (d) The parent of any student who exhibits a substantial
 559 deficiency in reading, as described in paragraph (a), must be
 560 notified in writing of the following:

561 1. That his or her child has been identified as having a
 562 substantial deficiency in reading, including a description and
 563 explanation, in terms understandable to the parent, of the exact
 564 nature of the student's difficulty in learning and lack of
 565 achievement in reading.

566 2. A description of the current services that are provided
 567 to the child.

568 3. A description of the proposed intensive interventions
 569 and supports that will be provided to the child that are
 570 designed to remediate the identified area of reading deficiency.

571 4. That if the child's reading deficiency is not
 572 remediated by the end of grade 3, the child must be retained
 573 unless he or she is exempt from mandatory retention for good
 574 cause.

575 5. Strategies, including multisensory strategies and

576 programming, through a read-at-home plan the parent can use in
577 helping his or her child succeed in reading. The read-at-home
578 plan must provide access to the resources identified in
579 paragraph (e)~~(f)~~.

580 6. That the statewide, standardized English Language Arts
581 assessment is not the sole determiner of promotion and that
582 additional evaluations, portfolio reviews, and assessments are
583 available to the child to assist parents and the school district
584 in knowing when a child is reading at or above grade level and
585 ready for grade promotion.

586 7. The district's specific criteria and policies for a
587 portfolio as provided in subparagraph (7)(b)4. and the evidence
588 required for a student to demonstrate mastery of Florida's
589 academic standards for English Language Arts. A school must
590 immediately begin collecting evidence for a portfolio when a
591 student in grade 3 is identified as being at risk of retention
592 or upon the request of the parent, whichever occurs first.

593 8. The district's specific criteria and policies for
594 midyear promotion. Midyear promotion means promotion of a
595 retained student at any time during the year of retention once
596 the student has demonstrated ability to read at grade level.

597 9. Information about the student's eligibility for the New
598 Worlds Reading Initiative under s. 1003.485 and the New Worlds
599 Scholarship Accounts under s. 1002.411 and information on parent
600 training modules and other reading engagement resources

601 available through the initiative.

602

603 After initial notification, the school shall apprise the parent
604 at least monthly of the student's progress in response to the
605 intensive interventions and supports. Such communications must
606 be in writing and must explain any additional interventions or
607 supports that will be implemented to accelerate the student's
608 progress if the interventions and supports already being
609 implemented have not resulted in improvement.

610 (6) MATHEMATICS DEFICIENCY AND PARENTAL NOTIFICATION.—

611 (c) The parent of a student who exhibits a substantial
612 deficiency in mathematics, as described in paragraph (a), must
613 be notified in writing of the following:

614 1. That his or her child has been identified as having a
615 substantial deficiency in mathematics, including a description
616 and explanation, in terms understandable to the parent, of the
617 exact nature of the student's difficulty in learning and lack of
618 achievement in mathematics.

619 2. A description of the current services that are provided
620 to the child.

621 3. A description of the proposed intensive interventions
622 and supports that will be provided to the child that are
623 designed to remediate the identified area of mathematics
624 deficiency.

625 4. Strategies, including multisensory strategies and

626 programming, through a home-based plan the parent can use in
 627 helping his or her child succeed in mathematics. The home-based
 628 plan must provide access to the resources identified in
 629 paragraph (d)~~(e)~~.

630

631 After the initial notification, the school shall apprise the
 632 parent at least monthly of the student's progress in response to
 633 the intensive interventions and supports. Such communications
 634 must be in writing and must explain any additional interventions
 635 or supports that will be implemented to accelerate the student's
 636 progress if the interventions and supports already being
 637 implemented have not resulted in improvement.

638 (9) COORDINATED SCREENING AND PROGRESS MONITORING SYSTEM.—

639 (c) To facilitate timely interventions and supports
 640 pursuant to subsection (4), the system must provide results from
 641 the first two administrations of the progress monitoring to a
 642 student's teacher or prekindergarten instructor within 1 week
 643 and to the student's parent within 2 weeks after ~~of~~ the
 644 administration of the progress monitoring. Delivery of results
 645 from the comprehensive, end-of-year progress monitoring ELA
 646 assessment for grades 3 through 10 and Mathematics assessment
 647 for grades 3 through 8 must be in accordance with s.
 648 1008.22 (7) (h).

649 1. A student's results from the coordinated screening and
 650 progress monitoring system must be recorded in a written, easy-

651 to-comprehend individual student report. Each school district
652 shall provide a parent secure access to his or her child's
653 individual student reports through a web-based portal as part of
654 its student information system. Each early learning coalition
655 shall provide parents the individual student report in a format
656 determined by state board rule.

657 2. In addition to the information under subparagraph
658 (a)5., the report must also include parent resources that
659 explain the purpose of progress monitoring, assist the parent in
660 interpreting progress monitoring results, and support informed
661 parent involvement. Parent resources may include personalized
662 video formats.

663 3. The department shall annually update school districts
664 and early learning coalitions on new system features and
665 functionality and collaboratively identify with school districts
666 and early learning coalitions strategies for meaningfully
667 reporting to parents results from the coordinated screening and
668 progress monitoring system. The department shall develop ways to
669 increase the utilization, by instructional staff and parents, of
670 student assessment data and resources.

671 4. An individual student report must be provided in a
672 printed format upon a parent's request.

673 Section 8. Section 1008.366, Florida Statutes, is created
674 to read:

675 1008.366 Academic support for students.-

676 (1) An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization
677 as defined in s. 1002.395(2) shall administer a tutoring program
678 that supports school districts and schools in improving student
679 achievement in reading and mathematics by:

680 (a) Providing best practice science of reading guidelines
681 for districts in consultation with the Just Read, Florida!
682 Office.

683 (b) Providing best practice guidelines for mathematics
684 tutoring in alignment with Florida's Benchmarks for Excellent
685 Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards for mathematics.

686 (c) Establishing minimum standards that each school
687 district must meet to participate in the program. The minimum
688 standards must address:

- 689 1. Appropriate group sizes for tutoring sessions.
690 2. The frequency and duration of tutoring sessions.
691 3. Minimum staffing qualifications for tutors.
692 4. The use of ongoing, informal and formal assessments to
693 target instructional interventions.
694 5. Prioritization strategies for tutoring students.

695 (d) Providing access during the school day to additional
696 literacy or mathematics support through evidence-based automated
697 literacy tutoring software that provides each student with real-
698 time interventions that are based in science of reading
699 principles or mathematics instructional best practices and
700 individually tailored to the needs and ability of each student.

701 Access shall be provided to students in kindergarten through
702 grade 5 enrolled in a public school who have a substantial
703 deficiency in reading or mathematics in accordance with s.
704 1008.25. The term "evidence-based" has the same meaning as in s.
705 1003.4201(6).

706 (e) Awarding grants to school districts that may be used
707 for stipends for in-person tutoring during the school day,
708 before and after school, or during a summer program. In-person
709 tutoring may be provided to, at a minimum, kindergarten through
710 grade 5 students enrolled in a public school who have a
711 substantial deficiency in reading or mathematics in accordance
712 with s. 1008.25. To identify eligible students, the department
713 shall provide the administrator with mathematics and reading
714 progress monitoring data for eligible kindergarten through grade
715 12 students within 30 days after the close of each progress
716 monitoring period.

717 (f) Providing technical assistance and professional
718 learning to school districts, including:

719 1. Advising district staff on tutoring program design and
720 intervention selection upon request.

721 2. Assisting districts in reviewing tutoring programs,
722 professional learning programs, curriculum, and resources to
723 ensure that they adhere to the science of reading or best
724 practices in mathematics.

725 3. Providing professional learning to district staff to

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726 build their knowledge and skills around the science of reading
727 or best practices in mathematics.

728 (2) Annually, by July 1, the organization shall provide to
729 the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
730 Representatives, and the Commissioner of Education a report
731 summarizing school district use of program funds and student
732 academic outcomes as a result of the additional literacy or
733 mathematics support provided under this section.

734 Section 9. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.