

26 | prekindergarten programs; prohibiting certain eligible
27 | students from enrolling in public schools; providing
28 | an exemption to a prohibition against receiving other
29 | educational scholarships; providing additional
30 | criteria for the closure of scholarship accounts and
31 | the reversion of funds to the state; revising the
32 | information that such organizations must include in
33 | their quarterly reports; authorizing the Department of
34 | Education to provide guidance to certain private
35 | schools; revising the documentation that private
36 | schools must provide to such organizations; revising
37 | the process for parents to provide certain
38 | notification to such organizations; prohibiting a
39 | parent from applying for multiple scholarships under
40 | specified programs for a single student at the same
41 | time; requiring such organizations to establish
42 | certain processes; requiring such organizations to
43 | submit specified information to the department;
44 | deleting a requirement that certain students be placed
45 | on a wait list; requiring such organizations to
46 | provide certain notification to parents; revising
47 | provisions relating to a specified administrative fee;
48 | revising provisions relating to increasing the number
49 | of certain scholarships; revising provisions relating
50 | to the payment and disbursement of funds; amending s.

51 1002.395, F.S.; revising eligibility requirements for
52 the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program;
53 prohibiting certain eligible students from enrolling
54 in public schools; providing an exemption to a
55 prohibition against receiving other educational
56 scholarships; providing that equipment used as
57 instructional materials may only be purchased for
58 specified academic subjects; revising the process for
59 parents to provide certain notification to such
60 organizations; prohibiting a parent from applying for
61 multiple scholarships under specified programs for a
62 single student at the same time; requiring such
63 organizations to establish certain processes;
64 requiring such organizations to assist the Florida
65 Center for Students with Unique Abilities with the
66 development of specified guidelines and to publish
67 such guidelines on their websites; revising department
68 notification requirements; revising the information
69 that such organizations must include in their
70 quarterly reports; revising provisions relating to the
71 payment and disbursement of funds; repealing s.
72 1002.40, F.S., relating to the Hope Scholarship
73 Program; amending s. 1002.421, F.S.; revising
74 requirements for regular and direct contact for
75 certain students; amending s. 1002.45, F.S.; deleting

76 a requirement that virtual instruction program
 77 providers be nonsectarian; amending s. 1003.4156,
 78 F.S.; providing that certain requirements apply to
 79 middle grade students transferring from a personalized
 80 education program; amending s. 1003.4282, F.S.;
 81 providing that certain requirements apply to high
 82 school students transferring from a personalized
 83 education program; amending s. 1003.485, F.S.;
 84 conforming cross-references to changes made by the
 85 act; amending s. 1004.6495, F.S.; requiring the
 86 Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities to
 87 develop specified purchasing guidelines by a specified
 88 date and annually revise such guidelines; providing
 89 requirements for the development and revision of such
 90 guidelines; requiring such guidelines to be provided
 91 to specified eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding
 92 organizations; providing effective dates.

93
 94 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

95
 96 Section 1. Section 212.1832, Florida Statutes, is amended
 97 to read:

98 212.1832 Credit for contributions to eligible nonprofit
 99 scholarship-funding organizations.—

100 (1) As used in this section, the term:

101 (a) "Designated agent" has the same meaning as in s.
 102 212.06(10).

103 (b) "Eligible contribution" or "contribution" means a
 104 monetary contribution from a person purchasing a motor vehicle,
 105 subject to the restrictions provided in this section, to an
 106 eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization. The person
 107 making the contribution may not designate a specific student as
 108 the beneficiary of the contribution.

109 (c) "Eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization"
 110 or "organization" has the same meaning as in s. 1002.395(2).

111 (d) "Motor vehicle" has the same meaning as in s.
 112 320.01(1)(a), but does not include a heavy truck, truck tractor,
 113 trailer, or motorcycle.

114 (2)~~(1)~~ The purchaser of a motor vehicle shall be granted a
 115 credit of 100 percent of an eligible contribution made to an
 116 eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization under this
 117 section ~~s. 1002.40~~ against any tax imposed by the state under
 118 this chapter and collected from the purchaser by a dealer,
 119 designated agent, or private tag agent as a result of the
 120 purchase or acquisition of a motor vehicle, except that a credit
 121 may not exceed the tax that would otherwise be collected from
 122 the purchaser by a dealer, designated agent, or private tag
 123 agent. Each eligible contribution is limited to a single payment
 124 of \$105 per motor vehicle purchased at the time of purchase of a
 125 motor vehicle or a single payment of \$105 per motor vehicle

126 purchased at the time of registration of a motor vehicle that
127 was not purchased from a dealer, except that a contribution may
128 not exceed the state tax imposed under this chapter that would
129 otherwise be collected from the purchaser by a dealer,
130 designated agent, or private tag agent. Payments of
131 contributions shall be made to a dealer at the time of purchase
132 of a motor vehicle or to a designated agent or private tag agent
133 at the time of registration of a motor vehicle that was not
134 purchased from a dealer. An eligible contribution shall be
135 accompanied by a contribution election form provided by the
136 Department of Revenue. The form shall include, at a minimum, the
137 following brief description of the Florida Tax Credit
138 Scholarship Program: "THE FLORIDA TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
139 PROVIDES A STUDENT THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP TO
140 ATTEND AN ELIGIBLE PRIVATE SCHOOL OR PERSONALIZE HIS OR HER
141 EDUCATION." The form shall also include, at a minimum, a section
142 allowing the consumer to designate, from all participating
143 scholarship-funding organizations, which organization will
144 receive his or her donation. For purposes of this subsection,
145 the term "purchase" does not include the lease or rental of a
146 motor vehicle.

147 (3)~~(2)~~ A dealer shall take a credit against any tax
148 imposed by the state under this chapter on the purchase of a
149 motor vehicle in an amount equal to the credit granted to the
150 purchaser under subsection (2) ~~(1)~~.

151 (a) A dealer, designated agent, or private tag agent
152 shall:

153 1. Provide the purchaser the contribution election form,
154 as provided by the department, at the time of purchase of a
155 motor vehicle or at the time of registration of a motor vehicle
156 that was not purchased from a dealer.

157 2. Collect eligible contributions.

158 3. Using a form provided by the department, which shall
159 include the dealer's or agent's federal employer identification
160 number, remit to an organization no later than the date the
161 return filed pursuant to s. 212.11 is due the total amount of
162 contributions made to that organization and collected during the
163 preceding reporting period. Using the same form, the dealer or
164 agent shall also report this information to the department no
165 later than the date the return filed pursuant to s. 212.11 is
166 due.

167 4. Report to the department on each return filed pursuant
168 to s. 212.11 the total amount of credits granted under this
169 section for the preceding reporting period.

170 (b) An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization
171 shall report to the department, on or before the 20th day of
172 each month, the total amount of contributions received pursuant
173 to paragraph (a) in the preceding calendar month on a form
174 provided by the department. Such report shall include:

175 1. The federal employer identification number of each

176 designated agent, private tag agent, or dealer who remitted
177 contributions to the organization during that reporting period.

178 2. The amount of contributions received from each
179 designated agent, private tag agent, or dealer during that
180 reporting period.

181 (c) A person who, with the intent to unlawfully deprive or
182 defraud the program of its moneys or the use or benefit thereof,
183 fails to remit a contribution collected under this section is
184 guilty of theft, punishable as follows:

185 1. If the total amount stolen is less than \$300, the
186 offense is a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as
187 provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. Upon a second conviction,
188 the offender commits a misdemeanor of the first degree,
189 punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. Upon a third
190 or subsequent conviction, the offender commits a felony of the
191 third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083,
192 or s. 775.084.

193 2. If the total amount stolen is \$300 or more, but less
194 than \$20,000, the offense is a felony of the third degree,
195 punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

196 3. If the total amount stolen is \$20,000 or more, but less
197 than \$100,000, the offense is a felony of the second degree,
198 punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

199 4. If the total amount stolen is \$100,000 or more, the
200 offense is a felony of the first degree, punishable as provided

201 in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

202 (d) A person convicted of an offense under paragraph (c)
203 shall be ordered by the sentencing judge to make restitution to
204 the organization in the amount that was stolen from the program.

205 (e) Upon a finding that a dealer failed to remit a
206 contribution under subparagraph (a)3. for which the dealer
207 claimed a credit pursuant to this subsection, the department
208 shall notify the affected organizations of the dealer's name,
209 address, federal employer identification number, and information
210 related to differences between credits taken by the dealer
211 pursuant to this subsection and amounts remitted to the eligible
212 nonprofit scholarship-funding organization under subparagraph
213 (a)3.

214 (f) Any dealer, designated agent, private tag agent, or
215 organization that fails to timely submit reports to the
216 department as required in paragraphs (a) and (b) is subject to a
217 penalty of \$1,000 for every month, or part thereof, the report
218 is not submitted, up to a maximum amount of \$10,000. Such
219 penalty shall be collected by the department and shall be
220 transferred into the General Revenue Fund. Such penalty must be
221 settled or compromised if it is determined by the department
222 that the noncompliance is due to reasonable cause and not due to
223 willful negligence, willful neglect, or fraud.

224 (4)(3) For purposes of the distributions of tax revenue
225 under s. 212.20, the department shall disregard any tax credits

226 allowed under this section to ensure that any reduction in tax
227 revenue received that is attributable to the tax credits results
228 only in a reduction in distributions to the General Revenue
229 Fund. Section 1002.395 applies ~~The provisions of s. 1002.40~~
230 ~~apply~~ to the credit authorized by this section.

231 Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (22) of section
232 213.053, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

233 213.053 Confidentiality and information sharing.—

234 (22) (a) The department may provide to an eligible
235 nonprofit scholarship-funding organization, as defined in s.
236 1002.395 ~~s. 1002.40~~, a dealer's name, address, federal employer
237 identification number, and information related to differences
238 between credits taken by the dealer pursuant to s. 212.1832(2)
239 and amounts remitted to the eligible nonprofit scholarship-
240 funding organization pursuant to s. 212.1832(3) (a) 3. ~~under s.~~
241 ~~1002.40 (13) (b) 3.~~ The eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding
242 organization may use the information for purposes of recovering
243 eligible contributions designated for that organization that
244 were collected by the dealer but never remitted to the
245 organization.

246 Section 3. Subsections (3) and (4), paragraphs (a), (b),
247 and (c) of subsection (5), paragraphs (a), (c), and (d) of
248 subsection (6), paragraph (d) of subsection (7), paragraph (a)
249 of subsection (8), paragraph (b) of subsection (9), and
250 subsections (10), (11), (12), and (16) of section 1002.394,

251 Florida Statutes, as amended by chapter 2023-250, Laws of
 252 Florida, are amended, and paragraph (d) is added to subsection
 253 (8) of that section, to read:

254 1002.394 The Family Empowerment Scholarship Program.—

255 (3) SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY.—

256 (a)1. A parent of a student may apply for ~~request~~ and
 257 receive from the state a scholarship for the purposes specified
 258 in paragraph (4)(a) if the student:

259 a. Is a resident of this state or the dependent child of
 260 an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces who has
 261 received permanent change of station orders to this state; and

262 b. Is eligible to enroll in kindergarten through grade 12
 263 in a public school in this state or received a scholarship under
 264 the Hope Scholarship Program in the 2023-2024 school year.

265 2. Priority must be given in the following order:

266 a. A student whose household income level does not exceed
 267 185 percent of the federal poverty level or who is in foster
 268 care or out-of-home care.

269 b. A student whose household income level exceeds 185
 270 percent of the federal poverty level, but does not exceed 400
 271 percent of the federal poverty level.

272 (b) A parent of a student with a disability may apply for
 273 ~~request~~ and receive from the state a scholarship for the
 274 purposes specified in paragraph (4) (b) if the student:

275 1. Is a resident of this state or the dependent child of

276 an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces who has
277 received permanent change of station orders to this state or, at
278 the time of renewal, whose home of record or state of legal
279 residence is Florida;

280 2. Is 3 or 4 years of age during ~~on or before September 1~~
281 ~~of~~ the year in which the student applies for program
282 participation or is eligible to enroll in kindergarten through
283 grade 12 in a public school in this state;

284 3. Has a disability as defined in subsection (2); and

285 4. Is the subject of an IEP written in accordance with
286 rules of the State Board of Education or with the applicable
287 rules of another state or has received a diagnosis of a
288 disability from a physician who is licensed under chapter 458 or
289 chapter 459, a psychologist who is licensed under chapter 490,
290 or a physician who holds an active license issued by another
291 state or territory of the United States, the District of
292 Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

293 ~~(c) An approved student who does not receive a scholarship~~
294 ~~must be placed on the wait list in the order in which the~~
295 ~~student is approved. An eligible student who does not receive a~~
296 ~~scholarship within the fiscal year must be retained on the wait~~
297 ~~list for the subsequent year.~~

298 (4) AUTHORIZED USES OF PROGRAM FUNDS.—

299 (a) Program funds awarded to a student determined eligible
300 pursuant to paragraph (3) (a) may be used for:

- 301 1. Tuition and fees at an eligible private school.
- 302 2. Transportation to a Florida public school in which a
 303 student is enrolled and that is different from the school to
 304 which the student was assigned or to a lab school as defined in
 305 s. 1002.32.
- 306 3. Instructional materials, including digital materials
 307 and Internet resources. Equipment used as instructional
 308 materials may only be purchased for subjects in language arts
 309 and reading, mathematics, social studies, and science.
- 310 4. Curriculum as defined in subsection (2).
- 311 5. Tuition and fees associated with full-time or part-time
 312 enrollment in an eligible postsecondary educational institution
 313 or a program offered by the postsecondary educational
 314 institution, unless the program is subject to s. 1009.25 or
 315 reimbursed pursuant to s. 1009.30; an approved preapprenticeship
 316 program as defined in s. 446.021(5) which is not subject to s.
 317 1009.25 and complies with all applicable requirements of the
 318 department pursuant to chapter 1005; a private tutoring program
 319 authorized under s. 1002.43; a virtual program offered by a
 320 department-approved private online provider that meets the
 321 provider qualifications specified in s. 1002.45(2)(a); the
 322 Florida Virtual School as a private paying student; or an
 323 approved online course offered pursuant to s. 1003.499 or s.
 324 1004.0961.
- 325 6. Fees for nationally standardized, norm-referenced

326 achievement tests, Advanced Placement Examinations, industry
327 certification examinations, assessments related to postsecondary
328 education, or other assessments.

329 7. Contracted services provided by a public school or
330 school district, including classes. A student who receives
331 contracted services under this subparagraph is not considered
332 enrolled in a public school for eligibility purposes as
333 specified in subsection (6) but rather attending a public school
334 on a part-time basis as authorized under s. 1002.44.

335 8. Tuition and fees for part-time tutoring services or
336 fees for services provided by a choice navigator. Such services
337 must be provided by a person who holds a valid Florida
338 educator's certificate pursuant to s. 1012.56, a person who
339 holds an adjunct teaching certificate pursuant to s. 1012.57, a
340 person who has a bachelor's degree or a graduate degree in the
341 subject area in which instruction is given, a person who has
342 demonstrated a mastery of subject area knowledge pursuant to s.
343 1012.56(5), or a person certified by a nationally or
344 internationally recognized research-based training program as
345 approved by the department. As used in this subparagraph, the
346 term "part-time tutoring services" does not qualify as regular
347 school attendance as defined in s. 1003.01(16)(e).

348 (b) Program funds awarded to a student with a disability
349 determined eligible pursuant to paragraph (3)(b) may be used for
350 the following purposes:

- 351 1. Instructional materials, including digital devices,
 352 digital periphery devices, and assistive technology devices that
 353 allow a student to access instruction or instructional content
 354 and training on the use of and maintenance agreements for these
 355 devices.
- 356 2. Curriculum as defined in subsection (2).
- 357 3. Specialized services by approved providers or by a
 358 hospital in this state which are selected by the parent. These
 359 specialized services may include, but are not limited to:
- 360 a. Applied behavior analysis services as provided in ss.
 361 627.6686 and 641.31098.
- 362 b. Services provided by speech-language pathologists as
 363 defined in s. 468.1125(8).
- 364 c. Occupational therapy as defined in s. 468.203.
- 365 d. Services provided by physical therapists as defined in
 366 s. 486.021(8).
- 367 e. Services provided by listening and spoken language
 368 specialists and an appropriate acoustical environment for a
 369 child who has a hearing impairment, including deafness, and who
 370 has received an implant or assistive hearing device.
- 371 4. Tuition and fees associated with full-time or part-time
 372 enrollment in a home education program; an eligible private
 373 school; an eligible postsecondary educational institution or a
 374 program offered by the postsecondary educational institution,
 375 unless the program is subject to s. 1009.25 or reimbursed

376 pursuant to s. 1009.30; an approved preapprenticeship program as
377 defined in s. 446.021(5) which is not subject to s. 1009.25 and
378 complies with all applicable requirements of the department
379 pursuant to chapter 1005; a private tutoring program authorized
380 under s. 1002.43; a virtual program offered by a department-
381 approved private online provider that meets the provider
382 qualifications specified in s. 1002.45(2)(a); the Florida
383 Virtual School as a private paying student; or an approved
384 online course offered pursuant to s. 1003.499 or s. 1004.0961.

385 5. Fees for nationally standardized, norm-referenced
386 achievement tests, Advanced Placement Examinations, industry
387 certification examinations, assessments related to postsecondary
388 education, or other assessments.

389 6. Contributions to the Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid
390 College Program pursuant to s. 1009.98 or the Florida College
391 Savings Program pursuant to s. 1009.981 for the benefit of the
392 eligible student.

393 7. Contracted services provided by a public school or
394 school district, including classes. A student who receives
395 services under a contract under this paragraph is not considered
396 enrolled in a public school for eligibility purposes as
397 specified in subsection (6) but rather attending a public school
398 on a part-time basis as authorized under s. 1002.44.

399 8. Tuition and fees for part-time tutoring services or
400 fees for services provided by a choice navigator. Such services

401 must be provided by a person who holds a valid Florida
402 educator's certificate pursuant to s. 1012.56, a person who
403 holds an adjunct teaching certificate pursuant to s. 1012.57, a
404 person who has a bachelor's degree or a graduate degree in the
405 subject area in which instruction is given, a person who has
406 demonstrated a mastery of subject area knowledge pursuant to s.
407 1012.56(5), or a person certified by a nationally or
408 internationally recognized research-based training program as
409 approved by the department. As used in this subparagraph, the
410 term "part-time tutoring services" does not qualify as regular
411 school attendance as defined in s. 1003.01(16)(e).

412 9. Fees for specialized summer education programs.

413 10. Fees for specialized after-school education programs.

414 11. Transition services provided by job coaches.

415 Transition services are a coordinated set of activities which
416 are focused on improving the academic and functional achievement
417 of a student with a disability to facilitate the student's
418 movement from school to postschool activities and are based on
419 the student's needs.

420 12. Fees for an annual evaluation of educational progress
421 by a state-certified teacher under s. 1002.41(1)(f), if this
422 option is chosen for a home education student.

423 13. Tuition and fees associated with programs offered by
424 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program providers approved
425 pursuant to s. 1002.55, ~~and~~ school readiness providers approved

426 pursuant to s. 1002.88, and prekindergarten programs offered by
427 an eligible private school.

428 14. Fees for services provided at a center that is a
429 member of the Professional Association of Therapeutic
430 Horsemanship International.

431 15. Fees for services provided by a therapist who is
432 certified by the Certification Board for Music Therapists or
433 credentialed by the Art Therapy Credentials Board, Inc.

434 (5) TERM OF SCHOLARSHIP.—For purposes of continuity of
435 educational choice:

436 (a)1. A scholarship funded ~~awarded~~ to an eligible student
437 pursuant to paragraph (3) (a) shall remain in force until:

438 a. The organization determines that the student is not
439 eligible for program renewal;

440 b. The Commissioner of Education suspends or revokes
441 program participation or use of funds;

442 c. The student's parent has forfeited participation in the
443 program for failure to comply with subsection (10);

444 d. The student, who uses the scholarship for tuition and
445 fees pursuant to subparagraph (4) (a)1., enrolls in a public
446 school. However, if a student enters a Department of Juvenile
447 Justice detention center for a period of no more than 21 days,
448 the student is not considered to have returned to a public
449 school on a full-time basis for that purpose; or

450 e. The student graduates from high school or attains 21

451 years of age, whichever occurs first.

452 2.a. The student's scholarship account must be closed and
453 any remaining funds shall revert to the state after:

454 (I) Denial or revocation of program eligibility by the
455 commissioner for fraud or abuse, including, but not limited to,
456 the student or student's parent accepting any payment, refund,
457 or rebate, in any manner, from a provider of any services
458 received pursuant to paragraph (4)(a); ~~or~~

459 (II) Two consecutive fiscal years in which an account has
460 been inactive; or

461 (III) A student remains unenrolled in an eligible private
462 school for 30 days while receiving a scholarship that requires
463 full-time enrollment.

464 b. Reimbursements for program expenditures may continue
465 until the account balance is expended or remaining funds have
466 reverted to the state.

467 (b)1. A scholarship funded ~~awarded~~ to an eligible student
468 pursuant to paragraph (3)(b) shall remain in force until:

469 a. The parent does not renew program eligibility;

470 b. The organization determines that the student is not
471 eligible for program renewal;

472 c. The Commissioner of Education suspends or revokes
473 program participation or use of funds;

474 d. The student's parent has forfeited participation in the
475 program for failure to comply with subsection (10);

476 e. The student enrolls full time in a public school; or
477 f. The student graduates from high school or attains 22
478 years of age, whichever occurs first.

479 2. Reimbursements for program expenditures may continue
480 until the account balance is expended or the account is closed.

481 3. A student's scholarship account must be closed and any
482 remaining funds, including, but not limited to, contributions
483 made to the Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid College Program or
484 earnings from or contributions made to the Florida College
485 Savings Program using program funds pursuant to subparagraph
486 (4)(b)6., shall revert to the state after:

487 a. Denial or revocation of program eligibility by the
488 commissioner for fraud or abuse, including, but not limited to,
489 the student or student's parent accepting any payment, refund,
490 or rebate, in any manner, from a provider of any services
491 received pursuant to subsection (4);

492 b. Any period of 3 consecutive years after high school
493 completion or graduation during which the student has not been
494 enrolled in an eligible postsecondary educational institution or
495 a program offered by the institution; or

496 c. Two consecutive fiscal years in which an account has
497 been inactive.

498 (c) Upon reasonable notice to the organization and the
499 school district, the student's parent may remove the student
500 from the participating private school and place the student in a

501 public school in accordance with this section.

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

504 (a) Enrolled full time in a public school, including, but
505 not limited to, the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind,
506 the College-Preparatory Boarding Academy, the Florida School for
507 Competitive Academics, the Florida Virtual School, the Florida
508 Scholars Academy, a developmental research school authorized
509 under s. 1002.32, or a charter school authorized under this
510 chapter. For purposes of this paragraph, a 3- or 4-year-old
511 child who receives services funded through the Florida Education
512 Finance Program is considered to be a student enrolled in a
513 public school;

514 (c) Receiving any other educational scholarship pursuant
515 to this chapter. However, an eligible public school student
516 receiving a scholarship under s. 1002.411 may receive a
517 scholarship for transportation pursuant to subparagraph
518 (4) (a)2.;

519 (d) Not having regular and direct contact with his or her
520 private school teachers pursuant to s. 1002.421(1)(i), unless he
521 or she is eligible pursuant to paragraph (3)(b) and enrolled in
522 the participating private school's transition-to-work program
523 pursuant to subsection (16) or a home education program pursuant
524 to s. 1002.41;

525 (7) SCHOOL DISTRICT OBLIGATIONS.—

526 (d) Upon the request of the department, a school district
 527 shall coordinate with the department to provide to a
 528 participating private school the statewide assessments
 529 administered under s. 1008.22 and any related materials for
 530 administering the assessments. For a student who participates in
 531 the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program whose parent requests
 532 that the student take the statewide assessments under s.
 533 1008.22, the district in which the student attends a
 534 participating private school shall provide locations and times
 535 to take all statewide assessments. A school district is
 536 responsible for implementing test administrations at a
 537 participating private school, including the:

- 538 1. Provision of training for private school staff on test
- 539 security and assessment administration procedures;
- 540 2. Distribution of testing materials to a private school;
- 541 3. Retrieval of testing materials from a private school;
- 542 4. Provision of the required format for a private school
- 543 to submit information to the district for test administration
- 544 and enrollment purposes; and
- 545 5. Provision of any required assistance, monitoring, or
- 546 investigation at a private school.

547 (8) DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OBLIGATIONS.—

548 (a) The department shall:

- 549 1. Publish and update, as necessary, information on the
- 550 department website about the Family Empowerment Scholarship

551 Program, including, but not limited to, student eligibility
552 criteria, parental responsibilities, and relevant data.

553 2. Report, as part of the determination of full-time
554 equivalent membership pursuant to s. 1011.62(1)(a), all
555 scholarship students ~~who are receiving a scholarship under the~~
556 ~~program and are~~ funded through the Florida Education Finance
557 Program, and cross-check the list of ~~participating~~ scholarship
558 students submitted by the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding
559 organization with the full-time equivalent student membership
560 survey data ~~public school enrollment lists~~ to avoid duplication.

561 3. Maintain and annually publish a list of nationally
562 norm-referenced tests identified for purposes of satisfying the
563 testing requirement in subparagraph (9)(c)1. The tests must meet
564 industry standards of quality in accordance with state board
565 rule.

566 4. Notify eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding
567 organizations of the deadlines for submitting the verified list
568 of eligible scholarship students ~~determined to be eligible for a~~
569 ~~scholarship. An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding~~
570 ~~organization may not submit a student for funding after February~~
571 ~~1.~~

572 5. Deny or terminate program participation upon a parent's
573 failure to comply with subsection (10).

574 6. Notify the parent and the organization when a
575 scholarship account is closed and program funds revert to the

576 state.

577 7. Notify an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding
578 organization of any of the organization's or other
579 organization's identified students who are receiving
580 scholarships under this chapter.

581 8. Maintain on its website a list of approved providers as
582 required by s. 1002.66, eligible postsecondary educational
583 institutions, eligible private schools, and eligible
584 organizations and may identify or provide links to lists of
585 other approved providers.

586 9. Require each organization to verify eligible
587 expenditures before the distribution of funds for any
588 expenditures made pursuant to subparagraphs (4) (b)1. and 2.
589 Review of expenditures made for services specified in
590 subparagraphs (4) (b)3.-15. may be completed after the purchase
591 is made.

592 10. Investigate any written complaint of a violation of
593 this section by a parent, a student, a participating private
594 school, a public school, a school district, an organization, a
595 provider, or another appropriate party in accordance with the
596 process established under s. 1002.421.

597 11. Require quarterly reports by an organization, which
598 must include, at a minimum, the number of students participating
599 in the program; the demographics of program participants; the
600 disability category of program participants; the matrix level of

601 services, if known; the program award amount per student; the
602 total expenditures for the purposes specified in paragraph
603 (4) (b); the types of providers of services to students; the
604 number of scholarship applications received, the number of
605 applications processed within 30 days after receipt, and the
606 number of incomplete applications received; data related to
607 reimbursement submissions, including the average number of days
608 for a reimbursement to be reviewed and the average number of
609 days for a reimbursement to be approved; any parent input and
610 feedback collected regarding the program; and any other
611 information deemed necessary by the department.

612 12. Notify eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding
613 organizations that scholarships may not be awarded in a school
614 district in which the award will exceed 99 percent of the school
615 district's share of state funding through the Florida Education
616 Finance Program as calculated by the department.

617 13. Adjust payments to eligible nonprofit scholarship-
618 funding organizations and, when the Florida Education Finance
619 Program is recalculated, adjust the amount of state funds
620 allocated to school districts through the Florida Education
621 Finance Program based upon the results of the cross-check
622 completed pursuant to subparagraph 2.

623 (d) The department may provide guidance to a participating
624 private school that submits a transition-to-work program plan
625 pursuant to subsection (16).

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

630 (b) Provide to the organization all documentation required
 631 for a student's participation, including confirmation of the
 632 student's admission to the private school, the private school's
 633 and student's fee schedules, and any other information required
 634 by the organization to process scholarship payment under
 635 subparagraph (12) (a)4. Such information must be provided by the
 636 deadlines established by the organization and in accordance with
 637 the requirements of this section ~~at least 30 days before any~~
 638 ~~quarterly scholarship payment is made for the student pursuant~~
 639 ~~to paragraph (12) (a).~~ A student is not eligible to receive a
 640 quarterly scholarship payment if the private school fails to
 641 meet the ~~this~~ deadline.

642
 643 If a private school fails to meet the requirements of this
 644 subsection or s. 1002.421, the commissioner may determine that
 645 the private school is ineligible to participate in the
 646 scholarship program.

647 (10) PARENT AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PROGRAM
 648 PARTICIPATION.—

649 (a) A parent who applies for a scholarship ~~applies for~~
 650 ~~program participation~~ under paragraph (3) (a) whose student will

651 | be enrolled full time in an eligible ~~a~~ private school must:

652 | 1. Select an eligible ~~the~~ private school and apply for the
653 | admission of his or her student.

654 | 2. Request the scholarship by the ~~a~~ date established by
655 | the organization~~r~~ in a manner that creates a written or
656 | electronic record of the request and the date of receipt of the
657 | request.

658 | 3.a. Beginning with new applications for the 2025-2026
659 | school year and thereafter, notify the organization by December
660 | 15 that the scholarship is being accepted or declined.

661 | b. Beginning with renewal applications for the 2025-2026
662 | school year and thereafter, notify the organization by May 31
663 | that the scholarship is being renewed or declined.

664 | ~~4.3.~~ Inform the applicable school district when the parent
665 | withdraws his or her student from a public school to attend an
666 | eligible private school.

667 | ~~5.4.~~ Require his or her student participating in the
668 | program to remain in attendance at the eligible private school
669 | throughout the school year unless excused by the school for
670 | illness or other good cause.

671 | ~~6.5.~~ Meet with the eligible private school's principal or
672 | the principal's designee to review the school's academic
673 | programs and policies, specialized services, code of student
674 | conduct, and attendance policies before enrollment.

675 | ~~7.6.~~ Require his or her ~~that the~~ student participating in

676 the ~~scholarship~~ program to take ~~takes~~ the norm-referenced
677 assessment offered by the eligible private school. The parent
678 may also choose to have the student participate in the statewide
679 assessments pursuant to paragraph (7) (d). If the parent requests
680 that the student participating in the program take all statewide
681 assessments required pursuant to s. 1008.22, the parent is
682 responsible for transporting the student to the assessment site
683 designated by the school district.

684 ~~8.7.~~ Approve each payment before the scholarship funds may
685 be deposited by funds transfer pursuant to subparagraph
686 (12) (a) 4. The parent may not designate any entity or individual
687 associated with the participating private school as the parent's
688 attorney in fact to approve a funds transfer. A participant who
689 fails to comply with this paragraph forfeits the scholarship.

690 ~~9.8.~~ Agree to have the organization commit scholarship
691 funds on behalf of his or her student for tuition and fees for
692 which the parent is responsible for payment at the eligible
693 private school before using scholarship ~~empowerment~~ account
694 funds for additional authorized uses under paragraph (4) (a). A
695 parent is responsible for all eligible expenses in excess of the
696 amount of the scholarship.

697 10. Comply with the scholarship application and renewal
698 processes and requirements established by the organization.

699 (b) A parent who applies for a scholarship ~~applies for~~
700 ~~program participation~~ under paragraph (3) (b) is exercising his

701 or her parental option to determine the appropriate placement or
702 the services that best meet the needs of his or her child and
703 must:

704 1. Apply to an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding
705 organization to participate in the program by a date set by the
706 organization. The request must be communicated directly to the
707 organization in a manner that creates a written or electronic
708 record of the request and the date of receipt of the request.

709 2.a. Beginning with new applications for the 2025-2026
710 school year and thereafter, notify the organization by December
711 15 that the scholarship is being accepted or declined.

712 b. Beginning with renewal applications for the 2025-2026
713 school year and thereafter, notify the organization by May 31
714 that the scholarship is being renewed or declined.

715 ~~3.2.~~ Sign an agreement with the organization and annually
716 submit a sworn compliance statement to the organization to
717 satisfy or maintain program eligibility, including eligibility
718 to receive and spend program payments by:

719 a. Affirming that the student is enrolled in a program
720 that meets regular school attendance requirements as provided in
721 s. 1003.01(16) (b), (c), or (d).

722 b. Affirming that the program funds are used only for
723 authorized purposes serving the student's educational needs, as
724 described in paragraph (4) (b); that any prepaid college plan or
725 college savings plan funds contributed pursuant to subparagraph

726 (4) (b) 6. will not be transferred to another beneficiary while
 727 the plan contains funds contributed pursuant to this section;
 728 and that they will not receive a payment, refund, or rebate of
 729 any funds provided under this section.

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

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

735 (II) Providing an annual evaluation in accordance with s.
 736 1002.41 (1) (f); or

737 (III) Requiring the child to take any preassessments and
 738 postassessments selected by the provider if the child is 4 years
 739 of age and is enrolled in a program provided by an eligible
 740 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program provider. A student
 741 with disabilities for whom the physician or psychologist who
 742 issued the diagnosis or the IEP team determines that a
 743 preassessment and postassessment is not appropriate is exempt
 744 from this requirement. A participating provider shall report a
 745 student's scores to the parent.

746 d. Affirming that the student remains in good standing
 747 with the provider or school if those options are selected by the
 748 parent.

749 e. Enrolling his or her child in a program from a
 750 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program provider authorized

751 under s. 1002.55, a school readiness provider authorized under
752 s. 1002.88, a prekindergarten program offered by an eligible
753 private school, or an eligible private school if ~~either option~~
754 ~~is~~ selected by the parent.

755 f. Comply with the scholarship application and renewal
756 processes and requirements established by the organization
757 ~~Renewing participation in the program each year.~~ A student whose
758 participation in the program is not renewed may continue to
759 spend scholarship funds that are in his or her account from
760 prior years unless the account must be closed pursuant to
761 subparagraph (5)(b)3. Notwithstanding any changes to the
762 student's IEP, a student who was previously eligible for
763 participation in the program shall remain eligible to apply for
764 renewal. However, for a high-risk child to continue to
765 participate in the program in the school year after he or she
766 reaches 6 years of age, the child's application for renewal of
767 program participation must contain documentation that the child
768 has a disability defined in paragraph (2)(e) other than high-
769 risk status.

770 g. Procuring the services necessary to educate the
771 student. If such services include enrollment in an eligible
772 private school, the parent must meet with the private school's
773 principal or the principal's designee to review the school's
774 academic programs and policies, specialized services, code of
775 student conduct, and attendance policies before his or her

776 student is enrolled. The parent must also approve each payment
 777 to the eligible private school before the scholarship funds may
 778 be deposited by funds transfer pursuant to subparagraph
 779 (12) (a) 4. The parent may not designate any entity or individual
 780 associated with the eligible private school as the parent's
 781 attorney in fact to approve a funds transfer. When the student
 782 receives a scholarship, the district school board is not
 783 obligated to provide the student with a free appropriate public
 784 education. For purposes of s. 1003.57 and the Individuals with
 785 Disabilities in Education Act, a participating student has only
 786 those rights that apply to all other unilaterally parentally
 787 placed students, except that, when requested by the parent,
 788 school district personnel must develop an IEP or matrix level of
 789 services.

790 (c) A parent may not apply for multiple scholarships under
 791 this section and s. 1002.395 for an individual student at the
 792 same time.

793 (d)-(e) A participant who fails to comply with this
 794 subsection forfeits the scholarship.

795 (11) OBLIGATIONS OF ELIGIBLE SCHOLARSHIP-FUNDING
 796 ORGANIZATIONS.—

797 (a) An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization
 798 awarding scholarships to eligible students pursuant to paragraph

799 (3) (a) shall:

- 800 1. Establish a process for parents who are in compliance

801 with paragraph (10)(a) to renew their students' scholarships.
802 Renewal applications for the 2025-2026 school year and
803 thereafter must provide for a renewal timeline beginning
804 February 1 of the prior school year and ending April 30 of the
805 prior school year. A student's renewal is contingent upon an
806 eligible private school providing confirmation of student
807 admission pursuant to subsection (9). The process must require
808 that parents confirm that the scholarship is being renewed or
809 declined by May 31.

810 2. Establish a process that allows a parent to apply for a
811 new scholarship. The process may begin no earlier than February
812 1 of the prior school year and must authorize submission of
813 applications until November 15. The process must be in a manner
814 that creates a written or electronic record of the application
815 request and the date of receipt of the application request.
816 Applications received after the deadline may be considered for
817 scholarship award in the subsequent fiscal year. The process
818 must require that parents confirm that the scholarship is being
819 accepted or declined by December 15. ~~Must receive applications,~~
820 ~~determine student eligibility, notify parents in accordance with~~
821 ~~the requirements of this section, and provide the department~~
822 ~~with information on the student to enable the department to~~
823 ~~determine student funding in accordance with paragraph (12)(a).~~

824 3.2. ~~Shall~~ Verify the household income level of students
825 seeking priority eligibility and submit the verified list of

826 students ~~and related documentation~~ to the department when
827 necessary.

828 ~~4.3. Shall~~ Award scholarships in priority order pursuant
829 to paragraph (3)(a).

830 ~~5.4. Shall~~ Establish and maintain separate scholarship
831 ~~empowerment~~ accounts for each eligible student. For each
832 account, the organization must maintain a record of accrued
833 interest that is retained in the student's account and available
834 only for authorized program expenditures.

835 ~~6.5. May~~ Permit eligible students to use program funds for
836 the purposes specified in paragraph (4)(a) by paying for the
837 authorized use directly, then submitting a reimbursement request
838 to the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization.
839 However, an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization
840 may require the use of an online platform for direct purchases
841 of products so long as such use does not limit a parent's choice
842 of curriculum or academic programs. If a parent purchases a
843 product identical to one offered by an organization's online
844 platform for a lower price, the organization shall reimburse the
845 parent the cost of the product.

846 ~~6. May, from eligible contributions received pursuant to~~
847 ~~s. 1002.395(6)(1)1., use an amount not to exceed 2.5 percent of~~
848 ~~the total amount of all scholarships funded under this section~~
849 ~~for administrative expenses associated with performing functions~~
850 ~~under this section. An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding~~

851 ~~organization that has, for the prior fiscal year, complied with~~
852 ~~the expenditure requirements of s. 1002.395(6)(1)2., may use an~~
853 ~~amount not to exceed 3 percent. Such administrative expense~~
854 ~~amount is considered within the 3 percent limit on the total~~
855 ~~amount an organization may use to administer scholarships under~~
856 ~~this chapter.~~

857 7. ~~Must~~, In a timely manner, submit the verified list of
858 students and any information requested by the department
859 relating to the scholarship under this section.

860 8. ~~Must~~ Notify the department about any violation of this
861 section.

862 9. ~~Must~~ Document each student's eligibility for a fiscal
863 year before granting a scholarship for that fiscal year. A
864 student is ineligible for a scholarship if the student's account
865 has been inactive for 2 consecutive fiscal years.

866 10. ~~Must~~ Notify each parent that participation in the
867 scholarship program does not guarantee enrollment.

868 11. ~~Shall~~ Commit scholarship funds on behalf of the
869 student for tuition and fees for which the parent is responsible
870 for payment at the participating private school before using
871 scholarship empowerment account funds for additional authorized
872 uses under paragraph (4)(a).

873 (b) An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization
874 awarding scholarships to eligible students pursuant to paragraph
875 (3)(b) shall:

876 1. Establish a process for parents who are in compliance
877 with paragraph (10)(b) to renew their students' scholarships.
878 Renewal applications for the 2025-2026 school year and
879 thereafter must provide for a renewal timeline beginning
880 February 1 of the prior school year and ending April 30 of the
881 prior school year. A student's renewal is contingent upon an
882 eligible private school providing confirmation of student
883 admission pursuant to subsection (9), if applicable. The process
884 must require that parents confirm that the scholarship is being
885 renewed or declined by May 31.

886 2. Establish a process that allows a parent to apply for a
887 new scholarship. The process may begin no earlier than February
888 1 of the prior school year and must authorize the submission of
889 applications until November 15. The process must be in a manner
890 that creates a written or electronic record of the application
891 request and the date of receipt of the application request.
892 Applications received after the deadline may be considered for
893 scholarship award in the subsequent fiscal year. The process
894 must require that parents confirm that the scholarship is being
895 accepted or declined by December 15.

896 ~~1. Receive applications, determine student eligibility,~~
897 ~~and notify parents in accordance with the requirements of this~~
898 ~~section. When an application is approved, the organization must~~
899 ~~provide the department with information on the student to enable~~
900 ~~the department to determine student funding in accordance with~~

901 ~~paragraph (12) (b).~~

902 ~~2. Establish a date by which a parent must confirm initial~~

903 ~~or continuing participation in the program.~~

904 3. Review applications and award scholarships using the

905 following priorities:

906 ~~a. For the 2021-2022 school year, a student who received a~~

907 ~~Gardiner Scholarship in the 2020-2021 school year and meets the~~

908 ~~eligibility requirements in paragraph (3) (b).~~

909 ~~a.b.~~ Renewing students from the previous school year.

910 ~~e. Students retained on the previous school year's wait~~

911 ~~list.~~

912 ~~b.d.~~ An eligible student who meets the criteria for an

913 initial award pursuant to paragraph (3) (b) on a first-come,

914 first-served basis.

915

916 ~~An approved student who does not receive a scholarship must be~~

917 ~~placed on the wait list in the order in which his or her~~

918 ~~application is approved. A student who does not receive a~~

919 ~~scholarship within the fiscal year shall be retained on the wait~~

920 ~~list for the subsequent fiscal year.~~

921 4. Establish and maintain separate accounts for each

922 eligible student. For each account, the organization must

923 maintain a record of accrued interest that is retained in the

924 student's account and available only for authorized program

925 expenditures.

926 5. Verify qualifying educational expenditures pursuant to
927 the requirements of paragraph (4) (b).

928 6. Return any remaining program funds to the department
929 pursuant to paragraph (6) (b).

930 7. Notify the parent about the availability of, and the
931 requirements associated with requesting, an initial IEP or IEP
932 reevaluation every 3 years for each student participating in the
933 program.

934 8. Notify the parent of available state and local
935 services, including, but not limited to, services under chapter
936 413.

937 9. In a timely manner, submit to the department the
938 verified list of eligible scholarship students and any
939 information requested by the department relating to the
940 scholarship under this section.

941 ~~10.8.~~ Notify the department of any violation of this
942 section.

943 ~~11.9.~~ Document each scholarship student's eligibility for
944 a fiscal year before granting a scholarship for that fiscal year
945 pursuant to paragraph (3) (b). A student is ineligible for a
946 scholarship if the student's account has been inactive for 2
947 consecutive fiscal years.

948 (c) An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization
949 may, from eligible contributions received pursuant to s.
950 1002.395(6)(1)1., use an amount not to exceed 2.5 percent of the

951 total amount of all scholarships funded under this section for
952 administrative expenses associated with performing functions
953 under this section. An organization that has, for the prior
954 fiscal year, complied with the expenditure requirements of s.
955 1002.395(6)(1)3. may use an amount not to exceed 3 percent. Such
956 administrative expense amount is considered within the 3-percent
957 limit on the total amount an organization may use to administer
958 scholarships under this chapter.

959 (d) An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization
960 shall establish a process to collect input and feedback from
961 parents, private schools, and providers before implementing
962 substantial modifications or enhancements to the reimbursement
963 process.

964 (12) SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING AND PAYMENT.—

965 (a)1. ~~Scholarships for students determined eligible~~
966 ~~pursuant to paragraph (3)(a) may be funded once all scholarships~~
967 ~~have been funded in accordance with s. 1002.395(6)(1)2. The~~
968 ~~calculated scholarship amount for a participating student~~
969 ~~determined eligible pursuant to paragraph (3)(a) shall be based~~
970 ~~upon the grade level and school district in which the student~~
971 ~~was assigned as 100 percent of the funds per unweighted full-~~
972 ~~time equivalent in the Florida Education Finance Program for a~~
973 ~~student in the basic program established pursuant to s.~~
974 ~~1011.62(1)(c)1., plus a per-full-time equivalent share of funds~~
975 ~~for the categorical programs established in s. 1011.62(5),~~

976 (7) (a), and (16), as funded in the General Appropriations Act.

977 2. A scholarship of \$750 or an amount equal to the school
 978 district expenditure per student riding a school bus, as
 979 determined by the department, whichever is greater, may be
 980 awarded to an eligible student who is enrolled in a Florida
 981 public school that is different from the school to which the
 982 student was assigned or in a lab school as defined in s. 1002.32
 983 if the school district does not provide the student with
 984 transportation to the school.

985 3.a. For renewing scholarship students, the organization
 986 must ~~provide the department with the documentation necessary to~~
 987 verify the student's continued eligibility to participate in the
 988 scholarship program at least 30 days before each payment
 989 ~~participation.~~ Upon receiving the verified list of eligible
 990 scholarship students documentation, the department shall release
 991 ~~transfer, beginning August 1,~~ from state funds only, the amount
 992 calculated pursuant to subparagraph 1. 2. to the organization
 993 for deposit into the student's account in quarterly payments no
 994 later than August 1, November 1, February 1, and April 1 of
 995 ~~quarterly disbursement to parents of participating students~~ each
 996 school year in which the scholarship is in force.

997 b. For new scholarship students, the organization must
 998 verify the student's eligibility to participate in the
 999 scholarship program at least 30 days before each payment. Upon
 1000 receiving the verified list of eligible scholarship students,

1001 the department shall release, from state funds only, the amount
1002 calculated pursuant to subparagraph 1. to the organization for
1003 deposit into the student's account in quarterly payments no
1004 later than September 1, November 1, February 1, and April 1 of
1005 each school year in which the scholarship is in force. For a
1006 student exiting a Department of Juvenile Justice commitment
1007 program who chooses to participate in the scholarship program,
1008 the amount calculated pursuant to subparagraph 1. must be
1009 transferred from the school district in which the student last
1010 attended a public school before commitment to the Department of
1011 Juvenile Justice.

1012 c. The department is authorized to release the state funds
1013 contingent upon verification that the organization will comply
1014 with s. 1002.395(6)(1) based upon the organization's submitted
1015 verified list of eligible scholarship students pursuant to s.
1016 1002.395. For a student exiting a Department of Juvenile Justice
1017 commitment program who chooses to participate in the scholarship
1018 program, the amount of the Family Empowerment Scholarship
1019 calculated pursuant to subparagraph 2. must be transferred from
1020 the school district in which the student last attended a public
1021 school before commitment to the Department of Juvenile Justice.
1022 When a student enters the scholarship program, the organization
1023 must receive all documentation required for the student's
1024 participation, including the private school's and the student's
1025 fee schedules, at least 30 days before the first quarterly

1026 ~~scholarship payment is made for the student.~~

1027 4. The initial payment shall be made after the
1028 organization's verification of admission acceptance, and
1029 subsequent payments shall be made upon verification of continued
1030 enrollment and attendance at the participating private school.
1031 Payments for tuition and fees for full-time enrollment shall be
1032 made within 7 business days after approval by the parent
1033 pursuant to paragraph (10)(a) and the private school pursuant to
1034 paragraph (9)(b). Payment must be by funds transfer or any other
1035 means of payment that the department deems to be commercially
1036 viable or cost-effective. An organization shall ensure that the
1037 parent has approved a funds transfer before any scholarship
1038 funds are deposited.

1039 5. An organization may not transfer any funds to an
1040 account of a student determined eligible pursuant to paragraph
1041 (3)(a) which has a balance in excess of \$24,000.

1042 (b)1. For the 2023-2024 school year, the maximum number of
1043 students participating in the scholarship program under
1044 paragraph (3)(b) shall be the number of students the
1045 organization and the department determined eligible pursuant to
1046 this section. Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, the
1047 maximum number of scholarships funded ~~students participating in~~
1048 ~~the scholarship program~~ under paragraph (3)(b) shall annually
1049 increase by 5.0 ~~3.0~~ percent of the state's total exceptional
1050 student education full-time equivalent student membership, not

1051 including gifted students. The maximum number of scholarships
 1052 funded shall increase by 1.0 percent of the state's total
 1053 exceptional student education full-time equivalent student
 1054 membership, not including gifted students, in the school year
 1055 following any school year in which the number of scholarships
 1056 funded exceeds 95 percent of the number of available
 1057 scholarships for that school year. An eligible student who meets
 1058 any of the following requirements shall be excluded from the
 1059 maximum number of students if the student:

1060 a. Received specialized instructional services under the
 1061 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program pursuant to s.
 1062 1002.66 during the previous school year and the student has a
 1063 current IEP developed by the district school board in accordance
 1064 with rules of the State Board of Education;

1065 b. Is a dependent child of a law enforcement officer or a
 1066 member of the United States Armed Forces, a foster child, or an
 1067 adopted child; or

1068 c. Spent the prior school year in attendance at a Florida
 1069 public school or the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.
 1070 For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "prior school year
 1071 in attendance" means that the student was enrolled and reported
 1072 by:

1073 (I) A school district for funding during either the
 1074 preceding October or February full-time equivalent student
 1075 membership surveys in kindergarten through grade 12, which

1076 includes time spent in a Department of Juvenile Justice
 1077 commitment program if funded under the Florida Education Finance
 1078 Program;

1079 (II) The Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind during
 1080 the preceding October or February full-time equivalent student
 1081 membership surveys in kindergarten through grade 12;

1082 (III) A school district for funding during the preceding
 1083 October or February full-time equivalent student membership
 1084 surveys, was at least 4 years of age when enrolled and reported,
 1085 and was eligible for services under s. 1003.21(1)(e); or

1086 (IV) Received a John M. McKay Scholarship for Students
 1087 with Disabilities in the 2021-2022 school year.

1088 2. For a student who has a Level I to Level III matrix of
 1089 services or a diagnosis by a physician or psychologist, the
 1090 calculated scholarship amount for a student participating in the
 1091 program must be based upon the grade level and school district
 1092 in which the student would have been enrolled as the total funds
 1093 per unweighted full-time equivalent in the Florida Education
 1094 Finance Program for a student in the basic exceptional student
 1095 education program pursuant to s. 1011.62(1)(c) and (d), plus a
 1096 per full-time equivalent share of funds for the categorical
 1097 programs established in s. 1011.62(5), (7)(a), (8), and (16), as
 1098 funded in the General Appropriations Act. For the categorical
 1099 program established in s. 1011.62(8), the funds must be
 1100 allocated based on the school district's average exceptional

1101 student education guaranteed allocation funds per exceptional
 1102 student education full-time equivalent student.

1103 3. For a student with a Level IV or Level V matrix of
 1104 services, the calculated scholarship amount must be based upon
 1105 the school district to which the student would have been
 1106 assigned as the total funds per full-time equivalent for the
 1107 Level IV or Level V exceptional student education program
 1108 pursuant to s. 1011.62(1)(c)2.a. or b., plus a per-full time
 1109 equivalent share of funds for the categorical programs
 1110 established in s. 1011.62(5), (7)(a), and (16), as funded in the
 1111 General Appropriations Act.

1112 4. For a student who received a Gardiner Scholarship
 1113 pursuant to former s. 1002.385 in the 2020-2021 school year, the
 1114 amount shall be the greater of the amount calculated pursuant to
 1115 subparagraph 2. or the amount the student received for the 2020-
 1116 2021 school year.

1117 5. For a student who received a John M. McKay Scholarship
 1118 pursuant to former s. 1002.39 in the 2020-2021 school year, the
 1119 amount shall be the greater of the amount calculated pursuant to
 1120 subparagraph 2. or the amount the student received for the 2020-
 1121 2021 school year.

1122 6. The organization must ~~provide the department with the~~
 1123 ~~documentation necessary to~~ verify the student's eligibility to
 1124 participate in the scholarship program at least 30 days before
 1125 each payment ~~participation.~~

1126 7.a. For renewing scholarship students, upon receiving the
1127 verified list of eligible scholarship students, the department
1128 shall release, from state funds only, the amount calculated
1129 pursuant to subparagraph 1. to the organization for deposit into
1130 the student's account in quarterly payments no later than August
1131 1, November 1, February 1, and April 1 of each school year in
1132 which the scholarship is in force.

1133 b. For new scholarship students, upon receiving the
1134 verified list of eligible scholarship students ~~documentation,~~
1135 the department shall release, from state funds only, the amount
1136 calculated pursuant to subparagraph 1. ~~student's scholarship~~
1137 ~~funds~~ to the organization for deposit, ~~to be deposited~~ into the
1138 student's account in quarterly payments ~~four equal amounts~~ no
1139 later than September 1, November 1, February 1, and April 1 of
1140 each school year in which the scholarship is in force.

1141 8. If a scholarship student is attending an eligible
1142 private school full time, the initial payment shall be made
1143 after the organization's verification of admission acceptance,
1144 and subsequent payments shall be made upon verification of
1145 continued enrollment and attendance at the eligible private
1146 school. Payments for tuition and fees for full-time enrollment
1147 shall be made within 7 business days after approval by the
1148 parent pursuant to paragraph (10) (b) and the private school
1149 pursuant to paragraph (9) (b).

1150 ~~9.8.~~ Accrued interest in the student's account is in

1151 addition to, and not part of, the awarded funds. Program funds
1152 include both the awarded funds and accrued interest.

1153 ~~10.9.~~ The organization may develop a system for payment of
1154 benefits by funds transfer, including, but not limited to, debit
1155 cards, electronic payment cards, or any other means of payment
1156 which the department deems to be commercially viable or cost-
1157 effective. A student's scholarship award may not be reduced for
1158 debit card or electronic payment fees. Commodities or services
1159 related to the development of such a system must be procured by
1160 competitive solicitation unless they are purchased from a state
1161 term contract pursuant to s. 287.056.

1162 ~~11.10.~~ An organization may not transfer any funds to an
1163 account of a student determined to be eligible pursuant to
1164 paragraph (3)(b) which has a balance in excess of \$50,000.

1165 ~~12.11.~~ Moneys received pursuant to this section do not
1166 constitute taxable income to the qualified student or the parent
1167 of the qualified student.

1168 (c) An organization may not submit a new scholarship
1169 student for funding after February 1.

1170 (d) Within 30 days after the release of state funds
1171 pursuant to paragraphs (a) and (b), the eligible scholarship-
1172 funding organization shall certify to the department the amount
1173 of funds distributed for student scholarships. If the amount of
1174 funds released by the department is more than the amount
1175 distributed by the organization, the department is authorized to

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1176 adjust the amount of the overpayment in the subsequent quarterly
1177 payment release.

1178 (16) TRANSITION-TO-WORK PROGRAM.—A student with a
1179 disability who is determined eligible pursuant to paragraph
1180 (3)(b) who is at least 17 years, but not older than 22 years of
1181 age and who has not received a high school diploma or
1182 certificate of completion is eligible for enrollment in his or
1183 her participating private school's transition-to-work program. A
1184 transition-to-work program shall consist of academic
1185 instruction, work skills training, and a volunteer or paid work
1186 experience.

1187 (a) To offer a transition-to-work program, a participating
1188 private school must:

1189 1. Develop a transition-to-work program plan, which must
1190 include a written description of the academic instruction and
1191 work skills training students will receive and the goals for
1192 students in the program.

1193 2. Submit the transition-to-work program plan to the
1194 Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice and consider
1195 any guidance provided by the department pursuant to paragraph
1196 (8)(d) relating to the plan.

1197 3. Develop a personalized transition-to-work program plan
1198 for each student enrolled in the program. The student's parent,
1199 the student, and the school principal must sign the personalized
1200 plan. The personalized plan must be submitted to the Office of

1201 Independent Education and Parental Choice upon request by the
 1202 office.

1203 4. Provide a release of liability form that must be signed
 1204 by the student's parent, the student, and a representative of
 1205 the business offering the volunteer or paid work experience.

1206 5. Assign a case manager or job coach to visit the
 1207 student's job site on a weekly basis to observe the student and,
 1208 if necessary, provide support and guidance to the student.

1209 6. Provide to the parent and student a quarterly report
 1210 that documents and explains the student's progress and
 1211 performance in the program.

1212 7. Maintain accurate attendance and performance records
 1213 for the student.

1214 (b) A student enrolled in a transition-to-work program
 1215 must, at a minimum:

1216 1. Receive 15 instructional hours at the participating
 1217 private school's physical facility, which must include academic
 1218 instruction and work skills training.

1219 2. Participate in 10 hours of work at the student's
 1220 volunteer or paid work experience.

1221 (c) To participate in a transition-to-work program, a
 1222 business must:

1223 1. Maintain an accurate record of the student's
 1224 performance and hours worked and provide the information to the
 1225 participating private school.

1226 2. Comply with all state and federal child labor laws.
 1227 Section 4. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1), paragraphs (b)
 1228 and (f) of subsection (2), subsection (3), paragraphs (a) and
 1229 (c) of subsection (4), paragraphs (c) through (i) and (l), (p),
 1230 (q), (t), and (w) of subsection (6), subsections (7) and (8),
 1231 paragraphs (d), (e), (f), and (i) of subsection (9), paragraph
 1232 (b) of subsection (10), and paragraphs (c), (f), and (h) of
 1233 subsection (11) of section 1002.395, Florida Statutes, are
 1234 amended, paragraph (y) is added to subsection (6), and paragraph
 1235 (i) is added to subsection (11) of that section, to read:
 1236 1002.395 Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program.—
 1237 (1) FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.—
 1238 (c) The purpose of this section is not to prescribe the
 1239 standards or curriculum for participating private schools. A
 1240 participating private school retains the authority to determine
 1241 its own standards and curriculum.
 1242 (2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:
 1243 (b) "Choice navigator" means an individual who meets the
 1244 requirements of sub-subparagraph (6)(d)4.h. ~~(6)(d)2.h.~~ and who
 1245 provides consultations, at a mutually agreed upon location, on
 1246 the selection of, application for, and enrollment in educational
 1247 options addressing the academic needs of a student; curriculum
 1248 selection; and advice on career and postsecondary education
 1249 opportunities. However, nothing in this section authorizes a
 1250 choice navigator to oversee or exercise control over the

1251 | curricula or academic programs of a personalized education
 1252 | program.

1253 | (f) "Eligible contribution" means a monetary contribution
 1254 | from a taxpayer, subject to the restrictions provided in this
 1255 | section, to an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding
 1256 | organization pursuant to this section and ss. 212.099, 212.1831,
 1257 | and 212.1832, ~~and 1002.40~~. The taxpayer making the contribution
 1258 | may not designate a specific child as the beneficiary of the
 1259 | contribution.

1260 | (3) PROGRAM; INITIAL SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY.—

1261 | (a) The Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program is
 1262 | established.

1263 | (b)1. A student is eligible for a Florida tax credit
 1264 | scholarship under this section if the student:

1265 | a. Is a resident of this state or the dependent child of
 1266 | an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces who has
 1267 | received permanent change of station orders to this state or, at
 1268 | the time of renewal, whose home of record or state of legal
 1269 | residence is Florida; and

1270 | b. Is eligible to enroll in kindergarten through grade 12
 1271 | in a public school in this state or received a scholarship under
 1272 | the Hope Scholarship Program in the 2023-2024 school year.

1273 | 2. Priority must be given in the following order:

1274 | a. A student whose household income level does not exceed
 1275 | 185 percent of the federal poverty level or who is in foster

1276 care or out-of-home care.

1277 b. A student whose household income level exceeds 185
 1278 percent of the federal poverty level, but does not exceed 400
 1279 percent of the federal poverty level.

1280 (4) SCHOLARSHIP PROHIBITIONS.—A student is not eligible
 1281 for a scholarship while he or she is:

1282 (a) Enrolled full time in a public school, including, but
 1283 not limited to, the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind,
 1284 the College-Preparatory Boarding Academy, the Florida School for
 1285 Competitive Academics, the Florida Virtual School, the Florida
 1286 Scholars Academy, a developmental research school authorized
 1287 under s. 1002.32, or a charter school authorized under this
 1288 chapter. For purposes of this paragraph, a 3- or 4-year-old
 1289 child who receives services funded through the Florida Education
 1290 Finance Program is considered a student enrolled full-time in a
 1291 public school;

1292 (c) Receiving any other educational scholarship pursuant
 1293 to this chapter. However, an eligible public school student
 1294 receiving a scholarship under s. 1002.411 may receive a
 1295 scholarship for transportation pursuant to subparagraph
 1296 (6) (d)4.;

1297 (6) OBLIGATIONS OF ELIGIBLE NONPROFIT SCHOLARSHIP-FUNDING
 1298 ORGANIZATIONS.—An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding
 1299 organization:

1300 (c) Must not have an owner or operator, as defined in

1301 subparagraph (2)(k)1., who owns or operates an eligible private
1302 school that is participating in the scholarship program.

1303 (d)1. For the 2023-2024 school year, may fund no more than
1304 20,000 scholarships for students who are enrolled pursuant to
1305 paragraph (7)(b). The number of scholarships funded for such
1306 students may increase by 40,000 in each subsequent school year.
1307 This subparagraph is repealed July 1, 2027.

1308 2. Shall establish a process for parents who are in
1309 compliance with paragraph (7)(a) to renew their students'
1310 scholarships. Renewal applications for the 2025-2026 school year
1311 and thereafter must provide for a renewal timeline beginning
1312 February 1 of the prior school year and ending April 30 of the
1313 prior school year. A student's renewal is contingent upon an
1314 eligible private school providing confirmation of admission
1315 pursuant to subsection (8). The process must require that
1316 parents confirm that the scholarship is being renewed or
1317 declined by May 31.

1318 3. Shall establish a process that allows a parent to apply
1319 for a new scholarship. The process must be in a manner that
1320 creates a written or electronic record of the application
1321 request and the date of receipt of the application request. The
1322 process must require that parents confirm that the scholarship
1323 is being accepted or declined by a date set by the organization.

1324 4.2. Must establish and maintain separate scholarship
1325 ~~empowerment~~ accounts from eligible contributions for each

1326 eligible student. For each account, the organization must
1327 maintain a record of accrued interest retained in the student's
1328 account. The organization must verify that scholarship funds are
1329 used for:

1330 a. Tuition and fees for full-time or part-time enrollment
1331 in an eligible private school.

1332 b. Transportation to a Florida public school in which a
1333 student is enrolled and that is different from the school to
1334 which the student was assigned or to a lab school as defined in
1335 s. 1002.32.

1336 c. Instructional materials, including digital materials
1337 and Internet resources. Equipment used as instructional
1338 materials may only be purchased for subjects in language arts
1339 and reading, mathematics, social studies, and science.

1340 d. Curriculum as defined in s. 1002.394(2).

1341 e. Tuition and fees associated with full-time or part-time
1342 enrollment in a home education instructional program; an
1343 eligible postsecondary educational institution or a program
1344 offered by the postsecondary educational institution, unless the
1345 program is subject to s. 1009.25 or reimbursed pursuant to s.
1346 1009.30; an approved preapprenticeship program as defined in s.
1347 446.021(5) which is not subject to s. 1009.25 and complies with
1348 all applicable requirements of the Department of Education
1349 pursuant to chapter 1005; a private tutoring program authorized
1350 under s. 1002.43; a virtual program offered by a department-

1351 approved private online provider that meets the provider
 1352 qualifications specified in s. 1002.45(2)(a); the Florida
 1353 Virtual School as a private paying student; or an approved
 1354 online course offered pursuant to s. 1003.499 or s. 1004.0961.

1355 f. Fees for nationally standardized, norm-referenced
 1356 achievement tests, Advanced Placement Examinations, industry
 1357 certification examinations, assessments related to postsecondary
 1358 education, or other assessments.

1359 g. Contracted services provided by a public school or
 1360 school district, including classes. A student who receives
 1361 contracted services under this sub-subparagraph is not
 1362 considered enrolled in a public school for eligibility purposes
 1363 as specified in subsection (11) but rather attending a public
 1364 school on a part-time basis as authorized under s. 1002.44.

1365 h. Tuition and fees for part-time tutoring services or
 1366 fees for services provided by a choice navigator. Such services
 1367 must be provided by a person who holds a valid Florida
 1368 educator's certificate pursuant to s. 1012.56, a person who
 1369 holds an adjunct teaching certificate pursuant to s. 1012.57, a
 1370 person who has a bachelor's degree or a graduate degree in the
 1371 subject area in which instruction is given, a person who has
 1372 demonstrated a mastery of subject area knowledge pursuant to s.
 1373 1012.56(5), or a person certified by a nationally or
 1374 internationally recognized research-based training program as
 1375 approved by the Department of Education. As used in this

1376 paragraph, the term "part-time tutoring services" does not
1377 qualify as regular school attendance as defined in s.
1378 1003.01(16)(e).

1379 (e) For students determined eligible pursuant to paragraph
1380 (7)(b), must:

1381 1. Establish a process for parents who are in compliance
1382 with subparagraph (7)(b)1. to apply for a new scholarship. New
1383 scholarship applications for the 2025-2026 school year and
1384 thereafter must provide for an application timeline beginning
1385 February 1 of the prior school year and ending April 30 of the
1386 prior school year. The process must require that parents confirm
1387 that the scholarship is being accepted or declined by May 31.

1388 2. Establish a process for parents who are in compliance
1389 with paragraph (7)(b) to renew their students' scholarships.
1390 Renewal scholarship applications for the 2025-2026 school year
1391 and thereafter must provide for a renewal timeline beginning
1392 February 1 of the prior school year and ending April 30 of the
1393 prior school year. The process must require that parents confirm
1394 that the scholarship is being renewed or declined by May 31.

1395 ~~3.1.~~ Maintain a signed agreement from the parent which
1396 constitutes compliance with the attendance requirements under
1397 ss. 1003.01(16) and 1003.21(1).

1398 ~~4.2.~~ Receive eligible student test scores and, beginning
1399 with the 2027-2028 school year, by August 15, annually report
1400 test scores for students pursuant to paragraph (7)(b) to a state

1401 university pursuant to paragraph (9)(f).

1402 ~~5.3.~~ Provide parents with information, guidance, and
1403 support to create and annually update a student learning plan
1404 for their student. The organization must maintain the plan and
1405 allow parents to electronically submit, access, and revise the
1406 plan continuously.

1407 ~~6.4.~~ Upon submission by the parent of an annual student
1408 learning plan, fund a scholarship for a student determined
1409 eligible.

1410 (f) Must give first priority to eligible renewal students
1411 who received a scholarship from an eligible nonprofit
1412 scholarship-funding organization ~~or from the State of Florida~~
1413 during the previous school year. The eligible nonprofit
1414 scholarship-funding organization must fully apply and exhaust
1415 all funds available under this section ~~and s. 1002.40(11)(i)~~ for
1416 renewal scholarship awards before awarding any initial
1417 scholarships.

1418 (g) Must provide a new renewal ~~or initial~~ scholarship to
1419 an eligible student on a first-come, first-served basis unless
1420 the student is seeking priority eligibility ~~qualifies for~~
1421 ~~priority~~ pursuant to subsection (3) paragraph (f).

1422 ~~(h) Each eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding~~
1423 ~~organization~~ Must refer any student eligible for a scholarship
1424 pursuant to this section who did not receive a renewal or
1425 initial scholarship based solely on the lack of available funds

1426 under this section ~~and s. 1002.40(11)(i)~~ to another eligible
1427 nonprofit scholarship-funding organization that may have funds
1428 available.

1429 (i) May not restrict or reserve scholarships for use at a
1430 particular eligible private school or provide scholarships to a
1431 child of an owner or operator as defined in subparagraph
1432 (2)(k)1.

1433 (1)1. May use eligible contributions received pursuant to
1434 this section and ss. 212.099, 212.1831, and 212.1832, ~~and~~
1435 ~~1002.40~~ during the state fiscal year in which such contributions
1436 are collected for administrative expenses if the organization
1437 has operated as an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding
1438 organization for at least the preceding 3 fiscal years and did
1439 not have any findings of material weakness or material
1440 noncompliance in its most recent audit under paragraph (o) or is
1441 in good standing in each state in which it administers a
1442 scholarship program and the audited financial statements for the
1443 preceding 3 fiscal years are free of material misstatements and
1444 going concern issues. Administrative expenses from eligible
1445 contributions may not exceed 3 percent of the total amount of
1446 all scholarships funded by an eligible scholarship-funding
1447 organization under this chapter. Such administrative expenses
1448 must be reasonable and necessary for the organization's
1449 management and distribution of scholarships funded under this
1450 chapter. Administrative expenses may include developing or

1451 contracting with rideshare programs or facilitating carpool
1452 strategies for recipients of a transportation scholarship under
1453 s. 1002.394. No funds authorized under this subparagraph shall
1454 be used for lobbying or political activity or expenses related
1455 to lobbying or political activity. Up to one-third of the funds
1456 authorized for administrative expenses under this subparagraph
1457 may be used for expenses related to the recruitment of
1458 contributions from taxpayers. An eligible nonprofit scholarship-
1459 funding organization may not charge an application fee.

1460 2. Must expend for annual or partial-year scholarships 100
1461 percent of any eligible contributions from the prior fiscal
1462 year.

1463 ~~3.2.~~ Must expend ~~award~~ for annual or partial-year
1464 scholarships an amount equal to or greater than 75 percent of
1465 all ~~estimated~~ net eligible contributions, as defined in
1466 subsection (2), ~~and all funds carried forward from the prior~~
1467 ~~state fiscal year~~ remaining after administrative expenses during
1468 the state fiscal year in which such eligible contributions are
1469 collected ~~before funding any scholarships to students determined~~
1470 ~~eligible pursuant to s. 1002.394(3)(a)~~. No more than 25 percent
1471 of such net eligible contributions may be carried forward to the
1472 following state fiscal year. All amounts carried forward, for
1473 audit purposes, must be specifically identified for particular
1474 students, by student name and the name of the school to which
1475 the student is admitted, subject to the requirements of ss.

1476 1002.22 and 1002.221 and 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g, and the applicable
1477 rules and regulations issued pursuant thereto. Any amounts
1478 carried forward shall be expended for annual or partial-year
1479 scholarships in the following state fiscal year. ~~No later than~~
1480 ~~September 30 of each year, net~~ Eligible contributions remaining
1481 on June 30 of each year that are in excess of the 25 percent
1482 that may be carried forward shall be used to provide
1483 scholarships to eligible students or transferred to other
1484 eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations to provide
1485 scholarships for eligible students. All transferred funds must
1486 be deposited by each eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding
1487 organization receiving such funds into its scholarship account.
1488 All transferred amounts received by any eligible nonprofit
1489 scholarship-funding organization must be separately disclosed in
1490 the annual financial audit required under paragraph (o).

1491 ~~4.3.~~ Must, before granting a scholarship for an academic
1492 year, document each scholarship student's eligibility for that
1493 academic year. A scholarship-funding organization may not grant
1494 multiyear scholarships in one approval process.

1495 (p) Must prepare and submit quarterly reports to the
1496 Department of Education pursuant to paragraph (9)(i). In
1497 addition, an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization
1498 must submit in a timely manner the verified list of eligible
1499 scholarship students and any information requested by the
1500 Department of Education relating to the scholarship program.

1501 (q)1.a. Must participate in the joint development of
1502 agreed-upon procedures during the 2009-2010 state fiscal year.
1503 The agreed-upon procedures must uniformly apply to all private
1504 schools and must determine, at a minimum, whether the private
1505 school has been verified as eligible by the Department of
1506 Education under s. 1002.421; has an adequate accounting system,
1507 system of financial controls, and process for deposit and
1508 classification of scholarship funds; and has properly expended
1509 scholarship funds for education-related expenses. During the
1510 development of the procedures, the participating scholarship-
1511 funding organizations shall specify guidelines governing the
1512 materiality of exceptions that may be found during the
1513 accountant's performance of the procedures. The procedures and
1514 guidelines shall be provided to private schools and the
1515 Commissioner of Education by March 15, 2011.

1516 b. Must participate in a joint review of the agreed-upon
1517 procedures and guidelines developed under sub-subparagraph a.,
1518 by February of each biennium, if the scholarship-funding
1519 organization provided more than \$250,000 in scholarship funds
1520 under this chapter during the state fiscal year preceding the
1521 biennial review. If the procedures and guidelines are revised,
1522 the revisions must be provided to private schools and the
1523 Commissioner of Education by March 15 of the year in which the
1524 revisions were completed. The revised agreed-upon procedures and
1525 guidelines shall take effect the subsequent school year.

1526 c. Must monitor the compliance of a participating private
1527 school with s. 1002.421(1)(q) if the scholarship-funding
1528 organization provided the majority of the scholarship funding to
1529 the school. For each participating private school subject to s.
1530 1002.421(1)(q), the appropriate scholarship-funding organization
1531 shall annually notify the Commissioner of Education by October
1532 30 of:

1533 (I) A private school's failure to submit a report required
1534 under s. 1002.421(1)(q); or

1535 (II) Any material exceptions set forth in the report
1536 required under s. 1002.421(1)(q).

1537 2. Must seek input from the accrediting associations that
1538 are members of the Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic
1539 Schools and the Department of Education when jointly developing
1540 the agreed-upon procedures and guidelines under sub-subparagraph
1541 1.a. and conducting a review of those procedures and guidelines
1542 under sub-subparagraph 1.b.

1543 (t) Must participate in the joint development of agreed-
1544 upon purchasing guidelines for authorized uses of scholarship
1545 funds under paragraph (d) and s. 1002.394(4)(a) ~~this chapter~~. By
1546 December 31, 2023, and by each December 31 thereafter, the
1547 purchasing guidelines must be provided to the Commissioner of
1548 Education and published on the eligible nonprofit scholarship-
1549 funding organization's website. Published purchasing guidelines
1550 shall remain in effect until there is unanimous agreement to

1551 revise the guidelines, and the revisions must be provided to the
 1552 commissioner and published on the organization's website within
 1553 30 days after such revisions. The organization shall assist the
 1554 Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities under s.
 1555 1004.6495 with the development of purchasing guidelines for
 1556 authorized uses of scholarship funds under s. 1002.394(4)(b) and
 1557 publish the guidelines on the organization's website.

1558 (w) Shall commit scholarship funds on behalf of the
 1559 student for tuition and fees for which the parent is responsible
 1560 for payment at the participating private school before using
 1561 scholarship empowerment account funds for additional authorized
 1562 uses under paragraph (d).

1563 (y) Must establish a process to collect input and feedback
 1564 from parents, private schools, and providers before implementing
 1565 substantial modifications or enhancements to the reimbursement
 1566 process.

1567
 1568 Information and documentation provided to the Department of
 1569 Education and the Auditor General relating to the identity of a
 1570 taxpayer that provides an eligible contribution under this
 1571 section shall remain confidential at all times in accordance
 1572 with s. 213.053.

1573 (7) PARENT AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PROGRAM
 1574 PARTICIPATION.—

1575 (a) A parent who applies for a scholarship whose student

1576 will be enrolled full time in an eligible ~~a~~ private school must:

1577 1. Select an eligible private school and apply for the
1578 admission of his or her child.

1579 2. Request the scholarship by the date established by the
1580 organization in a manner that creates a written or electronic
1581 record of the request and the date of receipt of the request.

1582 3.a. Beginning with new applications for the 2025-2026
1583 school year and thereafter, notify the organization by a date
1584 set by the organization that the scholarship is being accepted
1585 or declined.

1586 b. Beginning with renewal applications for the 2025-2026
1587 school year and thereafter, notify the organization by May 31
1588 that the scholarship is being renewed or declined.

1589 4.2. Inform the applicable ~~child's~~ school district when
1590 the parent withdraws his or her student from a public school
1591 ~~child~~ to attend an eligible private school.

1592 5.3. Require his or her student participating in the
1593 program to remain in attendance at the eligible private school
1594 throughout the school year unless excused by the school for
1595 illness or other good cause and comply with the private school's
1596 published policies.

1597 6.4. Meet with the eligible private school's principal or
1598 the principal's designee to review the school's academic
1599 programs and policies, specialized services, code of student
1600 conduct, and attendance policies before enrollment ~~in the~~

1601 ~~private school.~~

1602 ~~7.5.~~ Require his or her student participating in the
1603 program to take the norm-referenced assessment offered by the
1604 participating private school. The parent may also choose to have
1605 the student participate in the statewide assessments pursuant to
1606 s. 1008.22. If the parent requests that the student
1607 participating in the ~~scholarship~~ program take statewide
1608 assessments pursuant to s. 1008.22 and the participating private
1609 school has not chosen to offer and administer the statewide
1610 assessments, the parent is responsible for transporting the
1611 student to the assessment site designated by the school
1612 district.

1613 ~~8.6.~~ Approve each payment before the scholarship funds may
1614 be deposited by funds transfer. The parent may not designate any
1615 entity or individual associated with the participating private
1616 school as the parent's attorney in fact to approve a funds
1617 transfer. A participant who fails to comply with this paragraph
1618 forfeits the scholarship.

1619 ~~9.7.~~ Authorize the nonprofit scholarship-funding
1620 organization to access information needed for income eligibility
1621 determination and verification held by other state or federal
1622 agencies, including the Department of Revenue, the Department of
1623 Children and Families, the Department of Education, the
1624 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, and the Agency for
1625 Health Care Administration, for students seeking priority

1626 eligibility.

1627 ~~10.8.~~ Agree to have the organization commit scholarship
 1628 funds on behalf of his or her student for tuition and fees for
 1629 which the parent is responsible for payment at the participating
 1630 private school before using scholarship ~~empowerment~~ account
 1631 funds for additional authorized uses under paragraph (6) (d). A
 1632 parent is responsible for all eligible expenses in excess of the
 1633 amount of the scholarship.

1634 11. Comply with the scholarship application and renewal
 1635 processes and requirements established by the organization.

1636 (b) A parent whose student will not be enrolled full time
 1637 in a public or private school must:

1638 1. Apply to an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding
 1639 organization to participate in the program as a personalized
 1640 education student by a date set by the organization. The request
 1641 must be communicated directly to the organization in a manner
 1642 that creates a written or electronic record of the request and
 1643 the date of receipt of the request. Beginning with new and
 1644 renewal applications for the 2025-2026 school year and
 1645 thereafter, notify the organization by May 31 that the
 1646 scholarship is being accepted, renewed, or declined.

1647 2. Sign an agreement with the organization and annually
 1648 submit a sworn compliance statement to the organization to
 1649 satisfy or maintain program eligibility, including eligibility
 1650 to receive and spend program payments, by:

1651 a. Affirming that the program funds are used only for
1652 authorized purposes serving the student's educational needs, as
1653 described in paragraph (6)(d), and that they will not receive a
1654 payment, refund, or rebate of any funds provided under this
1655 section.

1656 b. Affirming that the parent is responsible for all
1657 eligible expenses in excess of the amount of the scholarship and
1658 for the education of his or her student.

1659 c. Submitting a student learning plan to the organization
1660 and revising the plan at least annually before program renewal.

1661 d. Requiring his or her student to take a nationally norm-
1662 referenced test identified by the Department of Education, or a
1663 statewide assessment under s. 1008.22, and provide assessment
1664 results to the organization before the student's program
1665 renewal.

1666 e. Complying with the scholarship application and renewal
1667 processes and requirements established by the organization
1668 ~~Renewing participation in the program each year.~~ A student whose
1669 participation in the program is not renewed may continue to
1670 spend scholarship funds that are in his or her account from
1671 prior years unless the account must be closed pursuant to s.
1672 1002.394(5)(a)2.

1673 f. Procuring the services necessary to educate the
1674 student. When the student receives a scholarship, the district
1675 school board is not obligated to provide the student with a free

1676 appropriate public education.

1677 (c) A parent may not apply for multiple scholarships under
 1678 this section and s. 1002.394 for an individual student at the
 1679 same time.

1680
 1681 An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization may not
 1682 further regulate, exercise control over, or require
 1683 documentation beyond the requirements of this subsection unless
 1684 the regulation, control, or documentation is necessary for
 1685 participation in the program.

1686 (8) PRIVATE SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY AND OBLIGATIONS.—An
 1687 eligible private school may be sectarian or nonsectarian and
 1688 must:

1689 (a) Comply with all requirements for private schools
 1690 participating in state school choice scholarship programs
 1691 pursuant to s. 1002.421.

1692 (b) Provide to the organization all documentation required
 1693 for a student's participation, including confirmation of the
 1694 student's admission to the private school, the private school's
 1695 and student's fee schedules, and any other information required
 1696 by the organization to process scholarship payment pursuant to
 1697 paragraph (11)(c). Such information must be provided by the
 1698 deadlines established by the organization and in accordance with
 1699 the requirements of this section. A student is not eligible to
 1700 receive a quarterly scholarship payment if the private school

1701 fails to meet the deadline.

1702 (c)~~(b)~~1. Annually administer or make provision for
1703 students participating in the scholarship program in grades 3
1704 through 10 to take one of the nationally norm-referenced tests
1705 identified by the department ~~of Education~~ or the statewide
1706 assessments pursuant to s. 1008.22. Students with disabilities
1707 for whom standardized testing is not appropriate are exempt from
1708 this requirement. A participating private school must report a
1709 student's scores to the parent. A participating private school
1710 must annually report by August 15 the scores of all
1711 participating students to a state university described in
1712 paragraph (9)(f).

1713 2. Administer the statewide assessments pursuant to s.
1714 1008.22 if a participating private school chooses to offer the
1715 statewide assessments. A participating private school may choose
1716 to offer and administer the statewide assessments to all
1717 students who attend the participating private school in grades 3
1718 through 10 and must submit a request in writing to the
1719 Department of Education by March 1 of each year in order to
1720 administer the statewide assessments in the subsequent school
1721 year.

1722
1723 If a participating private school fails to meet the requirements
1724 of this subsection or s. 1002.421, the commissioner may
1725 determine that the participating private school is ineligible to

1726 | participate in the scholarship program.

1727 | (9) DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OBLIGATIONS.—The Department of
1728 | Education shall:

1729 | (d) Notify eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding
1730 | organizations of the deadlines for submitting the verified list
1731 | of eligible scholarship students; cross-check the verified list
1732 | ~~of participating scholarship students~~ with the public school
1733 | enrollment lists to avoid duplication; and, when the Florida
1734 | Education Finance Program is recalculated, adjust the amount of
1735 | state funds allocated to school districts through the Florida
1736 | Education Finance Program based upon the results of the cross-
1737 | check.

1738 | (e) Maintain and annually publish a list of nationally
1739 | norm-referenced tests identified for purposes of satisfying the
1740 | testing requirement in subparagraph (8)(c)1. ~~(8)(b)1.~~ The tests
1741 | must meet industry standards of quality in accordance with State
1742 | Board of Education rule.

1743 | (f) Issue a project grant award to a state university, to
1744 | which participating private schools and eligible nonprofit
1745 | scholarship-funding organizations must report the scores of
1746 | participating students on the nationally norm-referenced tests
1747 | or the statewide assessments administered in grades 3 through
1748 | 10. The project term is 2 years, and the amount of the project
1749 | is up to \$250,000 per year. The project grant award must be
1750 | reissued in 2-year intervals in accordance with this paragraph.

1751 1. The state university must annually report to the
1752 Department of Education on the student performance of
1753 participating students and, beginning with the 2027-2028 school
1754 year, on the performance of personalized education students:
1755 a. On a statewide basis. The report shall also include, to
1756 the extent possible, a comparison of scholarship students'
1757 performance to the statewide student performance of public
1758 school students with socioeconomic backgrounds similar to those
1759 of students participating in the scholarship program. To
1760 minimize costs and reduce time required for the state
1761 university's analysis and evaluation, the Department of
1762 Education shall coordinate with the state university to provide
1763 data to the state university in order to conduct analyses of
1764 matched students from public school assessment data and
1765 calculate control group student performance using an agreed-upon
1766 methodology with the state university; and
1767 b. On an individual school basis for students enrolled
1768 full time in a private school. The annual report must include
1769 student performance for each participating private school in
1770 which enrolled students in the private school participated in a
1771 scholarship program under this section or s. 1002.394(12) (a) ~~r~~
1772 ~~or s. 1002.40~~ in the prior school year. The report shall be
1773 according to each participating private school, and for
1774 participating students, in which there are at least 30
1775 participating students who have scores for tests administered.

1776 If the state university determines that the 30-participating-
1777 student cell size may be reduced without disclosing personally
1778 identifiable information, as described in 34 C.F.R. s. 99.12, of
1779 a participating student, the state university may reduce the
1780 participating-student cell size, but the cell size must not be
1781 reduced to less than 10 participating students. The department
1782 shall provide each participating private school's prior school
1783 year's student enrollment information to the state university no
1784 later than June 15 of each year, or as requested by the state
1785 university.

1786 2. The sharing and reporting of student performance data
1787 under this paragraph must be in accordance with requirements of
1788 ss. 1002.22 and 1002.221 and 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g, the Family
1789 Educational Rights and Privacy Act, and the applicable rules and
1790 regulations issued pursuant thereto, and shall be for the sole
1791 purpose of creating the annual report required by subparagraph
1792 1. All parties must preserve the confidentiality of such
1793 information as required by law. The annual report must not
1794 disaggregate data to a level that will identify individual
1795 participating schools, except as required under sub-subparagraph
1796 1.b., or disclose the academic level of individual students.

1797 3. The annual report required by subparagraph 1. shall be
1798 published by the Department of Education on its website.

1799 (i) Require quarterly reports by an eligible nonprofit
1800 scholarship-funding organization regarding the number of

1801 students participating in the ~~scholarship~~ program;7 the private
1802 schools at which the students are enrolled; the number of
1803 scholarship applications received, the number of applications
1804 processed within 30 days after receipt, and the number of
1805 incomplete applications received; data related to reimbursement
1806 submissions, including the average number of days for a
1807 reimbursement to be reviewed and the average number of days for
1808 a reimbursement to be approved; any parent input and feedback
1809 collected regarding the program;7 and any other information
1810 deemed necessary by the Department of Education.

1811 (10) SCHOOL DISTRICT OBLIGATIONS; PARENTAL OPTIONS.—

1812 (b) Upon the request of the Department of Education, a
1813 school district shall coordinate with the department to provide
1814 to a participating private school the statewide assessments
1815 administered under s. 1008.22 and any related materials for
1816 administering the assessments. A school district is responsible
1817 for implementing test administrations at a participating private
1818 school, including the:

1819 1. Provision of training for participating private school
1820 staff on test security and assessment administration procedures;

1821 2. Distribution of testing materials to a participating
1822 private school;

1823 3. Retrieval of testing materials from a participating
1824 private school;

1825 4. Provision of the required format for a participating

1826 private school to submit information to the district for test
 1827 administration and enrollment purposes; and

1828 5. Provision of any required assistance, monitoring, or
 1829 investigation at a participating private school.

1830 (11) SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT AND PAYMENT.—

1831 (c) If a scholarship student is attending an eligible
 1832 private school full time, the initial payment shall be made
 1833 after the organization's verification of admission acceptance,
 1834 and subsequent payments shall be made upon verification of
 1835 continued enrollment and attendance at the eligible private
 1836 school. Payments shall be made within 7 business days after
 1837 approval by the parent pursuant to paragraph (7) (a) and the
 1838 private school pursuant to paragraph (8) (b) ~~An eligible~~
 1839 ~~nonprofit scholarship-funding organization shall obtain~~
 1840 ~~verification from the private school of a student's continued~~
 1841 ~~attendance at the school for each period covered by a~~
 1842 ~~scholarship payment.~~

1843 (f) A scholarship awarded to an eligible student shall
 1844 remain in force until:

1845 1. The organization determines that the student is not
 1846 eligible for program renewal;

1847 2. The Commissioner of Education suspends or revokes
 1848 program participation or use of funds;

1849 3. The student's parent has forfeited participation in the
 1850 program for failure to comply with subsection (7);

1851 4. The student who uses the scholarship for full-time
 1852 tuition and fees at an eligible private school pursuant to
 1853 subparagraph (6)(d)2. enrolls full time in a public school.
 1854 However, if a student enters a Department of Juvenile Justice
 1855 detention center for a period of no more than 21 days, the
 1856 student is not considered to have returned to a public school on
 1857 a full-time basis for that purpose; or

1858 5. The student graduates from high school or attains 21
 1859 years of age, whichever occurs first.

1860 (h) A student's scholarship account must be closed and any
 1861 remaining funds shall revert to the state after:

1862 1. Denial or revocation of program eligibility by the
 1863 commissioner for fraud or abuse, including, but not limited to,
 1864 the student or student's parent accepting any payment, refund,
 1865 or rebate, in any manner, from a provider of any services
 1866 received pursuant to paragraph (6)(d); ~~or~~

1867 2. Two consecutive fiscal years in which an account has
 1868 been inactive; or

1869 3. The student remains unenrolled in an eligible private
 1870 school for 30 days while receiving a scholarship that requires
 1871 full-time enrollment.

1872 (i) Moneys received pursuant to this section do not
 1873 constitute taxable income to the qualified student or the parent
 1874 of the qualified student.

1875 Section 5. Section 1002.40, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

1876 Section 6. Paragraph (i) of subsection (1) of section
 1877 1002.421, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1878 1002.421 State school choice scholarship program
 1879 accountability and oversight.—

1880 (1) PRIVATE SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY AND OBLIGATIONS.—A private
 1881 school participating in an educational scholarship program
 1882 established pursuant to this chapter must be a private school as
 1883 defined in s. 1002.01 in this state, be registered, and be in
 1884 compliance with all requirements of this section in addition to
 1885 private school requirements outlined in s. 1002.42, specific
 1886 requirements identified within respective scholarship program
 1887 laws, and other provisions of Florida law that apply to private
 1888 schools, and must:

1889 (i) Maintain a physical location in the state at which
 1890 each student has regular and direct contact with teachers.
 1891 Regular and direct contact with teachers may be satisfied for
 1892 students enrolled in a personalized education program if
 1893 students have regular and direct contact with teachers at the
 1894 physical location at least two school days per week and the
 1895 student learning plan addresses the remaining instructional
 1896 time.

1897
 1898 The department shall suspend the payment of funds to a private
 1899 school that knowingly fails to comply with this subsection, and
 1900 shall prohibit the school from enrolling new scholarship

1901 students, for 1 fiscal year and until the school complies. If a
 1902 private school fails to meet the requirements of this subsection
 1903 or has consecutive years of material exceptions listed in the
 1904 report required under paragraph (q), the commissioner may
 1905 determine that the private school is ineligible to participate
 1906 in a scholarship program.

1907 Section 7. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section
 1908 1002.45, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1909 1002.45 Virtual instruction programs.—

1910 (2) PROVIDER QUALIFICATIONS.—

1911 (a) The department shall annually publish on its website a
 1912 list of providers approved by the State Board of Education to
 1913 offer virtual instruction programs. To be approved, a virtual
 1914 instruction program provider must document that it:

1915 ~~1. Is nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies,~~
 1916 ~~employment practices, and operations;~~

1917 1.2. Complies with the antidiscrimination provisions of s.
 1918 1000.05;

1919 ~~2.3.~~ Locates an administrative office or offices in this
 1920 state, requires its administrative staff to be state residents,
 1921 requires all instructional staff to be Florida-certified
 1922 teachers under chapter 1012 and conducts background screenings
 1923 for all employees or contracted personnel, as required by s.
 1924 1012.32, using state and national criminal history records;

1925 3.4. Electronically provides to parents and students

1926 specific information that includes, but is not limited to, the
 1927 following teacher-parent and teacher-student contact information
 1928 for each course:

1929 a. How to contact the instructor via phone, e-mail, or
 1930 online messaging tools.

1931 b. How to contact technical support via phone, e-mail, or
 1932 online messaging tools.

1933 c. How to contact the administration office via phone, e-
 1934 mail, or online messaging tools.

1935 d. Any requirement for regular contact with the instructor
 1936 for the course and clear expectations for meeting the
 1937 requirement.

1938 e. The requirement that the instructor in each course
 1939 must, at a minimum, conduct one contact with the parent and the
 1940 student each month;

1941 ~~4.5.~~ Possesses prior, successful experience offering
 1942 virtual instruction courses to elementary, middle, or high
 1943 school students as demonstrated by quantified student learning
 1944 gains in each subject area and grade level provided for
 1945 consideration as an instructional program option. However, for a
 1946 virtual instruction program provider without sufficient prior,
 1947 successful experience offering online courses, the State Board
 1948 of Education may conditionally approve the virtual instruction
 1949 program provider to offer courses measured pursuant to
 1950 subparagraph (7)(a)2. Conditional approval shall be valid for 1

1951 school year only and, based on the virtual instruction program
 1952 provider's experience in offering the courses, the State Board
 1953 of Education may grant approval to offer a virtual instruction
 1954 program;

1955 ~~5.6.~~ Is accredited by a regional accrediting association
 1956 as defined by State Board of Education rule;

1957 ~~6.7.~~ Ensures instructional and curricular quality through
 1958 a detailed curriculum and student performance accountability
 1959 plan that addresses every subject and grade level it intends to
 1960 provide through contract with the school district, including:

1961 a. Courses and programs that meet the standards of the
 1962 International Association for K-12 Online Learning and the
 1963 Southern Regional Education Board.

1964 b. Instructional content and services that align with, and
 1965 measure student attainment of, student proficiency in the state
 1966 academic standards.

1967 c. Mechanisms that determine and ensure that a student has
 1968 satisfied requirements for grade level promotion and high school
 1969 graduation with a standard diploma, as appropriate;

1970 ~~7.8.~~ Publishes, in accordance with disclosure requirements
 1971 adopted in rule by the State Board of Education, as part of its
 1972 application as an approved virtual instruction program provider
 1973 and in all contracts negotiated pursuant to this section:

1974 a. Information and data about the curriculum of each full-
 1975 time and part-time virtual instruction program.

1976 b. School policies and procedures.

1977 c. Certification status and physical location of all

1978 administrative and instructional personnel.

1979 d. Hours and times of availability of instructional

1980 personnel.

1981 e. Student-teacher ratios.

1982 f. Student completion and promotion rates.

1983 g. Student, educator, and school performance

1984 accountability outcomes;

1985 8.9. If the approved virtual instruction program provider

1986 is a Florida College System institution, employs instructors who

1987 meet the certification requirements for instructional staff

1988 under chapter 1012; and

1989 9.10. Performs an annual financial audit of its accounts

1990 and records conducted by an independent auditor who is a

1991 certified public accountant licensed under chapter 473. The

1992 independent auditor shall conduct the audit in accordance with

1993 rules adopted by the Auditor General and in compliance with

1994 generally accepted auditing standards, and include a report on

1995 financial statements presented in accordance with generally

1996 accepted accounting principles. The audit report shall be

1997 accompanied by a written statement from the approved virtual

1998 instruction program provider in response to any deficiencies

1999 identified within the audit report and shall be submitted by the

2000 approved virtual instruction program provider to the State Board

2001 of Education and the Auditor General no later than 9 months
 2002 after the end of the preceding fiscal year.

2003 Section 8. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section
 2004 1003.4156, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

2005 1003.4156 General requirements for middle grades
 2006 promotion.—

2007 (1) In order for a student to be promoted to high school
 2008 from a school that includes middle grades 6, 7, and 8, the
 2009 student must successfully complete the following courses:

2010 (c) Three middle grades or higher courses in social
 2011 studies. One of these courses must be at least a one-semester
 2012 civics education course that includes the roles and
 2013 responsibilities of federal, state, and local governments; the
 2014 structures and functions of the legislative, executive, and
 2015 judicial branches of government; and the meaning and
 2016 significance of historic documents, such as the Articles of
 2017 Confederation, the Declaration of Independence, and the
 2018 Constitution of the United States. All instructional materials
 2019 for the civics education course must be reviewed and approved by
 2020 the Commissioner of Education, in consultation with
 2021 organizations that may include, but are not limited to, the
 2022 Florida Joint Center for Citizenship, the Bill of Rights
 2023 Institute, Hillsdale College, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of
 2024 American History, iCivics, and the Constitutional Sources
 2025 Project, and with educators, school administrators,

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2024

2026 postsecondary education representatives, elected officials,
2027 business and industry leaders, parents, and the public. Any
2028 errors and inaccuracies the commissioner identifies in state-
2029 adopted materials must be corrected pursuant to s. 1006.35.
2030 After consulting with such entities and individuals, the
2031 commissioner shall review the current state-approved civics
2032 education course instructional materials and the test
2033 specifications for the statewide, standardized EOC assessment in
2034 civics education and shall make recommendations for improvements
2035 to the materials and test specifications by December 31, 2019.
2036 By December 31, 2020, the department shall complete a review of
2037 the statewide civics education course standards. Each student's
2038 performance on the statewide, standardized EOC assessment in
2039 civics education required under s. 1008.22 constitutes 30
2040 percent of the student's final course grade. A middle grades
2041 student who transfers into the state's public school system from
2042 out of country, out of state, a private school, a personalized
2043 education program, or a home education program after the
2044 beginning of the second term of grade 8 is not required to meet
2045 the civics education requirement for promotion from the middle
2046 grades if the student's transcript documents passage of three
2047 courses in social studies or two year-long courses in social
2048 studies that include coverage of civics education.

2049 Section 9. Subsection (6) of section 1003.4282, Florida
2050 Statutes, is amended to read:

2051 1003.4282 Requirements for a standard high school
 2052 diploma.—
 2053 (6) UNIFORM TRANSFER OF HIGH SCHOOL CREDITS.—Beginning
 2054 with the 2012-2013 school year, if a student transfers to a
 2055 Florida public high school from out of country, out of state, a
 2056 private school, a personalized education program, or a home
 2057 education program and the student's transcript shows a credit in
 2058 Algebra I, the student must pass the statewide, standardized
 2059 Algebra I EOC assessment in order to earn a standard high school
 2060 diploma unless the student earned a comparative score, passed a
 2061 statewide assessment in Algebra I administered by the
 2062 transferring entity, or passed the statewide mathematics
 2063 assessment the transferring entity uses to satisfy the
 2064 requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as
 2065 amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), 20 U.S.C. ss.
 2066 6301 et seq. If a student's transcript shows a credit in high
 2067 school reading or English Language Arts II or III, in order to
 2068 earn a standard high school diploma, the student must take and
 2069 pass the statewide, standardized grade 10 ELA assessment, or
 2070 earn a concordant score. If a transfer student's transcript
 2071 shows a final course grade and course credit in Algebra I,
 2072 Geometry, Biology I, or United States History, the transferring
 2073 course final grade and credit shall be honored without the
 2074 student taking the requisite statewide, standardized EOC
 2075 assessment and without the assessment results constituting 30

2076 | percent of the student's final course grade.

2077 | Section 10. Paragraph (1) of subsection (4) of section
2078 | 1003.485, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

2079 | 1003.485 The New Worlds Reading Initiative.—

2080 | (4) ADMINISTRATOR RESPONSIBILITIES.—The administrator
2081 | shall:

2082 | (1) Expend eligible contributions received only for the
2083 | purchase and delivery of books and to implement the requirements
2084 | of this section, as well as for administrative expenses not to
2085 | exceed 2 percent of total eligible contributions.

2086 | Notwithstanding s. 1002.395(6)(1)3. ~~s. 1002.395(6)(1)2.~~, the
2087 | administrator may carry forward up to 25 percent of eligible
2088 | contributions made before January 1 of each state fiscal year
2089 | and 100 percent of eligible contributions made on or after
2090 | January 1 of each state fiscal year to the following state
2091 | fiscal year for purposes authorized by this subsection. Any
2092 | eligible contributions in excess of the allowable carry forward
2093 | not used to provide additional books throughout the year to
2094 | eligible students shall revert to the state treasury.

2095 | Section 11. Effective upon this act becoming a law,
2096 | paragraph (e) is added to subsection (5) of section 1004.6495,
2097 | Florida Statutes, to read:

2098 | 1004.6495 Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition
2099 | Program and Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities.—

2100 | (5) CENTER RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Florida Center for

2101 Students with Unique Abilities is established within the
2102 University of Central Florida. At a minimum, the center shall:
2103 (e) By July 1, 2024, develop the purchasing guidelines for
2104 authorized uses of scholarship funds for the Family Empowerment
2105 Scholarship Program under s. 1002.394(4) (b) and by each July 1
2106 thereafter, revise such guidelines. The center must consult with
2107 parents of a student with a disability participating in the
2108 scholarship program in the development and revision of the
2109 guidelines and must provide the guidelines to each eligible
2110 nonprofit scholarship-funding organization that awards
2111 scholarships to a student eligible for the scholarship program
2112 under s. 1002.394(3) (b) for publishing on each organization's
2113 website.

2114 Section 12. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this
2115 act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon
2116 this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1,
2117 2024.