

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Education Pre-K -12

BILL: SB 486

INTRODUCER: Senator Perry

SUBJECT: Florida School for Competitive Academics

DATE: January 9, 2024

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Sabitsch	Bouck	ED	Pre-meeting
2.	_____	_____	AED	_____
3.	_____	_____	FP	_____

I. Summary:

SB 486 provides additional authority to the board of trustees for the Florida School for Competitive Academics to allow the board to change the name of the school.

The bill is effective July 1, 2024.

II. Present Situation:

The Florida School for Competitive Academics (FSCA) was approved in 2023¹ to provide a rigorous academic curriculum, and intended to prepare students for regional, state, and national academic competitions in all areas of study, including, but not limited to; science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The school was established in Alachua County for students in grades 6-12 with admissions beginning in the 2024-2025 school year.²

The FSCA is governed by a board of trustees composed of 7 members appointed by the Governor to 4-year terms and confirmed by the Senate.³ The board of trustees is authorized to manage, maintain, support, and control the FSCA. Specific authority includes, but is not limited to, admissions, personnel, purchasing, school safety, budgets, and records.⁴ The board of trustees may also make a recommendation to the Legislature to become a residential public school.⁵

¹ Chapter 2023-245, s. 14, Laws of Fla.

² Section 1002.351, F.S.

³ Section 1002.351(3)(a)1., F.S.

⁴ Section 1002.351(3), F.S.

⁵ Section 1002.351(3)(e)7., F.S.

The FSCA is exempted from the Florida Statutes in the same manner as charter schools,⁶ and is subject to financial and operational audits by the Auditor General in the same manner as other public educational institutions.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill modifies s. 1002.351, F.S., to provide specific authority to the board of trustees of the Florida School for Competitive Academics to change the name of the school.

The bill is effective July 1, 2024.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

⁶ Section 1002.351(8), F.S.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

Should the board of trustees approve a change to the name of the school, there are numerous instances in statute that would require additional legislative action to change the name of the school (e.g., the Florida School for Competitive Academics is named in sections 11.45, 216.251, 447.203, 1000.04, 1001.20, 1002.351, 1011.58, 1011.59 of the Florida Statutes).

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends section 1002.351 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.