

Amendment No.

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

.

---

The Conference Committee on HB 5101 offered the following:

**Conference Committee Amendment (with title amendment)**

Remove everything after the enacting clause and insert:

Section 1. Paragraphs (c), (e), (h), (j), and (l) of subsection (2) of section 110.123, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsection (15) is added to that section, to read:

110.123 State group insurance program.—

(2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in ss. 110.123-110.1239, the term:

(c) "Enrollee" means all state officers and employees, retired state officers and employees, surviving spouses of deceased state officers and employees, eligible former

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

14 employees, and terminated employees or individuals with  
15 continuation coverage who are enrolled in an insurance plan  
16 offered by the state group insurance program. The term includes  
17 all state university officers and employees, retired state  
18 university officers and employees, surviving spouses of deceased  
19 state university officers and employees, and terminated state  
20 university employees or individuals with continuation coverage  
21 who are enrolled in an insurance plan offered by the state group  
22 insurance program. The term includes all Florida College System  
23 institution officers and employees, retired Florida College  
24 System institution officers and employees, surviving spouses of  
25 deceased Florida college system institution officers and  
26 employees, and terminated Florida College System institution  
27 employees or individuals with continuation coverage who are  
28 enrolled in an insurance plan offered by the state group  
29 insurance program. As used in this paragraph, state employees  
30 and retired state employees also include employees and retired  
31 employees of the Division of Rehabilitation and Liquidation.

32 (e) "Full-time state employees" means employees of all  
33 branches or agencies of state government holding salaried  
34 positions who are paid by state warrant or from agency funds and  
35 who work or are expected to work an average of at least 30 hours  
36 per week; employees of the Division of Rehabilitation and  
37 Liquidation who work or are expected to work an average of at  
38 least 30 hours per week; employees paid from regular salary

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

39 appropriations for 8 months' employment, including university  
40 and college personnel on academic contracts; and employees paid  
41 from other-personal-services (OPS) funds as described in  
42 subparagraphs 1. and 2. The term includes all full-time  
43 employees of the state universities and Florida College System  
44 institutions. The term does not include seasonal workers who are  
45 paid from OPS funds.

46 1. For persons hired before April 1, 2013, the term  
47 includes any person paid from OPS funds who:

48 a. Has worked an average of at least 30 hours or more per  
49 week during the initial measurement period from April 1, 2013,  
50 through September 30, 2013; or

51 b. Has worked an average of at least 30 hours or more per  
52 week during a subsequent measurement period.

53 2. For persons hired after April 1, 2013, the term  
54 includes any person paid from OPS funds who:

55 a. Is reasonably expected to work an average of at least  
56 30 hours or more per week; or

57 b. Has worked an average of at least 30 hours or more per  
58 week during the person's measurement period.

59 (h) "Part-time state employee" means an employee of any  
60 branch or agency of state government paid by state warrant from  
61 salary appropriations or from agency funds, or an employee of  
62 the Division of Rehabilitation and Liquidation, who is employed  
63 for less than an average of 30 hours per week or, if on academic

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

64 contract or seasonal or other type of employment which is less  
65 than year-round, is employed for less than 8 months during any  
66 12-month period, but does not include a person paid from other-  
67 personal-services (OPS) funds. The term includes all part-time  
68 employees of the state universities and Florida College System  
69 institutions.

70 (j) "Retired state officer or employee" or "retiree" means  
71 any state, ~~or~~ state university, or Florida College System  
72 institution officer or employee, or, beginning with the 2023  
73 plan year, an employee of the Division of Rehabilitation and  
74 Liquidation, who retires under a state retirement system or a  
75 state optional annuity or retirement program or is placed on  
76 disability retirement, and who was insured under the state group  
77 insurance program or the Division of Rehabilitation and  
78 Liquidation's group insurance program at the time of retirement,  
79 and who begins receiving retirement benefits immediately after  
80 retirement from state, ~~or~~ state university, or Florida College  
81 System institution office or employment. The term also includes  
82 any state officer or state employee who retires under the  
83 Florida Retirement System Investment Plan established under part  
84 II of chapter 121 if he or she:

85 1. Meets the age and service requirements to qualify for  
86 normal retirement as set forth in s. 121.021(29); or

87 2. Has attained the age specified by s. 72(t)(2)(A)(i) of  
88 the Internal Revenue Code and has 6 years of creditable service.

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

89 (1) "State agency" or "agency" means any branch,  
90 department, or agency of state government. "State agency" or  
91 "agency" includes any state university or Florida College System  
92 institution and the Division of Rehabilitation and Liquidation  
93 for purposes of this section only.

94 (15) ENROLLMENT PERIOD FOR FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM  
95 INSTITUTIONS.—The initial open enrollment period for employees  
96 of Florida College System institutions shall begin as soon as  
97 practicable, but coverage must begin during the 2025 plan year  
98 no later than July 31, 2025. The minimum participation period  
99 for Florida College System institutions must be for at least 3  
100 plan years.

101 Section 2. Subsection (7) is added to section 1002.31,  
102 Florida Statutes, to read:

103 1002.31 Controlled open enrollment; public school parental  
104 choice.—

105 (7) Contingent upon a legislative appropriation, and on a  
106 first-come, first-served basis, a public school student enrolled  
107 in kindergarten through grade 8 may receive a stipend from an  
108 eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization, as defined  
109 in s. 1002.395(2), for transportation to a Florida nonvirtual  
110 public school that is different from the school to which the  
111 student is assigned or to a developmental research school  
112 authorized under s. 1002.32.

113 (a) For an eligible student to receive a stipend, the

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

114 student's parent must:

115 1. Submit an application to an eligible nonprofit  
116 scholarship-funding organization for the specified school year  
117 and by the deadline established by the organization.

118 2. Provide the documentation necessary to verify the  
119 student's eligibility for the specified school year.

120 3. Be responsible for the payment of all transportation-  
121 related expenses in excess of the amount of the stipend.

122 (b) An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization  
123 shall distribute the stipends to the parents of the eligible  
124 students in accordance with the requirements for the  
125 organization under this chapter. For the 2024-2025 school year,  
126 priority shall be given to households with a student who  
127 received a transportation scholarship pursuant to s.  
128 1002.394(4)(a)2. and (12)(a)2., Florida Statutes 2023, or s.  
129 1002.395(6)(d)2.b., Florida Statutes 2023, during the previous  
130 school year and is determined eligible for a transportation  
131 stipend for the 2024-2025 school year. For the 2025-2026 school  
132 year and thereafter, priority shall be given to renewing  
133 households with an eligible student. Any remaining stipends  
134 shall be provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

135 (c) The Department of Education shall have the same duties  
136 imposed by this chapter upon the department regarding the  
137 oversight of scholarship programs administered by an eligible  
138 nonprofit scholarship-funding organization.

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

139       (d) The amount of the stipend for an eligible student  
140 shall be as specified in the General Appropriations Act. A  
141 household that has more than one eligible student may only  
142 receive one stipend.

143       (e) Upon notification from the eligible nonprofit  
144 scholarship-funding organization that a student has been  
145 determined eligible for a stipend, the department shall release  
146 the student's stipend to the organization.

147       (f) Moneys received pursuant to this subsection do not  
148 constitute taxable income to the qualified student or his or her  
149 parent.

150       (g) No liability shall arise on the part of the state  
151 based on the stipend or use of the stipend.

152       Section 3. Subsection (2) and paragraphs (b) through (g)  
153 of subsection (9) of section 1002.32, Florida Statutes, are  
154 amended to read:

155       1002.32 Developmental research (laboratory) schools.—

156       (2) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a category of  
157 public schools to be known as developmental research  
158 (laboratory) schools (lab schools). Each lab school shall  
159 provide sequential instruction and shall be affiliated with the  
160 college of education within the state university of closest  
161 geographic proximity. A lab school to which a charter has been  
162 issued under s. 1002.33(5)(a)2. must be affiliated with the  
163 college of education within the state university that issued the

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

164 charter, but is not subject to the requirement that the state  
165 university be of closest geographic proximity. For the purpose  
166 of state funding, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical  
167 University, Florida Atlantic University, Florida State  
168 University, the University of Florida, and other universities  
169 approved by the State Board of Education and the Legislature are  
170 authorized to sponsor a lab school. The limitation of one lab  
171 school per university shall not apply to the following  
172 legislatively allowed charter lab schools: Florida State  
173 University Charter Lab K-12 School in Broward County, Florida  
174 State University Charter Lab K-12 School in Leon County, and  
175 Florida Atlantic University Charter Lab K-12 School in Palm  
176 Beach County, and Florida Atlantic University Charter Lab K-12  
177 School in St. Lucie County. The limitation of one lab school per  
178 university does not apply to a university that establishes a lab  
179 school to serve families of a military installation that is  
180 within the same county as a branch campus that offers programs  
181 from the university's college of education.

182 (9) FUNDING.—Funding for a lab school, including a charter  
183 lab school, shall be provided as follows:

184 ~~(b) There is created a Lab School Educational Facility~~  
185 ~~Trust Fund to be administered by the Commissioner of Education.~~  
186 ~~Allocations from such fund shall be expended solely for the~~  
187 ~~purpose of facility construction, repair, renovation,~~  
188 ~~remodeling, site improvement, or maintenance. The commissioner~~

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM



Amendment No.

189 ~~shall administer the fund in accordance with ss. 1013.60,~~  
190 ~~1013.64, 1013.65, and 1013.66.~~

191 ~~(b)(e)~~ All operating funds provided under this section  
192 shall be deposited in a Lab School Trust Fund and shall be  
193 expended for the purposes of this section. The university  
194 assigned a lab school shall be the fiscal agent for these funds,  
195 and all rules of the university governing the budgeting and  
196 expenditure of state funds shall apply to these funds unless  
197 otherwise provided by law or rule of the State Board of  
198 Education. The university board of trustees shall be the public  
199 employer of lab school personnel for collective bargaining  
200 purposes for lab schools in operation prior to the 2002-2003  
201 fiscal year. Employees of charter lab schools authorized prior  
202 to June 1, 2003, but not in operation prior to the 2002-2003  
203 fiscal year shall be employees of the entity holding the charter  
204 and must comply with the provisions of s. 1002.33(12).

205 ~~(c)(d)~~ Each lab school shall receive funds for capital  
206 improvement purposes in an amount determined as follows:  
207 multiply the maximum allowable nonvoted discretionary millage  
208 for capital improvements pursuant to s. 1011.71(2) by 96 percent  
209 of the current year's taxable value for school purposes for the  
210 district in which each lab school is located; divide the result  
211 by the total full-time equivalent membership of the district;  
212 and multiply the result by the full-time equivalent membership  
213 of the lab school. The amount obtained shall be discretionary

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

214 capital improvement funds and shall be appropriated from state  
215 funds in the General Appropriations Act ~~to the Lab School~~  
216 ~~Educational Facility Trust Fund.~~

217 ~~(d)~~(e) In addition to the funds appropriated for capital  
218 outlay budget needs, lab schools may receive specific funding as  
219 specified in the General Appropriations Act for upgrading,  
220 renovating, and remodeling science laboratories.

221 ~~(e)~~(f) Each lab school is designated a teacher education  
222 center and may provide inservice training to school district  
223 personnel. The Department of Education shall provide funds ~~to~~  
224 ~~the Lab School Trust Fund~~ for this purpose from appropriations  
225 for inservice teacher education.

226 ~~(g) A lab school to which a charter has been issued under~~  
227 ~~s. 1002.33(5)(a)2. is eligible to receive funding for charter~~  
228 ~~school capital outlay if it meets the eligibility requirements~~  
229 ~~of s. 1013.62. If the lab school receives funds from charter~~  
230 ~~school capital outlay, the school shall receive capital outlay~~  
231 ~~funds otherwise provided in this subsection only to the extent~~  
232 ~~that funds allocated pursuant to s. 1013.62 are insufficient to~~  
233 ~~provide capital outlay funds to the lab school at one-fifteenth~~  
234 ~~of the cost per student station.~~

235 Section 4. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (6) and  
236 subsections (17) and (19) of section 1002.33, Florida Statutes,  
237 are amended to read:

238 1002.33 Charter schools.—

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

239 (6) APPLICATION PROCESS AND REVIEW.—Charter school  
240 applications are subject to the following requirements:  
241 (b) A sponsor shall receive and review all applications  
242 for a charter school using the evaluation instrument developed  
243 by the Department of Education. A sponsor shall receive and  
244 consider charter school applications for charter schools to be  
245 opened at a time determined by the applicant. A sponsor may not  
246 charge an applicant for a charter any fee for the processing or  
247 consideration of an application, and a sponsor may not base its  
248 consideration or approval of a final application upon the  
249 promise of future payment of any kind. Before approving or  
250 denying any application, the sponsor shall allow the applicant,  
251 upon receipt of written notification, at least 7 calendar days  
252 to make technical or nonsubstantive corrections and  
253 clarifications, including, but not limited to, corrections of  
254 grammatical, typographical, and like errors or missing  
255 signatures, if such errors are identified by the sponsor as  
256 cause to deny the final application.

257 ~~1. In order to facilitate an accurate budget projection~~  
258 ~~process, a sponsor shall be held harmless for FTE students who~~  
259 ~~are not included in the FTE projection due to approval of~~  
260 ~~charter school applications after the FTE projection deadline.~~  
261 ~~In a further effort to facilitate an accurate budget projection,~~  
262 ~~within 15 calendar days after receipt of a charter school~~  
263 ~~application, a sponsor shall report to the Department of~~

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

264 ~~Education the name of the applicant entity, the proposed charter~~  
265 ~~school location, and its projected FTE.~~

266 ~~1.2.~~ In order to ensure fiscal responsibility, an  
267 application for a charter school shall include a full accounting  
268 of expected assets, a projection of expected sources and amounts  
269 of income, including income derived from projected student  
270 enrollments and from community support, and an expense  
271 projection that includes full accounting of the costs of  
272 operation, including start-up costs.

273 ~~2.a.3.a.~~ A sponsor shall by a majority vote approve or  
274 deny an application no later than 90 calendar days after the  
275 application is received, unless the sponsor and the applicant  
276 mutually agree in writing to temporarily postpone the vote to a  
277 specific date, at which time the sponsor shall by a majority  
278 vote approve or deny the application. If the sponsor fails to  
279 act on the application, an applicant may appeal to the State  
280 Board of Education as provided in paragraph (c). If an  
281 application is denied, the sponsor shall, within 10 calendar  
282 days after such denial, articulate in writing the specific  
283 reasons, based upon good cause, supporting its denial of the  
284 application and shall provide the letter of denial and  
285 supporting documentation to the applicant and to the Department  
286 of Education.

287 b. An application submitted by a high-performing charter  
288 school identified pursuant to s. 1002.331 or a high-performing

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

289 charter school system identified pursuant to s. 1002.332 may be  
290 denied by the sponsor only if the sponsor demonstrates by clear  
291 and convincing evidence that:

292 (I) The application of a high-performing charter school  
293 does not materially comply with the requirements in paragraph  
294 (a) or, for a high-performing charter school system, the  
295 application does not materially comply with s. 1002.332(2)(b);

296 (II) The charter school proposed in the application does  
297 not materially comply with the requirements in paragraphs  
298 (9)(a)-(f);

299 (III) The proposed charter school's educational program  
300 does not substantially replicate that of the applicant or one of  
301 the applicant's high-performing charter schools;

302 (IV) The applicant has made a material misrepresentation  
303 or false statement or concealed an essential or material fact  
304 during the application process; or

305 (V) The proposed charter school's educational program and  
306 financial management practices do not materially comply with the  
307 requirements of this section.

308  
309 Material noncompliance is a failure to follow requirements or a  
310 violation of prohibitions applicable to charter school  
311 applications, which failure is quantitatively or qualitatively  
312 significant either individually or when aggregated with other  
313 noncompliance. An applicant is considered to be replicating a

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

314 high-performing charter school if the proposed school is  
315 substantially similar to at least one of the applicant's high-  
316 performing charter schools and the organization or individuals  
317 involved in the establishment and operation of the proposed  
318 school are significantly involved in the operation of replicated  
319 schools.

320 c. If the sponsor denies an application submitted by a  
321 high-performing charter school or a high-performing charter  
322 school system, the sponsor must, within 10 calendar days after  
323 such denial, state in writing the specific reasons, based upon  
324 the criteria in sub-subparagraph b., supporting its denial of  
325 the application and must provide the letter of denial and  
326 supporting documentation to the applicant and to the Department  
327 of Education. The applicant may appeal the sponsor's denial of  
328 the application in accordance with paragraph (c).

329 3.4. For budget projection purposes, the sponsor shall  
330 report to the Department of Education the approval or denial of  
331 an application within 10 calendar days after such approval or  
332 denial. In the event of approval, the report to the Department  
333 of Education shall include the final projected FTE for the  
334 approved charter school.

335 4.5. A charter school may defer the opening of the  
336 school's operations for up to 3 years to provide time for  
337 adequate facility planning. The charter school must provide  
338 written notice of such intent to the sponsor and the parents of

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

339 enrolled students at least 30 calendar days before the first day  
340 of school.

341 (c)1. An applicant may appeal any denial of that  
342 applicant's application or failure to act on an application to  
343 the State Board of Education no later than 30 calendar days  
344 after receipt of the sponsor's decision or failure to act and  
345 shall notify the sponsor of its appeal. Any response of the  
346 sponsor shall be submitted to the State Board of Education  
347 within 30 calendar days after notification of the appeal. Upon  
348 receipt of notification from the State Board of Education that a  
349 charter school applicant is filing an appeal, the Commissioner  
350 of Education shall convene a meeting of the Charter School  
351 Appeal Commission to study and make recommendations to the State  
352 Board of Education regarding its pending decision about the  
353 appeal. The commission shall forward its recommendation to the  
354 state board at least 7 calendar days before the date on which  
355 the appeal is to be heard.

356 2. The Charter School Appeal Commission may reject an  
357 appeal submission for failure to comply with procedural rules  
358 governing the appeals process. The rejection shall describe the  
359 submission errors. The appellant shall have 15 calendar days  
360 after notice of rejection in which to resubmit an appeal that  
361 meets the requirements set forth in State Board of Education  
362 rule. An appeal submitted subsequent to such rejection is  
363 considered timely if the original appeal was filed within 30

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

364 calendar days after receipt of notice of the specific reasons  
365 for the sponsor's denial of the charter application.

366 3.a. The State Board of Education shall by majority vote  
367 accept or reject the decision of the sponsor no later than 90  
368 calendar days after an appeal is filed in accordance with State  
369 Board of Education rule. The State Board of Education shall  
370 remand the application to the sponsor with its written decision  
371 that the sponsor approve or deny the application. The sponsor  
372 shall implement the decision of the State Board of Education.  
373 The decision of the State Board of Education is not subject to  
374 the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, chapter 120.

375 b. If an appeal concerns an application submitted by a  
376 high-performing charter school identified pursuant to s.  
377 1002.331 or a high-performing charter school system identified  
378 pursuant to s. 1002.332, the State Board of Education shall  
379 determine whether the sponsor's denial was in accordance with  
380 sub-subparagraph (b)2.b. ~~(b)3.b.~~

381 (17) FUNDING.—Students enrolled in a charter school,  
382 regardless of the sponsorship, shall be funded based upon the  
383 applicable program pursuant to s. 1011.62(1)(c) ~~as if they are~~  
384 ~~in a basic program or a special program~~, the same as students  
385 enrolled in other public schools in a school district. Funding  
386 for a charter lab school shall be as provided in s. 1002.32.

387 (a) Each charter school shall report its full-time  
388 equivalent student membership ~~enrollment~~ to the sponsor as

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM



Amendment No.

389 required in s. 1011.62(1)(a) ~~s. 1011.62~~ and in accordance with  
390 the definitions in s. 1011.61. The sponsor shall include each  
391 charter school's full-time equivalent student membership  
392 ~~enrollment~~ in the sponsor's full-time equivalent student  
393 membership report to the Department of Education ~~of student~~  
394 ~~enrollment~~. All charter schools submitting full-time equivalent  
395 student membership ~~record~~ information required by the department  
396 ~~of Education~~ shall comply with the department's ~~Department of~~  
397 ~~Education's~~ guidelines for electronic data formats for such  
398 data, and all sponsors shall accept electronic data that  
399 complies with the department's ~~Department of Education's~~  
400 electronic format.

401 (b)1. ~~The basis for the agreement for~~ Funding students  
402 enrolled in a charter school sponsored by a school district  
403 shall be the sum of the school district's operating funds from  
404 the Florida Education Finance Program as defined ~~provided~~ in s.  
405 1011.61(5) ~~s. 1011.62~~ and the General Appropriations Act,  
406 including gross state and local funds, ~~discretionary lottery~~  
407 ~~funds~~, and funds from the school district's current operating  
408 discretionary millage levy; divided by total funded weighted  
409 full-time equivalent students in the school district; and  
410 multiplied by the weighted full-time equivalent students for the  
411 charter school. Charter schools whose students or programs meet  
412 the eligibility criteria in law are entitled to their  
413 proportionate share of categorical program funds included in the

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

414 total funds available in the Florida Education Finance Program  
415 by the Legislature, including the student transportation  
416 allocation,<sup>7</sup> and the educational enrichment ~~evidence-based~~  
417 ~~reading~~ allocation. Total funding for each charter school shall  
418 be recalculated during the year to reflect the revised  
419 calculations under the Florida Education Finance Program by the  
420 state and the actual weighted full-time equivalent students  
421 reported by the charter school during the full-time equivalent  
422 student survey periods designated by the Commissioner of  
423 Education. For charter schools operated by a not-for-profit or  
424 municipal entity, any unrestricted current and capital assets  
425 identified in the charter school's annual financial audit may be  
426 used for other charter schools operated by the not-for-profit or  
427 municipal entity within the school district. For charter schools  
428 operated by a not-for-profit entity, any unrestricted current or  
429 capital assets identified in the charter school's annual audit  
430 may be used for other charter schools operated by the not-for-  
431 profit entity which are located outside of the originating  
432 charter school's school district, but within the state, through  
433 an unforgivable loan that must be repaid within 5 years to the  
434 originating charter school by the receiving charter school.  
435 Unrestricted current assets shall be used in accordance with s.  
436 1011.62, and any unrestricted capital assets shall be used in  
437 accordance with s. 1013.62(2).

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

438           2.a. Funding for students enrolled in a charter school  
439 sponsored by a state university or Florida College System  
440 institution pursuant to paragraph (5) (a) shall be provided in  
441 ~~funded as if they are in a basic program or a special program in~~  
442 ~~the school district. The basis for funding these students is the~~  
443 ~~sum of the total operating funds from~~ the Florida Education  
444 Finance Program ~~for the school district in which the school is~~  
445 ~~located as defined provided in s. 1011.61(5) s. 1011.62 and as~~  
446 specified in the General Appropriations Act. The calculation to  
447 determine the amount of state funds includes the sum of the  
448 basic amount for current operations established in s.  
449 1011.62(1) (s), the discretionary millage compression supplement  
450 established in s. 1011.62(5), and the state-funded discretionary  
451 contribution established in s. 1011.62(6). Charter schools whose  
452 students or programs meet the eligibility criteria in law are  
453 entitled to their proportionate share of categorical program  
454 funds included in the total funds available in the Florida  
455 Education Finance Program. The Florida College System  
456 institution or state university sponsoring the charter school  
457 shall be the fiscal agent for these funds, and all rules of the  
458 institution governing the budgeting and expenditure of state  
459 funds shall apply to these funds unless otherwise provided by  
460 law or rule of the State Board of Education.

461           (I) The nonvoted required local millage established  
462 pursuant to s. 1011.71(1) that would otherwise be required for

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

463 the charter schools shall be allocated from state funds.

464 (II) An equivalent amount of funds for the operating  
465 discretionary millage authorized pursuant to s. 1011.71(1) shall  
466 be allocated to each charter school through a state-funded  
467 discretionary contribution established pursuant to s.  
468 1011.62(6).

469 (III) The comparable wage factor as provided in s.  
470 1011.62(2) shall be established as 1.000.

471 b. Total funding for each charter school shall be  
472 recalculated during the year to reflect the revised calculations  
473 under the Florida Education Finance Program by the state and the  
474 actual weighted full-time equivalent students reported by the  
475 charter school during the full-time equivalent student survey  
476 periods designated by the Commissioner of Education., ~~including~~  
477 ~~gross state and local funds, discretionary lottery funds, and~~  
478 ~~funds from each school district's current operating~~  
479 ~~discretionary millage levy, divided by total funded weighted~~  
480 ~~full-time equivalent students in the district, and multiplied by~~  
481 ~~the full-time equivalent membership of the charter school.~~

482 c. The Department of Education shall develop a tool that  
483 each state university or Florida College System institution  
484 sponsoring a charter school shall use for purposes of  
485 calculating the funding amount for each eligible charter school  
486 student. The total amount obtained from the calculation must be

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

487 appropriated from state funds in the General Appropriations Act  
488 to the charter school.

489 ~~d.b.~~ Capital outlay funding for a charter school sponsored  
490 by a state university or Florida College System institution  
491 pursuant to paragraph (5) (a) is determined as follows: multiply  
492 the maximum allowable nonvoted discretionary millage under s.  
493 1011.71(2) by 96 percent of the current year's taxable value for  
494 school purposes for the district in which the charter school is  
495 located; divide the result by the total full-time equivalent  
496 student membership; and multiply the result by the full-time  
497 equivalent student membership of the charter school. The amount  
498 obtained shall be the discretionary capital improvement funds  
499 and shall be appropriated from state funds in ~~pursuant to s.~~  
500 ~~1013.62~~ and the General Appropriations Act.

501 (c) Pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 8061 s. 10306, all charter  
502 schools shall receive all federal funding for which the school  
503 is otherwise eligible, including Title I funding, not later than  
504 5 months after the charter school first opens and within 5  
505 months after any subsequent expansion of enrollment. Unless  
506 otherwise mutually agreed to by the charter school and its  
507 sponsor, and consistent with state and federal rules and  
508 regulations governing the use and disbursement of federal funds,  
509 the sponsor shall reimburse the charter school on a monthly  
510 basis for all invoices submitted by the charter school for  
511 federal funds available to the sponsor for the benefit of the

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

512 charter school, the charter school's students, and the charter  
513 school's students as public school students in the school  
514 district. Such federal funds include, but are not limited to,  
515 Title I, Title II, and Individuals with Disabilities Education  
516 Act (IDEA) funds. To receive timely reimbursement for an  
517 invoice, the charter school must submit the invoice to the  
518 sponsor at least 30 days before the monthly date of  
519 reimbursement set by the sponsor. In order to be reimbursed, any  
520 expenditures made by the charter school must comply with all  
521 applicable state rules and federal regulations, including, but  
522 not limited to, the applicable federal Office of Management and  
523 Budget Circulars; the federal Education Department General  
524 Administrative Regulations; and program-specific statutes,  
525 rules, and regulations. Such funds may not be made available to  
526 the charter school until a plan is submitted to the sponsor for  
527 approval of the use of the funds in accordance with applicable  
528 federal requirements. The sponsor has 30 days to review and  
529 approve any plan submitted pursuant to this paragraph.

530 (d) Charter schools shall be included by the Department of  
531 Education and the district school board in requests for federal  
532 stimulus funds in the same manner as district school board-  
533 operated public schools, including Title I and IDEA funds and  
534 shall be entitled to receive such funds. Charter schools are  
535 eligible to participate in federal competitive grants that are  
536 available as part of the federal stimulus funds.

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

537 (e) Sponsors shall make timely and efficient payment and  
538 reimbursement to charter schools, including processing paperwork  
539 required to access special state and federal funding for which  
540 they may be eligible, including the timely review and  
541 reimbursement of federal grant funds. Payments of funds under  
542 paragraph (b) shall be made monthly or twice a month, beginning  
543 with the start of the sponsor's fiscal year. Each payment shall  
544 be one-twelfth, or one twenty-fourth, as applicable, of the  
545 total state and local funds described in paragraph (b) and  
546 adjusted as set forth therein. For the first 2 years of a  
547 charter school's operation, if a minimum of 75 percent of the  
548 projected enrollment is entered into the sponsor's student  
549 information system by the first day of the current month, the  
550 sponsor shall distribute funds to the school for the months of  
551 July through October based on the projected full-time equivalent  
552 student membership of the charter school as submitted in the  
553 approved application. If less than 75 percent of the projected  
554 enrollment is entered into the sponsor's student information  
555 system by the first day of the current month, the sponsor shall  
556 base payments on the actual number of student enrollment entered  
557 into the sponsor's student information system. Thereafter, the  
558 results of full-time equivalent student membership surveys shall  
559 be used in adjusting the amount of funds distributed monthly to  
560 the charter school for the remainder of the fiscal year. The  
561 payments shall be issued no later than 10 working days after the

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

562 sponsor receives a distribution of state or federal funds or the  
563 date the payment is due pursuant to this subsection. With  
564 respect to federal grant funds submitted for reimbursement, the  
565 sponsor shall have 60 calendar days from the date of the  
566 submission to reimburse the charter school if the submission  
567 provides all the necessary information to qualify for  
568 reimbursement. If a warrant for payment is not issued within 10  
569 working days after receipt of funding by the sponsor or within  
570 60 calendar days after an approved submittal for reimbursement  
571 of federal grant funds, the sponsor shall pay to the charter  
572 school, in addition to the amount of the scheduled disbursement,  
573 interest at a rate of 1 percent per month calculated on a daily  
574 basis on the unpaid balance from the expiration of the 10  
575 working days or 60 calendar days for the reimbursement of  
576 federal grant funds, until such time as the warrant is issued.  
577 The district school board may not delay payment to a charter  
578 school of any portion of the funds provided in paragraph (b)  
579 based on the timing of receipt of local funds by the district  
580 school board.

581 (f) Funding for a virtual charter school shall be as  
582 provided in s. 1002.45(6).

583 (g) To be eligible for public education capital outlay  
584 (PECO) funds, a charter school must be located in the State of  
585 Florida.

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM



Amendment No.

586 (h) A charter school that implements a schoolwide standard  
587 student attire policy pursuant to s. 1011.78 is eligible to  
588 receive incentive payments.

589 (19) CAPITAL OUTLAY FUNDING.—Charter schools sponsored by  
590 a school district are eligible for capital outlay funds pursuant  
591 to ss. 1011.71(2) and 1013.62. Capital outlay funds authorized  
592 in ss. 1011.71(2) and 1013.62 which have been shared with a  
593 charter school-in-the-workplace prior to July 1, 2010, are  
594 deemed to have met the authorized expenditure requirements for  
595 such funds.

596 Section 5. Subsection (5) is added to section 1002.391,  
597 Florida Statutes, to read:

598 1002.391 Auditory-oral education programs.—

599 (5) As authorized by and consistent with funding  
600 appropriated in the General Appropriations Act, the Bridge to  
601 Speech Program is created to fund auditory-oral education  
602 programs required at schools pursuant to this section. Funds  
603 shall be provided at the level of the published tuition rates up  
604 to the funds available as provided in the General Appropriations  
605 Act. The Department of Education must award these funds to  
606 eligible recipients no later than September 1 of each year, with  
607 subsequent payments monthly thereafter.

608 Section 6. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4), paragraph (a)  
609 of subsection (10), and paragraph (a) of subsection (12) of  
610 section 1002.394, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

611 1002.394 The Family Empowerment Scholarship Program.—  
612 (4) AUTHORIZED USES OF PROGRAM FUNDS.—  
613 (a) Program funds awarded to a student determined eligible  
614 pursuant to paragraph (3) (a) may be used for:  
615 1. Tuition and fees at an eligible private school.  
616 ~~2. Transportation to a Florida public school in which a~~  
617 ~~student is enrolled and that is different from the school to~~  
618 ~~which the student was assigned or to a lab school as defined in~~  
619 ~~s. 1002.32.~~  
620 ~~2.3.~~ Instructional materials, including digital materials  
621 and Internet resources.  
622 ~~3.4.~~ Curriculum as defined in subsection (2).  
623 ~~4.5.~~ Tuition and fees associated with full-time or part-  
624 time enrollment in an eligible postsecondary educational  
625 institution or a program offered by the postsecondary  
626 educational institution, unless the program is subject to s.  
627 1009.25 or reimbursed pursuant to s. 1009.30; an approved  
628 preapprenticeship program as defined in s. 446.021(5) which is  
629 not subject to s. 1009.25 and complies with all applicable  
630 requirements of the department pursuant to chapter 1005; a  
631 private tutoring program authorized under s. 1002.43; a virtual  
632 program offered by a department-approved private online provider  
633 that meets the provider qualifications specified in s.  
634 1002.45(2) (a); the Florida Virtual School as a private paying

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

635 student; or an approved online course offered pursuant to s.  
636 1003.499 or s. 1004.0961.

637 ~~5.6.~~ Fees for nationally standardized, norm-referenced  
638 achievement tests, Advanced Placement Examinations, industry  
639 certification examinations, assessments related to postsecondary  
640 education, or other assessments.

641 ~~6.7.~~ Contracted services provided by a public school or  
642 school district, including classes. A student who receives  
643 contracted services under this subparagraph is not considered  
644 enrolled in a public school for eligibility purposes as  
645 specified in subsection (6) but rather attending a public school  
646 on a part-time basis as authorized under s. 1002.44.

647 ~~7.8.~~ Tuition and fees for part-time tutoring services or  
648 fees for services provided by a choice navigator. Such services  
649 must be provided by a person who holds a valid Florida  
650 educator's certificate pursuant to s. 1012.56, a person who  
651 holds an adjunct teaching certificate pursuant to s. 1012.57, a  
652 person who has a bachelor's degree or a graduate degree in the  
653 subject area in which instruction is given, a person who has  
654 demonstrated a mastery of subject area knowledge pursuant to s.  
655 1012.56(5), or a person certified by a nationally or  
656 internationally recognized research-based training program as  
657 approved by the department. As used in this subparagraph, the  
658 term "part-time tutoring services" does not qualify as regular  
659 school attendance as defined in s. 1003.01(16)(e).

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

660 (10) PARENT AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PROGRAM  
661 PARTICIPATION.—

662 (a) A parent who applies for program participation under  
663 paragraph (3)(a) whose student will be enrolled full time in a  
664 private school must:

665 1. Select the private school and apply for the admission  
666 of his or her student.

667 2. Request the scholarship by a date established by the  
668 organization, in a manner that creates a written or electronic  
669 record of the request and the date of receipt of the request.

670 3. Inform the applicable school district when the parent  
671 withdraws his or her student from a public school to attend an  
672 eligible private school.

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

676 5. Meet with the private school's principal or the  
677 principal's designee to review the school's academic programs  
678 and policies, specialized services, code of student conduct, and  
679 attendance policies before enrollment.

680 6. Require that the student participating in the  
681 scholarship program takes the norm-referenced assessment offered  
682 by the private school. The parent may also choose to have the  
683 student participate in the statewide assessments pursuant to  
684 paragraph (7)(d). If the parent requests that the student

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

685 participating in the program take all statewide assessments  
686 required pursuant to s. 1008.22, the parent is responsible for  
687 transporting the student to the assessment site designated by  
688 the school district.

689 7. Approve each payment before the scholarship funds may  
690 be deposited by funds transfer pursuant to subparagraph  
691 (12) (a) 3. ~~(12) (a) 4.~~ The parent may not designate any entity or  
692 individual associated with the participating private school as  
693 the parent's attorney in fact to approve a funds transfer. A  
694 participant who fails to comply with this paragraph forfeits the  
695 scholarship.

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

702 (12) SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING AND PAYMENT.—

703 (a)1. Scholarships for students determined eligible  
704 pursuant to paragraph (3) (a) may be funded once all scholarships  
705 have been funded in accordance with s. 1002.395(6) (1)2. The  
706 calculated scholarship amount for a participating student  
707 determined eligible pursuant to paragraph (3) (a) shall be based  
708 upon the grade level and school district in which the student  
709 was assigned as 100 percent of the funds per unweighted full-

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

710 time equivalent in the Florida Education Finance Program for a  
711 student in the basic program established pursuant to s.  
712 1011.62(1)(c)1., plus a per-full-time equivalent share of funds  
713 for the categorical programs established in s. 1011.62(5),  
714 (7)(a), and (16), as funded in the General Appropriations Act.

715 ~~2. A scholarship of \$750 or an amount equal to the school~~  
716 ~~district expenditure per student riding a school bus, as~~  
717 ~~determined by the department, whichever is greater, may be~~  
718 ~~awarded to an eligible student who is enrolled in a Florida~~  
719 ~~public school that is different from the school to which the~~  
720 ~~student was assigned or in a lab school as defined in s. 1002.32~~  
721 ~~if the school district does not provide the student with~~  
722 ~~transportation to the school.~~

723 2.3. The organization must provide the department with the  
724 documentation necessary to verify the student's participation.  
725 Upon receiving the documentation, the department shall transfer,  
726 beginning August 1, from state funds only, the amount calculated  
727 pursuant to subparagraph 1. ~~2.~~ to the organization for quarterly  
728 disbursement to parents of participating students each school  
729 year in which the scholarship is in force. For a student exiting  
730 a Department of Juvenile Justice commitment program who chooses  
731 to participate in the scholarship program, the amount of the  
732 Family Empowerment Scholarship calculated pursuant to  
733 subparagraph 1. ~~2.~~ must be transferred from the school district  
734 in which the student last attended a public school before

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

735 commitment to the Department of Juvenile Justice. When a student  
736 enters the scholarship program, the organization must receive  
737 all documentation required for the student's participation,  
738 including the private school's and the student's fee schedules,  
739 at least 30 days before the first quarterly scholarship payment  
740 is made for the student.

741 ~~3.4.~~ The initial payment shall be made after the  
742 organization's verification of admission acceptance, and  
743 subsequent payments shall be made upon verification of continued  
744 enrollment and attendance at the private school. Payment must be  
745 by funds transfer or any other means of payment that the  
746 department deems to be commercially viable or cost-effective. An  
747 organization shall ensure that the parent has approved a funds  
748 transfer before any scholarship funds are deposited.

749 ~~4.5.~~ An organization may not transfer any funds to an  
750 account of a student determined eligible pursuant to paragraph  
751 (3)(a) which has a balance in excess of \$24,000.

752 Section 7. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2), paragraphs (d)  
753 and (l) of subsection (6), and paragraph (a) of subsection (11)  
754 of section 1002.395, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

755 1002.395 Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program.—

756 (2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

757 (b) "Choice navigator" means an individual who meets the  
758 requirements of sub-subparagraph (6)(d)2.g. ~~(6)(d)2.h.~~ and who  
759 provides consultations, at a mutually agreed upon location, on

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

760 the selection of, application for, and enrollment in educational  
761 options addressing the academic needs of a student; curriculum  
762 selection; and advice on career and postsecondary education  
763 opportunities. However, nothing in this section authorizes a  
764 choice navigator to oversee or exercise control over the  
765 curricula or academic programs of a personalized education  
766 program.

767 (6) OBLIGATIONS OF ELIGIBLE NONPROFIT SCHOLARSHIP-FUNDING  
768 ORGANIZATIONS.—An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding  
769 organization:

770 (d)1. For the 2023-2024 school year, may fund no more than  
771 20,000 scholarships for students who are enrolled pursuant to  
772 paragraph (7)(b). The number of scholarships funded for such  
773 students may increase by 40,000 in each subsequent school year.  
774 This subparagraph is repealed July 1, 2027.

775 2. Must establish and maintain separate empowerment  
776 accounts from eligible contributions for each eligible student.  
777 For each account, the organization must maintain a record of  
778 accrued interest retained in the student's account. The  
779 organization must verify that scholarship funds are used for:

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

782 ~~b. Transportation to a Florida public school in which a~~  
783 ~~student is enrolled and that is different from the school to~~

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM



Amendment No.

784 ~~which the student was assigned or to a lab school as defined in~~  
785 ~~s. 1002.32.~~

786 ~~b.e.~~ Instructional materials, including digital materials  
787 and Internet resources.

788 ~~c.d.~~ Curriculum as defined in s. 1002.394(2).

789 ~~d.e.~~ Tuition and fees associated with full-time or part-  
790 time enrollment in a home education instructional program; an  
791 eligible postsecondary educational institution or a program  
792 offered by the postsecondary educational institution, unless the  
793 program is subject to s. 1009.25 or reimbursed pursuant to s.  
794 1009.30; an approved preapprenticeship program as defined in s.  
795 446.021(5) which is not subject to s. 1009.25 and complies with  
796 all applicable requirements of the Department of Education  
797 pursuant to chapter 1005; a private tutoring program authorized  
798 under s. 1002.43; a virtual program offered by a department-  
799 approved private online provider that meets the provider  
800 qualifications specified in s. 1002.45(2)(a); the Florida  
801 Virtual School as a private paying student; or an approved  
802 online course offered pursuant to s. 1003.499 or s. 1004.0961.

803 ~~e.f.~~ Fees for nationally standardized, norm-referenced  
804 achievement tests, Advanced Placement Examinations, industry  
805 certification examinations, assessments related to postsecondary  
806 education, or other assessments.

807 ~~f.g.~~ Contracted services provided by a public school or  
808 school district, including classes. A student who receives

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

809 contracted services under this sub-subparagraph is not  
810 considered enrolled in a public school for eligibility purposes  
811 as specified in subsection (11) but rather attending a public  
812 school on a part-time basis as authorized under s. 1002.44.

813 ~~g.h.~~ Tuition and fees for part-time tutoring services or  
814 fees for services provided by a choice navigator. Such services  
815 must be provided by a person who holds a valid Florida  
816 educator's certificate pursuant to s. 1012.56, a person who  
817 holds an adjunct teaching certificate pursuant to s. 1012.57, a  
818 person who has a bachelor's degree or a graduate degree in the  
819 subject area in which instruction is given, a person who has  
820 demonstrated a mastery of subject area knowledge pursuant to s.  
821 1012.56(5), or a person certified by a nationally or  
822 internationally recognized research-based training program as  
823 approved by the Department of Education. As used in this  
824 paragraph, the term "part-time tutoring services" does not  
825 qualify as regular school attendance as defined in s.  
826 1003.01(16)(e).

827 (l)1. May use eligible contributions received pursuant to  
828 this section and ss. 212.099, 212.1832, and 1002.40 during the  
829 state fiscal year in which such contributions are collected for  
830 administrative expenses if the organization has operated as an  
831 eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization for at least  
832 the preceding 3 fiscal years and did not have any findings of  
833 material weakness or material noncompliance in its most recent

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

834 audit under paragraph (o) or is in good standing in each state  
835 in which it administers a scholarship program and the audited  
836 financial statements for the preceding 3 fiscal years are free  
837 of material misstatements and going concern issues.

838 Administrative expenses from eligible contributions may not  
839 exceed 3 percent of the total amount of all scholarships and  
840 stipends funded by an eligible scholarship-funding organization  
841 under this chapter. Such administrative expenses must be  
842 reasonable and necessary for the organization's management and  
843 distribution of scholarships funded under this chapter.

844 Administrative expenses may include developing or contracting  
845 with rideshare programs or facilitating carpool strategies for  
846 recipients of a transportation scholarship. No funds authorized  
847 under this subparagraph shall be used for lobbying or political  
848 activity or expenses related to lobbying or political activity.  
849 Up to one-third of the funds authorized for administrative  
850 expenses under this subparagraph may be used for expenses  
851 related to the recruitment of contributions from taxpayers. An  
852 eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization may not  
853 charge an application fee.

854 2. Must award for annual or partial-year scholarships an  
855 amount equal to or greater than 75 percent of all estimated net  
856 eligible contributions, as defined in subsection (2), and all  
857 funds carried forward from the prior state fiscal year remaining  
858 after administrative expenses before funding any scholarships to

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

859 students determined eligible pursuant to s. 1002.394(3) (a). No  
860 more than 25 percent of such net eligible contributions may be  
861 carried forward to the following state fiscal year. All amounts  
862 carried forward, for audit purposes, must be specifically  
863 identified for particular students, by student name and the name  
864 of the school to which the student is admitted, subject to the  
865 requirements of ss. 1002.22 and 1002.221 and 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g,  
866 and the applicable rules and regulations issued pursuant  
867 thereto. Any amounts carried forward shall be expended for  
868 annual or partial-year scholarships in the following state  
869 fiscal year. No later than September 30 of each year, net  
870 eligible contributions remaining on June 30 of each year that  
871 are in excess of the 25 percent that may be carried forward  
872 shall be used to provide scholarships to eligible students or  
873 transferred to other eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding  
874 organizations to provide scholarships for eligible students. All  
875 transferred funds must be deposited by each eligible nonprofit  
876 scholarship-funding organization receiving such funds into its  
877 scholarship account. All transferred amounts received by any  
878 eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization must be  
879 separately disclosed in the annual financial audit required  
880 under paragraph (o).

881 3. Must, before granting a scholarship for an academic  
882 year, document each scholarship student's eligibility for that

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

883 academic year. A scholarship-funding organization may not grant  
884 multiyear scholarships in one approval process.

885  
886 Information and documentation provided to the Department of  
887 Education and the Auditor General relating to the identity of a  
888 taxpayer that provides an eligible contribution under this  
889 section shall remain confidential at all times in accordance  
890 with s. 213.053.

891 (11) SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT AND PAYMENT.—

892 (a) The scholarship amount provided to any student for any  
893 single school year by an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding  
894 organization from eligible contributions shall be for total  
895 costs authorized under paragraph (6)(d), not to exceed annual  
896 limits, which shall be determined as follows:

897 1. For a student who received a scholarship in the 2018-  
898 2019 school year, who remains eligible, and who is enrolled in  
899 an eligible private school, the amount shall be the greater  
900 amount calculated pursuant to subparagraph 2. or a percentage of  
901 the unweighted FTE funding amount for the 2018-2019 state fiscal  
902 year and thereafter as follows:

903 a. Eighty-eight percent for a student enrolled in  
904 kindergarten through grade 5.

905 b. Ninety-two percent for a student enrolled in grade 6  
906 through grade 8.

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

907 c. Ninety-six percent for a student enrolled in grade 9  
908 through grade 12.

909 2. For students initially eligible in the 2019-2020 school  
910 year or thereafter, the calculated amount for a student to  
911 attend an eligible private school shall be calculated in  
912 accordance with s. 1002.394(12)(a).

913 ~~3. The scholarship amount awarded to a student enrolled in  
914 a Florida public school that is different from the school to  
915 which the student was assigned, or in a lab school as defined in  
916 s. 1002.32, must be an amount equal to the school district  
917 expenditure per student riding a school bus, as determined by  
918 the department, or \$750, whichever is greater.~~

919 Section 8. Upon the expiration and reversion of the  
920 amendments made to section 1002.68, Florida Statutes, pursuant  
921 to section 6 of chapter 2023-240, Laws of Florida, paragraphs  
922 (a) and (f) of subsection (4) of section 1002.68, Florida  
923 Statutes, are amended, and subsection (5) and paragraph (e) of  
924 subsection (6) of that section are republished, to read:

925 1002.68 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
926 accountability.—

927 (4)(a) Beginning with the 2023-2024 ~~2022-2023~~ program  
928 year, the department shall adopt a methodology for calculating  
929 each private prekindergarten provider's and public school  
930 provider's performance metric, which must be based on a  
931 combination of the following:

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

932 1. Program assessment composite scores under subsection  
933 (2), which must be weighted at no less than 50 percent.

934 2. Learning gains operationalized as change-in-ability  
935 scores from the initial and final progress monitoring results  
936 described in subsection (1).

937 3. Norm-referenced developmental learning outcomes  
938 described in subsection (1).

939 (f) The department shall adopt procedures to annually  
940 calculate each private prekindergarten provider's and public  
941 school's performance metric, based on the methodology adopted in  
942 paragraphs (a) and (b), and assign a designation under paragraph  
943 (d). Beginning with the 2024-2025 ~~2023-2024~~ program year, each  
944 private prekindergarten provider or public school shall be  
945 assigned a designation within 45 days after the conclusion of  
946 the school-year Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
947 delivered by all participating private prekindergarten providers  
948 or public schools and within 45 days after the conclusion of the  
949 summer Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program delivered by  
950 all participating private prekindergarten providers or public  
951 schools.

952 (5)(a) If a public school's or private prekindergarten  
953 provider's program assessment composite score for its  
954 prekindergarten classrooms fails to meet the minimum program  
955 assessment composite score for contracting adopted in rule by  
956 the department, the private prekindergarten provider or public

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

957 school may not participate in the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
958 Education Program beginning in the consecutive program year and  
959 thereafter until the public school or private prekindergarten  
960 provider meets the minimum composite score for contracting. A  
961 public school or private prekindergarten provider may request  
962 one program assessment per program year in order to requalify  
963 for participation in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
964 Program, provided that the public school or private  
965 prekindergarten provider is not excluded from participation  
966 under ss. 1002.55(6), 1002.61(10)(b), 1002.63(9)(b), or  
967 paragraph (5)(b) of this section. If a public school or private  
968 prekindergarten provider would like an additional program  
969 assessment completed within the same program year, the public  
970 school or private prekindergarten provider shall be responsible  
971 for the cost of the program assessment.

972 (b) If a private prekindergarten provider's or public  
973 school's performance metric or designation falls below the  
974 minimum performance metric or designation, the early learning  
975 coalition shall:

976 1. Require the provider or school to submit for approval  
977 to the early learning coalition an improvement plan and  
978 implement the plan.

979 2. Place the provider or school on probation.

980 3. Require the provider or school to take certain  
981 corrective actions, including the use of a curriculum approved

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM



Amendment No.

982 by the department under s. 1002.67(2)(c) and a staff development  
983 plan approved by the department to strengthen instructional  
984 practices in emotional support, classroom organization,  
985 instructional support, language development, phonological  
986 awareness, alphabet knowledge, and mathematical thinking.

987 (c) A private prekindergarten provider or public school  
988 that is placed on probation must continue the corrective actions  
989 required under paragraph (b) until the provider or school meets  
990 the minimum performance metric or designation adopted by the  
991 department. Failure to meet the requirements of subparagraphs  
992 (b)1. and 3. shall result in the termination of the provider's  
993 or school's contract to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
994 Education Program for a period of at least 2 years but no more  
995 than 5 years.

996 (d) If a private prekindergarten provider or public school  
997 remains on probation for 2 consecutive years and fails to meet  
998 the minimum performance metric or designation, or is not granted  
999 a good cause exemption by the department, the department shall  
1000 require the early learning coalition to revoke the provider's  
1001 eligibility and the school district to revoke the school's  
1002 eligibility to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
1003 Program and receive state funds for the program for a period of  
1004 at least 2 years but no more than 5 years.

1005 (6)

1006 (e) A private prekindergarten provider or public school

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

1007 granted a good cause exemption shall continue to implement its  
1008 improvement plan and continue the corrective actions required  
1009 under paragraph (5)(b) until the provider or school meets the  
1010 minimum performance metric.

1011 Section 9. Subsection (7) of section 1002.71, Florida  
1012 Statutes, is amended to read:

1013 1002.71 Funding; financial and attendance reporting.—

1014 (7) The department shall require that administrative  
1015 expenditures be kept to the minimum necessary for efficient and  
1016 effective administration of the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
1017 Education Program. Administrative policies and procedures shall  
1018 be revised, to the maximum extent practicable, to incorporate  
1019 the use of automation and electronic submission of forms,  
1020 including those required for child eligibility and enrollment,  
1021 provider and class registration, and monthly certification of  
1022 attendance for payment. A school district may use its automated  
1023 daily attendance reporting system for the purpose of  
1024 transmitting attendance records to the early learning coalition  
1025 in a mutually agreed-upon format. In addition, actions shall be  
1026 taken to reduce paperwork, eliminate the duplication of reports,  
1027 and eliminate other duplicative activities. Each early learning  
1028 coalition may retain and expend no more than 5.0 ~~4.0~~ percent of  
1029 the funds paid by the coalition to private prekindergarten  
1030 providers and public schools under paragraph (5)(b). Funds  
1031 retained by an early learning coalition under this subsection

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

1032 may be used only for administering the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
1033 Education Program and may not be used for the school readiness  
1034 program or other programs.

1035 Section 10. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section  
1036 1002.82, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsections (10) and  
1037 (11) are added to that section, to read:

1038 1002.82 Department of Education; powers and duties.—

1039 (2) The department shall:

1040 (d) Establish procedures for the annual calculation of the  
1041 prevailing market rate and procedures for the collection of data  
1042 to support the calculation of the cost data of care pursuant to  
1043 subsection (10) s. 1002.90.

1044 (10) The department shall establish procedures to annually  
1045 collect cost data. Such data must include, but are not limited  
1046 to:

1047 (a) Data from the Department of Commerce's Bureau of  
1048 Workforce Statistics and Economic Research on the average salary  
1049 for child care personnel, including, at a minimum, child care  
1050 instructors and child care directors.

1051 (b) Data from child care providers, including, at a  
1052 minimum, the average annual cost of materials and curriculum,  
1053 the average cost of any regulatory fees, the average annual cost  
1054 of salaries and benefits, and the average annual cost of all  
1055 other operational costs per child.

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

1056 (11) By November 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, the  
1057 department shall submit the following data to the Legislature:

1058 (a) The current fiscal year reimbursement rates, by  
1059 county, by provider type, and by care level.

1060 (b) The cost data collected in subsection (10).

1061 (c) The market rate survey data collected pursuant to s.  
1062 1002.895.

1063 (d) The narrow costs analysis data required by 45 C.F.R.  
1064 s. 98.45.

1065 Section 11. Subsections (9) and (17) of section 1002.84,  
1066 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1067 1002.84 Early learning coalitions; school readiness powers  
1068 and duties.—Each early learning coalition shall:

1069 (9) Implement ~~Establish~~ a parent sliding fee scale, that  
1070 increases in relation to family income, as established in rule  
1071 by the State Board of Education that provides for the  
1072 calculation of a parent copayment at the time of the eligibility  
1073 determination and for an annual eligibility redetermination  
1074 thereafter ~~that is not a barrier to families receiving school~~  
1075 ~~readiness program services.~~ A coalition may waive the copayment  
1076 for an at-risk child or temporarily waive the copayment for a  
1077 child whose family's income is at or below the federal poverty  
1078 level or whose family experiences a natural disaster or an event  
1079 that limits the parent's ability to pay, such as incarceration,  
1080 placement in residential treatment, or becoming homeless, or an

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

1081 emergency situation such as a household fire or burglary, or  
1082 while the parent is participating in parenting classes or  
1083 participating in an Early Head Start program or Head Start  
1084 Program. A parent may not transfer school readiness program  
1085 services to another school readiness program provider until the  
1086 parent has submitted documentation from the current school  
1087 readiness program provider to the early learning coalition  
1088 stating that the parent has satisfactorily fulfilled the  
1089 copayment obligation.

1090 (17) (a) Distribute the school readiness program funds as  
1091 allocated in the General Appropriations Act to each the eligible  
1092 provider based upon the reimbursement rate by county, by  
1093 provider type, and by care level. All instructions to early  
1094 learning coalitions for distributing the school readiness  
1095 program funds to eligible providers shall emanate from the  
1096 department in accordance with the policies of the Legislature.  
1097 ~~providers using the following methodology:~~

1098 ~~1. For each county in the early learning coalition,~~  
1099 ~~multiply the cost of care by care level as provided in s.~~  
1100 ~~1002.90 by the county's comparable wage factor provided in s.~~  
1101 ~~1011.62(2).~~

1102 ~~2. If a county enacted a local ordinance before January 1,~~  
1103 ~~2022, that establishes the county's staff-to-children ratio for~~  
1104 ~~licensed child care facilities below the ratio established in s.~~  
1105 ~~402.305(4), multiply the provider reimbursement rates for that~~

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

1106 ~~county by the adjustment factor specified in the General~~  
1107 ~~Appropriations Act.~~

1108 ~~3. Apply the weight established pursuant to s. 1002.90 for~~  
1109 ~~each provider type to calculate the minimum provider~~  
1110 ~~reimbursement rates by care level.~~

1111 ~~4. Multiply the weighted provider reimbursement rates by~~  
1112 ~~22 percent to determine the amount of the school readiness~~  
1113 ~~allocation an early learning coalition is eligible to retain~~  
1114 ~~pursuant to s. 1002.89(4).~~

1115 ~~(b) Distribute to each eligible provider the minimum~~  
1116 ~~provider reimbursement rate, by provider type and care level,~~  
1117 ~~regardless of the provider's private pay rate. All minimum~~  
1118 ~~provider reimbursement rates shall be charged as direct services~~  
1119 ~~pursuant to s. 1002.89.~~

1120  
1121 Each early learning coalition with approved prior year ~~minimum~~  
1122 ~~provider reimbursement rates for the infant to age 5 care levels~~  
1123 ~~that are higher than the minimum provider reimbursement rates~~  
1124 ~~established in this subsection may continue to implement its~~  
1125 ~~approved prior year ~~minimum~~ provider reimbursement rates until~~  
1126 ~~the rates established in this subsection exceed its prior year~~  
1127 ~~approved rates.~~

1128 Section 12. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section  
1129 1002.89, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1130 1002.89 School readiness program; funding.—

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

1131 (1) DETERMINATION OF EARLY LEARNING COALITION SCHOOL  
1132 READINESS PROGRAM FUNDING.—Funding for the school readiness  
1133 program shall be used by the early learning coalitions in  
1134 accordance with this part and the General Appropriations Act.

1135 (a) School readiness program allocation.—If the annual  
1136 allocation for the school readiness program is not determined in  
1137 the General Appropriations Act or the substantive bill  
1138 implementing the General Appropriations Act, it shall be  
1139 determined as follows:

1140 1. For each county in the early learning coalition, the  
1141 total number of unweighted full-time equivalent school readiness  
1142 children eligible population, as adopted by the Early Learning  
1143 Programs Estimating Conference pursuant to s. 216.136(8), shall  
1144 be multiplied by the appropriate care level factor to calculate  
1145 the weighted full-time equivalent school readiness children. For  
1146 purposes of this subparagraph, the term "care level factor"  
1147 means the adjustment made based on the relative differences in  
1148 reimbursement rates associated with the eligible school  
1149 readiness children pursuant to s. 1002.87 ~~county's comparable~~  
1150 ~~wage factor provided in s. 1011.62(2).~~

1151 2. The total weighted full-time equivalent school  
1152 readiness children shall be multiplied by the rate index to  
1153 calculate the adjusted weighted full-time equivalent school  
1154 readiness children. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term  
1155 "rate index" means the adjustment made based on the impact of

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

1156 ~~geographic location on reimbursement rates If a county passed a~~  
1157 ~~local ordinance before January 1, 2022, that establishes the~~  
1158 ~~county's staff-to-children ratio for licensed child care~~  
1159 ~~facilities below the ratio established in s. 402.305(4),~~  
1160 ~~multiply the product calculated in subparagraph 1. by the~~  
1161 ~~adjustment factor specified in the General Appropriations Act.~~

1162 3. The school readiness program funds shall be distributed  
1163 ~~Each county's school readiness allocation shall be based on each~~  
1164 ~~the county's proportionate share of the total adjusted weighted~~  
1165 ~~full-time equivalent school readiness children eligible school~~  
1166 ~~readiness population.~~

1167 Section 13. Subsections (8) and (9) of section 1002.895,  
1168 Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (6) and (7),  
1169 respectively, and subsections (1), (2), (3), (4), (6), and (7)  
1170 of that section are amended, to read:

1171 1002.895 Market rate schedule.—The school readiness  
1172 program market rate schedule shall be implemented as follows:

1173 (1) The department shall establish procedures for the  
1174 adoption of a market rate schedule. The schedule must include,  
1175 at a minimum, county-by-county rates and÷

1176 ~~(a)~~ the market rate, to include ~~including~~ the minimum and  
1177 the maximum rates for child care providers that hold a Gold Seal  
1178 Quality Care designation under s. 1002.945 and adhere to its  
1179 accrediting association's teacher-to-child ratios and group size  
1180 requirements and÷

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM



Amendment No.

1181 ~~(b) The market rate for child care providers that do not~~  
1182 hold a Gold Seal Quality Care designation.

1183 (2) The market rate schedule must differentiate rates by  
1184 provider type, including, but not limited to:

1185 ~~(a) Child care providers that hold a Gold Seal Quality~~  
1186 ~~Care designation under s. 1002.945 and adhere to their~~  
1187 ~~accrediting association's teacher-to-child ratios and group size~~  
1188 ~~requirements.~~

1189 (a) ~~(b)~~ Child care providers licensed under s. 402.305,  
1190 faith-based child care providers exempt from licensure under s.  
1191 402.316 ~~that do not hold a Gold Seal Quality Care designation,~~  
1192 and large family child care homes licensed under s. 402.3131  
1193 ~~that do not hold a Gold Seal Quality Care designation.~~

1194 (b) ~~(e)~~ Public or nonpublic schools exempt from licensure  
1195 under s. 402.3025.

1196 (c) ~~(d)~~ Family day care homes licensed or registered under  
1197 s. 402.313.

1198 ~~(e) Large family child care homes licensed under s.~~  
1199 ~~402.3131.~~

1200 (3) The market rate schedule must differentiate rates by  
1201 care level that includes the type of child care services  
1202 ~~provided for children with special needs or risk categories,~~  
1203 infants, toddlers, 2-year-old children, 3-year-old children, 4-  
1204 year-old children, 5-year-old children, and school-age children.

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

1205 (4) The market rate schedule must differentiate rates  
1206 between full-time and part-time child care services and consider  
1207 ~~discounted rates for child care services for multiple children~~  
1208 ~~in a single family.~~

1209 ~~(6) The department shall establish procedures to annually~~  
1210 ~~collect data regarding the cost of care to include, but not be~~  
1211 ~~limited to:~~

1212 ~~(a) Data from the Department of Economic Opportunity's~~  
1213 ~~Bureau of Workforce Statistics and Economic Research on the~~  
1214 ~~average salary for child care personnel to include, at a~~  
1215 ~~minimum, child care instructors and child care directors.~~

1216 ~~(b) Data from child care providers as part of data~~  
1217 ~~collected under s. 1002.92(4) to include, at a minimum, the~~  
1218 ~~average annual cost of materials and curriculum, the average~~  
1219 ~~annual cost of food and maintenance costs, and the average~~  
1220 ~~annual cost of any regulatory fees or operational costs per~~  
1221 ~~child.~~

1222 ~~(7) The department shall provide all applicable data~~  
1223 ~~collected in this section to the Early Learning Programs~~  
1224 ~~Estimating Conference established pursuant to s. 216.136(8).~~

1225 Section 14. Section 1002.90, Florida Statutes, is  
1226 repealed.

1227 Section 15. Paragraph (e) of subsection (4) of section  
1228 1002.92, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

1229 1002.92 Child care and early childhood resource and  
1230 referral.—

1231 (4) A child care facility licensed under s. 402.305 and  
1232 licensed and registered family day care homes must provide the  
1233 statewide child care and resource and referral network with the  
1234 following information annually:

1235 ~~(e) Data required under s. 1002.895.~~

1236 Section 16. Section 1003.4206, Florida Statutes, is  
1237 created to read:

1238 1003.4206 Charity for Change program.—As authorized by and  
1239 consistent with funding appropriated in the General  
1240 Appropriations Act, the Charity for Change program is created to  
1241 implement the character education standards required pursuant to  
1242 s. 1003.42(2)(t). The program may use third-party providers to  
1243 deliver after-school and summer services that empower students  
1244 with an evidence-based curriculum that integrates character  
1245 education, service learning, charitable and community  
1246 engagement, and academics.

1247 Section 17. Section 1006.042, Florida Statutes, is created  
1248 to read:

1249 1006.042 AMIkids, Inc., program.—As authorized by and  
1250 consistent with funding appropriated in the General  
1251 Appropriations Act, the AMIkids, Inc., program is created to  
1252 provide alternatives to institutionalization or commitment for  
1253 young men and women by providing services, including, but not

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

1254 limited to, education, behavior modification, skills  
1255 development, mental health, workforce development, family  
1256 functioning, and advocacy.

1257 Section 18. Paragraph (j) of subsection (7) of section  
1258 1006.07, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1259 1006.07 District school board duties relating to student  
1260 discipline and school safety.—The district school board shall  
1261 provide for the proper accounting for all students, for the  
1262 attendance and control of students at school, and for proper  
1263 attention to health, safety, and other matters relating to the  
1264 welfare of students, including:

1265 (7) THREAT MANAGEMENT TEAMS.—Each district school board  
1266 and charter school governing board shall establish a threat  
1267 management team at each school whose duties include the  
1268 coordination of resources and assessment and intervention with  
1269 students whose behavior may pose a threat to the safety of the  
1270 school, school staff, or students.

1271 (j) Each district school board shall establish a threat  
1272 management coordinator to serve as the primary point of contact  
1273 regarding the district's coordination, communication, and  
1274 implementation of the threat management program and to team  
1275 ~~shall report quantitative data on its activities~~ to the Office  
1276 of Safe Schools in accordance with guidance from the office.

1277 Section 19. Subsection (3) of section 1006.27, Florida  
1278 Statutes, is amended to read:

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

1279 1006.27 Pooling of school buses and other vehicles and  
1280 related purchases by district school boards; transportation  
1281 services contracts.-

1282 ~~(3) The Driving Choice Grant Program is created within the~~  
1283 ~~department to improve access to reliable and safe transportation~~  
1284 ~~for students participating in public educational school choices~~  
1285 ~~pursuant to s. 1002.20 (6) (a) and to support innovative solutions~~  
1286 ~~that increase the efficiency of public school transportation.~~

1287 ~~(a) Grant proposals may include:~~

1288 ~~1. Transportation resource planning and sharing among~~  
1289 ~~school districts and local governments.~~

1290 ~~2. developing or contracting with rideshare programs or~~  
1291 ~~developing carpool strategies.~~

1292 ~~3. Developing options to reduce costs and increase~~  
1293 ~~efficiencies while improving access to transportation options~~  
1294 ~~for families.~~

1295 ~~4. Developing options to address personnel challenges.~~

1296 ~~5. Expanding the use of transportation funds under ss.~~  
1297 ~~1002.394, 1002.395, and 1011.68 to help cover the cost of~~  
1298 ~~transporting students to and from school.~~

1299 ~~(b) the department shall publish on its website, by~~  
1300 ~~December 31, 2023, an interim report and by December 31, 2024, a~~  
1301 ~~final report that includes:~~

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

1302 ~~1. The best practices used by grant recipients to increase~~  
1303 ~~transportation options for students, including any~~  
1304 ~~transportation barriers addressed by grant recipients.~~

1305 ~~2. The number of students served by grant recipients,~~  
1306 ~~including the number of students transported to a school that is~~  
1307 ~~different from the school to which the student is assigned.~~

1308 Section 20. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section  
1309 1008.25, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1310 1008.25 Public school student progression; student  
1311 support; coordinated screening and progress monitoring;  
1312 reporting requirements.-

1313 (5) READING DEFICIENCY AND PARENTAL NOTIFICATION.-

1314 (b) A Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program student  
1315 who exhibits a substantial deficiency in early literacy skills  
1316 based upon the results of the administration of the final  
1317 coordinated screening and progress monitoring under subsection  
1318 (9) shall be referred to the local school district and may be  
1319 eligible to receive instruction in early literacy skills before  
1320 participating in kindergarten. A Voluntary Prekindergarten  
1321 Education Program student who scores below the 10th percentile  
1322 on the final administration of the coordinated screening and  
1323 progress monitoring under subsection (9) shall be referred to  
1324 the local school district and is eligible to receive early  
1325 literacy skill instructional support through a summer bridge  
1326 program the summer before participating in kindergarten. The

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

1327 summer bridge program must meet requirements adopted by the  
1328 department and shall consist of 4 hours of instruction per day  
1329 for a minimum of 100 total hours. A student with an individual  
1330 education plan who has been retained pursuant to paragraph  
1331 (2)(g) and has demonstrated a substantial deficiency in early  
1332 literacy skills must receive instruction in early literacy  
1333 skills.

1334 Section 21. Section 1009.896, Florida Statutes, is amended  
1335 to read:

1336 1009.896 Florida First Responder ~~Law Enforcement Academy~~  
1337 Scholarship Program.—

1338 (1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

1339 (a) "Commission" means the Criminal Justice Standards and  
1340 Training Commission within the Department of Law Enforcement.

1341 (b) "Department" means the Department of Education.

1342 ~~(c) "Employing agency" has the same meaning as provided in~~  
1343 ~~s. 943.10(4).~~

1344 (c) "Emergency medical technician" has the same meaning as  
1345 provided in s. 401.23(12).

1346 (d) "Firefighter" has the same meaning as provided in s.  
1347 633.102(9).

1348 ~~(e)-(d)~~ "Law enforcement officer" has the same meaning as  
1349 provided in s. 943.10(1).

1350 (f) "Paramedic" has the same meaning as provided in s.  
1351 401.23(18).

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

1352           (g) "Postsecondary institution" means a Florida College  
1353 System institution under s. 1000.21(5) or a career center under  
1354 s. 1001.44.

1355           ~~(h)(e)~~ "Scholarship program" means the Florida First  
1356 Responder Law Enforcement Academy Scholarship Program.

1357           (2) ESTABLISHMENT; ADMINISTRATION.-

1358           (a) Beginning with the 2024-2025 ~~2022-2023~~ academic year,  
1359 the Florida First Responder Law Enforcement Academy Scholarship  
1360 Program is created to assist in the recruitment of law  
1361 enforcement officers, emergency medical technicians, paramedics,  
1362 and firefighters within the state by providing financial  
1363 assistance to trainees who enroll in an approved ~~a commission-~~  
1364 ~~approved law enforcement officer basic recruit~~ training program.

1365           ~~(b)(3)~~ The department shall administer the scholarship  
1366 program, in consultation with the Department of Law Enforcement,  
1367 the Department of Health, and the Department of Financial  
1368 Services, as applicable, according to the rules and procedures  
1369 established by the State Board of Education.

1370           ~~(c)(4)~~ The scholarship shall be awarded on a first-come,  
1371 first-served basis based on the date the department receives  
1372 each completed application, and is contingent upon an  
1373 appropriation by the Legislature.

1374           (3) LAW ENFORCEMENT.-

1375           ~~(a)(5)~~ To be eligible for the scholarship award a law  
1376 enforcement trainee must:

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM



Amendment No.

1377           ~~1.(a)~~ Be enrolled in a commission-approved basic recruit  
1378 training program at a postsecondary institution ~~Florida College~~  
1379 ~~System institution or school district technical center~~ for the  
1380 purposes of meeting the minimum qualifications under s.  
1381 943.13(9) for employment or appointment as a law enforcement  
1382 officer.

1383           ~~2.(b)~~ Not be sponsored by an employing agency under s.  
1384 943.10(4) that is already covering the cost of a basic recruit  
1385 training program.

1386           ~~(b)(6)~~ The award to eligible trainees shall be an amount  
1387 equal to any costs and fees described in this subsection which  
1388 are necessary to complete the basic recruit training program,  
1389 less any state financial aid received by the trainee. The award  
1390 to trainees shall cover:

1391           ~~1.(a)~~ The cost of tuition.

1392           ~~2.(b)~~ Any applicable fees required by ss. 1009.22(3), (6),  
1393 (7), and (8), and 1009.23(3), (4), (7), (8), (10), and (11);  
1394 however, any award for a nonresident trainee may ~~shall~~ not  
1395 include the out-of-state fee.

1396           ~~3.(e)~~ Up to \$1,000 for eligible expenses, including:

1397           ~~a.1.~~ The officer certification examination fee established  
1398 pursuant to s. 943.1397.

1399           ~~b.2.~~ Textbooks.

1400           ~~c.3.~~ Uniforms.

1401           ~~d.4.~~ Ammunition.

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

1402        ~~e.5.~~ Required insurance.

1403        ~~f.6.~~ Any other costs or fees for necessary consumable

1404 materials required to complete the basic recruit training

1405 program.

1406        (4) EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS.—

1407        (a) To be eligible for the scholarship award an emergency

1408 medical technician trainee must:

1409        1. Be enrolled in an emergency medical technician training

1410 program under s. 401.2701 that is approved by the Department of

1411 Health as equivalent to the most recent Emergency Medical

1412 Technician-Basic National Standard Curriculum or the National

1413 EMS Education Standards of the United States Department of

1414 Transportation.

1415        2. Not be sponsored by an employer that is already

1416 covering the cost of the training program.

1417        (b) The award to eligible trainees shall be an amount

1418 equal to any costs and fees described in this subsection which

1419 are necessary to complete the emergency medical technician

1420 training program, less any state financial aid received by the

1421 trainee. The award to trainees shall cover:

1422        1. The cost of tuition.

1423        2. Any applicable fees required by ss. 1009.22 (3), (6),

1424 (7), and (8), and 1009.23 (3), (4), (7), (8), (10), and (11);

1425 however, any award for a nonresident trainee may not include the

1426 out-of-state fee.

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

- 1427 3. Up to \$1,000 for eligible expenses, including:
- 1428 a. The National Registry Emergency Medical Test (NREMT).
- 1429 b. Textbooks.
- 1430 c. Uniforms.
- 1431 d. Required equipment, such as a stethoscope.
- 1432 e. Required insurance.
- 1433 f. Any other costs or fees for necessary consumable

1434 materials required to complete the emergency medical technician  
1435 training program.

1436 (5) PARAMEDICS.-

1437 (a) To be eligible for the scholarship award a paramedic  
1438 trainee must:

1439 1. Be enrolled in a paramedic training program under s.  
1440 401.2701 that is approved by the Department of Health as  
1441 equivalent to the most recent EMT-Paramedic National Standard  
1442 Curriculum or the National EMS Education Standards of the United  
1443 States Department of Transportation.

1444 2. Not be sponsored by an employer that is already  
1445 covering the cost of the training program.

1446 (b) The award to eligible trainees shall be an amount  
1447 equal to any costs and fees described in this subsection which  
1448 are necessary to complete the paramedic training program, less  
1449 any state financial aid received by the trainee. The award to  
1450 trainees shall cover:

1451 1. The cost of tuition.

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

1452 2. Any applicable fees required by ss. 1009.22(3), (6),  
1453 (7), and (8), and 1009.23(3), (4), (7), (8), (10), and (11);  
1454 however, any award for a nonresident trainee may not include the  
1455 out-of-state fee.

1456 3. Up to \$1,000 for eligible expenses including:  
1457 a. The National Registry Emergency Medical Test (NREMT).  
1458 b. Textbooks.  
1459 c. Uniforms.  
1460 d. Required equipment, such as a stethoscope.  
1461 e. Required insurance.  
1462 f. Any other costs or fees for necessary consumable  
1463 materials required to complete the paramedic training program.

1464 (6) FIREFIGHTERS.—

1465 (a) To be eligible for the scholarship award a firefighter  
1466 trainee must:

1467 1. Be enrolled in a Firefighter Minimum Standards Course  
1468 training program at a Florida Certified Training Center approved  
1469 by the Division of State Fire Marshal for the purpose of meeting  
1470 the minimum qualifications under s. 633.408.

1471 2. Not be sponsored by an employer that is already  
1472 covering the cost of the training program.

1473 (b) The award to eligible trainees shall be an amount  
1474 equal to any costs and fees described in this subsection which  
1475 are necessary to complete the Firefighter Minimum Standards

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

1476 Course training program, less any state financial aid received  
1477 by the trainee. The award to trainees shall cover:

1478 1. The cost of tuition.

1479 2. Any applicable fees required by ss. 1009.22(3), (6),  
1480 (7), and (8), and 1009.23(3), (4), (7), (8), (10), and (11);  
1481 however, any award for a nonresident trainee may not include the  
1482 out-of-state fee.

1483 3. Up to \$1,000 for eligible expenses, including:

1484 a. The Firefighter Minimum Standards Course examinations  
1485 required under s. 633.408(4)(b) for certification as a  
1486 firefighter.

1487 b. Textbooks.

1488 c. Uniforms.

1489 d. Required equipment and gear.

1490 e. Required insurance.

1491 f. Any other costs or fees for necessary consumable  
1492 materials required to complete the Firefighter Minimum Standards  
1493 Course training program.

1494 (7) RULEMAKING.—The State Board of Education shall adopt  
1495 rules necessary to administer this section.

1496 Section 22. Subsection (13) is added to section 1009.90,  
1497 Florida Statutes, to read:

1498 1009.90 Duties of the Department of Education.—The duties  
1499 of the department shall include:

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

1500           (13) The department shall have a system to track all  
1501 school bond referenda and debt incurred by a school district via  
1502 referendum for capital outlay or operational purposes. The  
1503 department shall have a database of bonds not yet retired,  
1504 present bonds in effect, as well as any future referendum being  
1505 considered by a school district. At a minimum, the database  
1506 system must keep ballot language from bond referenda and project  
1507 lists, be updated in near real-time, provide support services,  
1508 and provide data reporting and customizable alerts to the  
1509 department on all school bond issued debt.

1510           Section 23. Subsections (6) and (18) of section 1011.62,  
1511 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1512           1011.62 Funds for operation of schools.—If the annual  
1513 allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each  
1514 district for operation of schools is not determined in the  
1515 annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing  
1516 the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as  
1517 follows:

1518           (6) STATE-FUNDED DISCRETIONARY CONTRIBUTION.—The state-  
1519 funded discretionary contribution is created to fund the  
1520 nonvoted discretionary millage for operations pursuant to s.  
1521 1011.71(1) and (3) for developmental research schools (lab  
1522 schools) established in s. 1002.32, charter schools sponsored by  
1523 a Florida College System institution or a state university

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

1524 pursuant to s. 1002.33(5), and the Florida Virtual School  
1525 established in s. 1002.37.

1526 (a) To calculate the state-funded discretionary  
1527 contribution for lab schools, multiply the maximum allowable  
1528 nonvoted discretionary millage for operations pursuant to s.  
1529 1011.71(1) and (3) by the value of 96 percent of the current  
1530 year's taxable value for school purposes for the school district  
1531 in which the lab school is located; divide the result by the  
1532 total full-time equivalent membership of the school district;  
1533 and multiply the result by the full-time equivalent membership  
1534 of the lab school. The amount obtained shall be appropriated in  
1535 the General Appropriations Act ~~to the Lab School Trust Fund~~  
1536 ~~established pursuant to s. 1002.32(9).~~

1537 (b) To calculate the state-funded discretionary  
1538 contribution for a charter school sponsored by a Florida College  
1539 System institution or a state university and the Florida Virtual  
1540 School, multiply the maximum allowable nonvoted discretionary  
1541 millage for operations pursuant to s. 1011.71(1) and (3) by the  
1542 value of 96 percent of the current year's taxable value for  
1543 school purposes for the state; divide the result by the total  
1544 full-time equivalent membership of the state; and multiply the  
1545 result by the full-time equivalent membership of the Florida  
1546 Virtual School.

1547 (18) EDUCATIONAL ENROLLMENT STABILIZATION PROGRAM.—

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

1548 (a) The educational enrollment stabilization program is  
1549 created to provide supplemental state funds as needed to  
1550 maintain the stability of the operations of public schools in  
1551 each school district and to protect districts, including charter  
1552 schools, from financial instability as a result of changes in  
1553 full-time equivalent student enrollment throughout the school  
1554 year. ~~This program shall be implemented to the extent funds are~~  
1555 ~~available.~~

1556 (b) The Legislature shall ~~may~~ annually appropriate funds  
1557 in the General Appropriations Act to the Department of Education  
1558 for this program in an amount necessary to maintain a projected  
1559 minimum balance of \$250 million at the beginning of the upcoming  
1560 fiscal year. The Department of Education shall use funds as  
1561 appropriated to ensure that based on each recalculation of the  
1562 Florida Education Finance Program pursuant to paragraph (1)(a),  
1563 a school district's funds per unweighted full-time equivalent  
1564 student are not less than the greater of either the school  
1565 district's funds per unweighted full-time equivalent student as  
1566 appropriated in the General Appropriations Act or the school  
1567 district's funds per unweighted full-time equivalent student as  
1568 recalculated based upon the receipt of the certified taxable  
1569 value for school purposes pursuant to s. 1011.62(4).

1570 (c) Notwithstanding s. 216.301 and pursuant to s. 216.351,  
1571 the unexpended balance of funds appropriated pursuant to this  
1572 subsection which is not disbursed by June 30 of the fiscal year

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM



Amendment No.

1573 in which the funds are appropriated may be carried forward for  
1574 up to 10 years after the effective date of the original  
1575 appropriation.

1576 Section 24. Subsection (1) of section 1011.765, Florida  
1577 Statutes, is amended to read:

1578 1011.765 Florida Academic Improvement Trust Fund matching  
1579 grants.—

1580 (1) MATCHING GRANTS.—The Florida Academic Improvement  
1581 Trust Fund shall be utilized to provide matching grants to the  
1582 Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind Endowment Fund and to  
1583 any public school district education foundation that meets the  
1584 requirements of this section. For purposes of this section, a  
1585 public school district education foundation includes each  
1586 district school board direct-support organization established  
1587 pursuant to s. 1001.453 and the education foundation established  
1588 by the Florida Virtual School established pursuant to s. 1002.37  
1589 ~~and is recognized by the local school district as its designated~~  
1590 ~~K-12 education foundation.~~ Donations, state matching funds, or  
1591 proceeds from endowments established pursuant to this section  
1592 shall be used at the discretion of the public school district  
1593 education foundation or the Florida School for the Deaf and the  
1594 Blind for academic achievement within the school district or  
1595 school, and shall not be expended for the construction of  
1596 facilities or for the support of interscholastic athletics. No  
1597 public school district education foundation or the Florida

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

1598 School for the Deaf and the Blind shall accept or purchase  
1599 facilities for which the state will be asked for operating funds  
1600 unless the Legislature has granted prior approval for such  
1601 acquisition.

1602 Section 25. Paragraph (d) of subsection (7) of section  
1603 1012.56, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1604 1012.56 Educator certification requirements.—

1605 (7) TYPES AND TERMS OF CERTIFICATION.—

1606 (d) The department shall issue a temporary apprenticeship  
1607 certificate to any applicant who÷

1608 ~~1.~~ meets the requirements of paragraphs (2)(a), (b), and  
1609 (d)-(f).

1610 ~~2. Completes the subject area content requirements~~  
1611 ~~specified in state board rule or demonstrates mastery of subject~~  
1612 ~~area knowledge as provided in subsection (5).~~

1613  
1614 At least 1 year before an individual's temporary certificate is  
1615 set to expire, the department shall electronically notify the  
1616 individual of the date on which his or her certificate will  
1617 expire and provide a list of each method by which the  
1618 qualifications for a professional certificate can be completed.

1619 Section 26. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section  
1620 1013.62, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1621 1013.62 Charter schools capital outlay funding.—

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

1622 (1) Charter school capital outlay funding shall consist of  
1623 state funds when such funds are appropriated in the General  
1624 Appropriations Act and revenue resulting from the discretionary  
1625 millage authorized in s. 1011.71(2).

1626 (b) A charter school is not eligible to receive capital  
1627 outlay funds if:

1628 1. It was created by the conversion of a public school and  
1629 operates in facilities provided by the charter school's sponsor  
1630 for a nominal fee, or at no charge, or if it is directly or  
1631 indirectly operated by the school district;

1632 2. It is a developmental research (laboratory) school that  
1633 receives state funding for capital improvement purposes pursuant  
1634 to s. 1002.32(9)(d); ~~s. 1002.32(9)(c)~~; ~~or~~

1635 3. A member of the governing board, or his or her family  
1636 member as defined in s. 440.13(1)(b), has an interest in or is  
1637 an employee of the lessor, excluding charter schools operating  
1638 pursuant to s. 1002.33(15); or

1639 4. It is a Florida College System institution or state  
1640 university sponsored charter school that receives state funding  
1641 for capital improvement purposes pursuant to s.  
1642 1002.33(17)(b)2.d.

1643 Section 27. The taxable value for the Wakulla County  
1644 School District that was provided by the Department of Revenue  
1645 by January 1, 2024, to the Department of Education shall be used  
1646 for the remaining calculations of the fiscal year 2023-2024

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

1647 Florida Education Finance Program and for use in the Prior  
1648 Period Funding Adjustment Millage calculation. This section is  
1649 effective upon this act becoming a law and expires July 1, 2025.

1650 Section 28. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this  
1651 act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon  
1652 this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1,  
1653 2024.

1654

1655 -----

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

1656 Remove everything before the enacting clause and insert:

1657 A bill to be entitled  
1658 An act relating to education; amending s. 110.123,  
1659 F.S.; revising definitions for the state group  
1660 insurance program; providing for the initial open  
1661 enrollment period for specified employees; providing  
1662 requirements for the minimum participation period for  
1663 specified institutions; amending s. 1002.31, F.S.;  
1664 providing for certain students to receive a stipend  
1665 for transportation to certain public schools, subject  
1666 to legislative appropriation; providing eligibility  
1667 requirements; providing requirements for the award and  
1668 distribution of the stipends; providing duties for the  
1669 Department of Education; providing for the amount of  
1670 the stipend; providing for the amount of  
1671 the stipend; providing that each household may only

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

1672 receive one stipend; providing that the stipend is not  
1673 taxable income; providing liability; amending s.  
1674 1002.32, F.S.; revising the list of universities  
1675 exempt from a certain limitation relating to charter  
1676 lab schools; deleting the Lab School Educational  
1677 Facility Trust Fund; conforming provisions to changes  
1678 made by the act; amending s. 1002.33, F.S.; revising  
1679 provisions relating to budget projections for charter  
1680 schools; requiring charter schools to report full-time  
1681 equivalent student membership rather than student  
1682 enrollments for funding purposes; providing that a  
1683 specified funding calculation applies to charter  
1684 schools sponsored by a school district; authorizing  
1685 charter schools to receive specified funding under  
1686 certain circumstances; providing that funding for  
1687 students enrolled in charter schools sponsored by  
1688 state universities or Florida College System  
1689 institutions is provided in the Florida Education  
1690 Finance Program and General Appropriations Act;  
1691 providing calculations for such funding; providing for  
1692 the recalculation of such funding; providing a  
1693 calculation for such charter school's capital outlay  
1694 funding; deleting charter school eligibility for a  
1695 specified incentive program; amending s. 1002.391,  
1696 F.S.; creating the Bridge to Speech Program for

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

1697 specified purposes, subject to authorization and  
1698 funding in the General Appropriations Act; providing  
1699 requirements for the department; amending s. 1002.394,  
1700 F.S.; revising the authorized uses of funds from the  
1701 Family Empowerment Scholarship Program; conforming  
1702 provisions to changes made by the act; amending s.  
1703 1002.395, F.S.; revising authorized uses of funds from  
1704 the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program; conforming  
1705 provisions to changes made by the act; amending s.  
1706 1002.68, F.S.; revising the program year for the  
1707 Department of Education to adopt a specified  
1708 methodology for the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
1709 Education Program; revising the program year that  
1710 specified provisions take effect relating to program  
1711 providers and public schools; deleting provisions  
1712 relating to program providers and public schools  
1713 assessment composite scores; amending s. 1002.71,  
1714 F.S.; revising the percentage of specified funds early  
1715 learning coalitions may maintain for certain purposes;  
1716 amending s. 1002.82, F.S.; conforming provisions to  
1717 changes made by the act; requiring the department to  
1718 collect specified data and report certain data  
1719 annually; amending s. 1002.84, F.S.; revising the  
1720 duties of early learning coalitions; amending s.  
1721 1002.89, F.S.; revising a specified calculation for

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

1722 the school readiness program allocation; amending s.  
1723 1002.895, F.S.; revising requirements for the market  
1724 rate schedule for the school readiness program;  
1725 deleting requirements for the department to annually  
1726 collect specified data; conforming provisions to  
1727 changes made by the act; repealing s. 1002.90, F.S.,  
1728 relating to school readiness cost-of-care information;  
1729 amending s. 1002.92, F.S.; conforming provisions to  
1730 changes made the act; creating s. 1003.4206, F.S.;

1731 creating the Charity for Change program for specified  
1732 purposes, subject to authorization and funding in the  
1733 General Appropriations Act; authorizing the program to  
1734 use specified providers to deliver certain services;  
1735 creating s. 1006.042, F.S.; creating the AMIkids,  
1736 Inc., program for specified purposes, subject to  
1737 authorization and funding in the General  
1738 Appropriations Act; amending s. 1006.07, F.S.;

1739 requiring district school boards to establish a threat  
1740 management coordinator for specified purposes;  
1741 amending s. 1006.27, F.S.; deleting the Driving Choice  
1742 Grant Program; amending s. 1008.25, F.S.; requiring  
1743 certain voluntary prekindergarten students to be  
1744 referred to his or her local school district to  
1745 receive support through a certain summer bridge  
1746 program; providing requirements for such program;

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM

Amendment No.

1747 amending s. 1009.896, F.S.; renaming the Florida Law  
1748 Enforcement Academy Scholarship Program as the Florida  
1749 First Responder Scholarship Program; providing and  
1750 revising definitions; revising the program to include  
1751 specified first responders; providing eligibility  
1752 criteria and award requirements for such first  
1753 responders; amending s. 1009.90, F.S.; requiring the  
1754 department to have a system to track specified  
1755 information relating to school bond referenda and debt  
1756 for school districts; amending s. 1011.62, F.S.;  
1757 providing that certain charter schools are eligible  
1758 for the state-funded discretionary contribution;  
1759 requiring rather than authorizing the Legislature to  
1760 appropriate funds for the educational enrollment  
1761 stabilization program; providing requirements for such  
1762 funding; amending s. 1011.765, F.S.; including  
1763 specified organizations and foundations as public  
1764 school district education foundations for specified  
1765 purposes; amending s. 1012.56, F.S.; revising the  
1766 requirements for an applicant to be issued a temporary  
1767 apprenticeship educator certificate; amending s.  
1768 1013.62, F.S.; providing that charter schools  
1769 sponsored by Florida College System institutions and  
1770 state universities are ineligible for specified  
1771 funding; conforming a cross-reference; providing that

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM



Amendment No.

1772 | a specified taxable value for the Wakulla County  
1773 | School District shall be used for specified  
1774 | calculations for the 2023-2024 fiscal year; providing  
1775 | that such provisions expire on a specified date;  
1776 | providing effective dates.

656953

Approved For Filing: 3/5/2024 3:59:41 PM