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By the Committee on Education Pre-K -12

581-01443-24 20247002

A bill to be entitled An act relating to deregulation of public schools/school district finance and budgets, facilities, and administration and oversight; amending s. 120.81, F.S.; providing that district school boards are not subject to certain rule requirements under certain circumstances; amending s. 163.31777, F.S.; revising requirements for what a district school board's interlocal agreement must address; amending s. 200.065, F.S.; requiring a district school board to advertise its intent to adopt a tentative budget on a publicly available website if it does not advertise such intent in a newspaper of general circulation; defining the term "publicly accessible website"; amending s. 252.38, F.S.; requiring district school boards to provide personnel access to facilities for emergency management, rather than staffing such facilities; amending s. 316.173, F.S.; revising requirements for signage that must be posted on certain school buses; amending s. 1001.02, F.S.; revising a duty of the State Board of Education to adopt certain rules; amending s. 1001.23, F.S.; requiring the Department of Education to annually inform district school superintendents that they may petition to receive a specified declaratory statement; requiring the department to annually provide school districts with a list of statutory and rule requirements; providing requirements for such list; amending s. 1001.372, F.S.; requiring public notices

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for district school board meetings be posted on a publicly accessible website; deleting a requirement for public notices to be published in a newspaper; amending s. 1001.42, F.S.; deleting requirements for financial procedures that must be followed by district school boards to ensure adequate educational facilities for students; amending s. 1001.49, F.S.; revising the general powers of district school superintendents to include establishing a process for the review and approval of certain policies and procedures through the delegated authority of district school boards; amending s. 1002.20, F.S.; revising a requirement relating to how a parent is informed of placement of a student in a specified program; revising requirements for student inhaler use and epinephrine use; revising requirements relating to student diabetes management; revising requirements relating to student use of prescribed pancreatic enzyme supplements; revising a requirement relating to how a parent is informed of a student's suspension; deleting a requirement that the school financial report be in the student handbook; requiring the department to produce specified reports relating to school accountability and make such reports available on the department's website; requiring each school district to provide a link to such reports; deleting a requirement that an economic security report of employment and earning outcomes be provided to students; amending s. 1002.33, F.S.; deleting a

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requirement for an unused district school board facility or property to be provided for a charter school's use; revising a requirement for school districts to provide certain information relating to vacant classrooms to the department; amending s. 1002.333, F.S.; revising a provision authorizing school districts to make certain unused facilities available to hope operators; amending s. 1003.03, F.S.; deleting a requirement for district school boards to provide an accountability plan to the Commissioner of Education under certain conditions; amending s. 1003.53, F.S.; revising how district school boards may provide notice to parents relating to a dropout prevention and academic intervention program; repealing s. 1006.025, F.S., relating to quidance services; amending s. 1006.09, F.S.; authorizing a school principal or the principal's designee to inform a parent of a student's suspension by electronic means if permitted by district school board policy; amending s. 1006.1494, F.S.; providing that provisions relating to student online personal information protection do not require a K-12 school, school district, or school board to include any provisions in an operator or vendor contract; amending s. 1010.02, F.S.; providing that school districts are subject to varying reporting frequencies based on financial status; requiring the State Board of Education to adopt rules; amending s. 1010.11, F.S.; providing that school districts are exempt from

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certain requirements relating to electronic transfer of funds; amending s. 1010.20, F.S.; requiring charter schools to respond to monitoring questions from the department; amending s. 1011.03, F.S.; requiring district school boards to publish their tentative budgets on a publicly accessible website if not published on the district's official website; deleting a requirement for district school boards to publish their tentative budgets in a newspaper or at a courthouse under certain circumstances; amending s. 1011.035, F.S.; revising requirements relating to a district school board publishing its tentative budget online; amending s. 1011.14, F.S.; revising the types of facilities on which district school boards may incur certain financial obligations; amending s. 1011.60, F.S.; revising circumstances under which the State Board of Education may alter the requirement for the minimum term schools must be open; amending s. 1011.68, F.S.; deleting a prohibition on use of funds by school districts to purchase certain transportation equipment and supplies; amending s. 1011.69, F.S.; deleting a requirement relating to Title I fund allocations to schools; providing a new category of funding school districts are authorized to withhold; revising a category of funding a school district is authorized to withhold; requiring the department to make certain funds available to local education agencies; amending s. 1011.71, F.S.; revising the types of facilities and expenditures for which

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district school boards may use millage levies to fund; amending s. 1013.15, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; providing that the leasepurchase of certain facilities is exempt from certain requirements; making a technical change; amending s. 1013.16, F.S.; providing that a minimum lease term requirement for land for certain construction projects does not apply to district school boards; amending s. 1013.19, F.S.; requiring proceeds from certain sales or leases of property to be used by boards of trustees for a Florida College System institution or state university; amending s. 1013.20, F.S.; deleting a district school board requirement to plan for the use of relocatables; deleting a requirement for the commissioner to provide a progress report to the Legislature; repealing s. 1013.21, F.S., relating to reduction of relocatable facilities in use; amending s. 1013.28, F.S.; deleting a requirement for surplus tangible personal property to be provided to charter schools; amending s. 1013.31, F.S.; requiring each Florida College System institution board of trustees and state university board of trustees to arrange for educational plant surveys; deleting provisions relating to when an educational plant survey recommendation is not required; requiring Florida College System institution and state university boards, but not district school boards, to participate in specified surveys; deleting a requirement for school districts to submit certain data to the

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department; revising requirements for what a survey report must include; deleting a requirement that a school district's survey must be submitted as part of the district educational facilities plan; deleting a requirement for the department to perform an analysis of such surveys; revising requirements for a facilities needs survey submitted by a district school board; requiring that the release of funds for a PECO project be subject to certain authorizations; amending s. 1013.35, F.S.; deleting definitions; revising requirements for the contents of a district school board tentative district educational facilities plan; deleting a requirement for district school boards to coordinate with local governments to ensure consistency between school district and local government plans; authorizing, rather than requiring, local governments to review tentative district educational facilities plans; making conforming changes; amending s. 1013.356, F.S.; revising requirements for lease terms for certain construction projects; deleting a requirement relating to certain construction costs; amending s. 1013.385, F.S.; deleting requirements for a resolution relating to educational facilities construction which may be adopted by district school boards; providing that exceptions to requirements for public shelter design criteria remain subject to certain emergency management provisions; providing that a school board may not be required to build more emergency-shelter

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space than identified as needed; amending s. 1013.41, F.S.; revising requirements for an educational facilities plan; revising the duties of the Office of Educational Facilities; amending s. 1013.45, F.S.; exempting district school boards from certain contract limitations; specifying that a requirement for the services of a registered architect apply to Florida College System institution and state university boards of trustees; deleting a requirement for district school boards to reuse existing construction documents; repealing s. 1013.451, F.S., relating to life-cycle costs comparison; amending s. 1013.48, F.S.; deleting a requirement for a school district to monitor and report change orders on a district educational facilities plan; amending s. 1013.64, F.S.; providing that remodeling projects for district school boards must be based on specified determinations; providing that a requirement for how certain funds must be spent only applies to Florida College System institution and state university boards; revising requirements for the use of funds from the Special Facility Construction Account; deleting prohibitions on the use of specified funds that meet certain thresholds; requiring the department to estimate, rather than review and adjust, the cost per student station to reflect actual construction costs; deleting a requirement for the Auditor General to review certain documentation; deleting requirements relating to district school board use of funds for

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construction projects; amending s. 1013.68, F.S.;
revising requirements for a school district to receive
a specified distribution of funds; amending ss.
163.3180, 1002.31, 1003.621, 1003.631, 1011.6202,
1011.73, 1012.555, and 1013.62, F.S.; conforming
cross-references and provisions to changes made by the
act; providing an effective date.

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

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Section 1. Paragraph (m) is added to subsection (1) of section 120.81, Florida Statutes, to read:

120.81 Exceptions and special requirements; general areas.-

(1) EDUCATIONAL UNITS.-

(m) District school boards are not subject to the requirements for rules in this chapter when exercising their powers and duties identified in chapters 1000-1014 to formulate policy with public input at a public meeting.

Section 2. Paragraphs (e) and (f) of subsection (2) and subsection (4) of section 163.31777, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

163.31777 Public schools interlocal agreement.—

- (2) At a minimum, the interlocal agreement must address the following issues:
- (e) A process for the school board to inform the local government regarding the effect of comprehensive plan amendments on school capacity. The capacity reporting must be consistent with laws and rules relating to measurement of school facility capacity and must also identify how the district school board

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will meet the public school demand based on the facilities <u>plan</u> work program adopted pursuant to s. 1013.35.

- (f) Participation of the local governments in the preparation of the annual update to the district school board's 5-year district facilities plan work program and educational plant survey prepared pursuant to s. 1013.35.
- (4) At the time of the evaluation and appraisal of its comprehensive plan pursuant to s. 163.3191, each exempt municipality shall assess the extent to which it continues to meet the criteria for exemption under subsection (3). If the municipality continues to meet the criteria for exemption under subsection (3), the municipality shall continue to be exempt from the interlocal agreement requirement. Each municipality exempt under subsection (3) must comply with this section within 1 year after the district school board proposes, in its 5-year district facilities plan work program, a new school within the municipality's jurisdiction.

Section 3. Paragraph (f) of subsection (2) of section 200.065, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

200.065 Method of fixing millage.-

- (2) No millage shall be levied until a resolution or ordinance has been approved by the governing board of the taxing authority which resolution or ordinance must be approved by the taxing authority according to the following procedure:
- (f)1. Notwithstanding any provisions of paragraph (c) to the contrary, each school district shall advertise its intent to adopt a tentative budget on a publicly accessible website pursuant to s. 50.0311 or in a newspaper of general circulation pursuant to subsection (3) within 29 days of certification of

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value pursuant to subsection (1). For the purpose of this paragraph, the term "publicly accessible website" includes a district school board's official website if the school board website satisfies the remaining requirements of s. 50.0311. Not less than 2 days or more than 5 days thereafter, the district shall hold a public hearing on the tentative budget pursuant to the applicable provisions of paragraph (c). In the event of postponement or recess due to a declared state of emergency, the school district may postpone or recess the hearing for up to 7 days and shall post a prominent notice at the place of the original hearing showing the date, time, and place where the hearing will be reconvened. The posted notice shall measure not less than 8.5 by 11 inches. The school district shall make every reasonable effort to provide reasonable notification of the continued hearing to the taxpayers. The information must also be posted on the school district's website if the district school board uses a different method of advertisement.

- 2. Notwithstanding any provisions of paragraph (b) to the contrary, each school district shall advise the property appraiser of its recomputed proposed millage rate within 35 days of certification of value pursuant to subsection (1). The recomputed proposed millage rate of the school district shall be considered its proposed millage rate for the purposes of paragraph (b).
- 3. Notwithstanding any provisions of paragraph (d) to the contrary, each school district shall hold a public hearing to finalize the budget and adopt a millage rate within 80 days of certification of value pursuant to subsection (1), but not earlier than 65 days after certification. The hearing shall be

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held in accordance with the applicable provisions of paragraph (d), except that a newspaper advertisement need not precede the hearing.

Section 4. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of section 252.38, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

252.38 Emergency management powers of political subdivisions.—Safeguarding the life and property of its citizens is an innate responsibility of the governing body of each political subdivision of the state.

- (1) COUNTIES.-
- (d) During a declared state or local emergency and upon the request of the director of a local emergency management agency, the district school board or school boards in the affected area shall participate in emergency management by providing facilities and necessary personnel to access staff such facilities. Each school board providing transportation assistance in an emergency evacuation shall coordinate the use of its vehicles and personnel with the local emergency management agency.

Section 5. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 316.173, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 316.173 School bus infraction detection systems.-
- (2) (a) The school district must post high-visibility reflective signage on the rear of each school bus in which a school bus infraction detection system is installed and operational which indicates the use of such system. The signage must be in the form of one or more signs or stickers and must contain the following elements in substantially the following form:

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1. The words "STOP WHEN RED LIGHTS FLASH" or "DO NOT PASS WHEN RED LIGHTS FLASH."

- 2. The words "CAMERA ENFORCED."
- 3. A graphic depiction of a camera.

Section 6. Paragraph (n) of subsection (2) of section 1001.02, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1001.02 General powers of State Board of Education.-

- (2) The State Board of Education has the following duties:
- (n) To adopt cohesive rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54, within statutory authority <u>as specifically provided by</u> law.

Section 7. Subsections (5) and (6) are added to section 1001.23, Florida Statutes, to read:

1001.23 Specific powers and duties of the Department of Education.—In addition to all other duties assigned to it by law or by rule of the State Board of Education, the department shall:

- (5) Annually by August 1, inform district school superintendents that pursuant to s. 120.565, the superintendents may receive a declaratory statement, within 90 days of submitting a petition to receive such statement, regarding the department's opinion as to the applicability to a school district of a statutory or rule provision as it applies to the district's particular set of circumstances.
- (6) Annually maintain and make available to school districts a list of all requirements in statute and rule relating to required actions by district school boards or superintendents. The list must include, but is not limited to, required parent notifications; information that must be posted

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to the district website; and reporting, filing, and certification requirements.

Section 8. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (2) of section 1001.372, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1001.372 District school board meetings.-

- (2) PLACE OF MEETINGS.-
- (b) Upon the giving of due public notice on a publicly accessible website as provided in s. 50.0311, regular or special meetings of the district school board may be held at any appropriate public place in the county—
- (c) For purpose of this section, due public notice shall consist of publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the county or in each county where there is no newspaper of general circulation in the county an announcement over at least one radio station whose signal is generally received in the county, a reasonable number of times daily during the 48 hours immediately preceding the date of such meeting, or by posting a notice at the courthouse door if no newspaper is published in the county, at least 2 days after prior to the giving of notice meeting.

Section 9. Paragraph (1) of subsection (12) of section 1001.42, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 1001.42 Powers and duties of district school board.—The district school board, acting as a board, shall exercise all powers and perform all duties listed below:
- (12) FINANCE.—Take steps to assure students adequate educational facilities through the financial procedure authorized in chapters 1010 and 1011 and as prescribed below:
 - (1) Internal auditor.—May or, in the case of a school

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or its designee.

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excess of \$500 million, shall employ an internal auditor. The scope of the internal auditor shall not be restricted and shall include every functional and program area of the school system. 1. The internal auditor shall perform ongoing financial verification of the financial records of the school district, a comprehensive risk assessment of all areas of the school system every 5 years, and other audits and reviews as the district school board directs for determining: a. The adequacy of internal controls designed to prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse as defined in s. 11.45(1). b. Compliance with applicable laws, rules, contracts, grant agreements, district school board-approved policies, and best practices. c. The efficiency of operations. d. The reliability of financial records and reports. e. The safeguarding of assets. f. Financial solvency. q. Projected revenues and expenditures.

district receiving annual federal, state, and local funds in

3. Any person responsible for furnishing or producing any book, record, paper, document, data, or sufficient information necessary to conduct a proper audit or examination which the internal auditor is by law authorized to perform is subject to the provisions of s. 11.47(3) and (4).

h. The rate of change in the general fund balance.

2. The internal auditor shall prepare audit reports of his

or her findings and report directly to the district school board

Section 10. Subsection (3) of section 1001.49, Florida

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Statutes, is amended to read:

1001.49 General powers of district school superintendent.—
The district school superintendent shall have the authority, and when necessary for the more efficient and adequate operation of the district school system, the district school superintendent shall exercise the following powers:

AUTHORITY OF THE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD.—Establish a process for the review and approval of districtwide policies and procedures, through the formal delegated authority of the district school board, RECOMMEND POLICIES.—Recommend to the district school board for adoption such policies pertaining to the district school system as the district school superintendent may consider necessary for its more efficient operation.

Section 11. Paragraph (e) of subsection (2), paragraphs (h) through (k) of subsection (3), paragraph (a) of subsection (4), and subsections (16) and (24) of section 1002.20, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1002.20 K-12 student and parent rights.—Parents of public school students must receive accurate and timely information regarding their child's academic progress and must be informed of ways they can help their child to succeed in school. K-12 students and their parents are afforded numerous statutory rights including, but not limited to, the following:

- (2) ATTENDANCE.-
- (e) Dropout prevention and academic intervention programs.—
 The parent of a public school student has the right to receive written notice by certified mail prior to placement of the student in a dropout prevention and academic intervention

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program and shall be notified in writing and entitled to an administrative review of any action by school personnel relating to the student's placement, in accordance with the provisions of s. 1003.53(5).

- (3) HEALTH ISSUES.-
- (h) Inhaler use.—Asthmatic students whose parent approves and physician provide their approval to the school principal may carry a metered dose inhaler on their person while in school. The school principal shall be provided a copy of the parent's approval and the student's prescription, a receipt of prescription issued by a pharmacist, or a parent's and physician's approval.
 - (i) Epinephrine use and supply.-
- 1. A student who has experienced or is at risk for lifethreatening allergic reactions may carry an epinephrine autoinjector and self-administer epinephrine by auto-injector while in school, participating in school-sponsored activities, or in transit to or from school or school-sponsored activities if the school has been provided with parental and physician authorization and a copy of the student's prescription, receipt of prescription issued by a pharmacist, or a physician's approval. The State Board of Education, in cooperation with the Department of Health, shall adopt rules for such use of epinephrine auto-injectors that shall include provisions to protect the safety of all students from the misuse or abuse of auto-injectors. A school district, county health department, public-private partner, and their employees and volunteers shall be indemnified by the parent of a student authorized to carry an epinephrine auto-injector for any and all liability with respect

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to the student's use of an epinephrine auto-injector pursuant to this paragraph.

- 2. A public school may purchase a supply of epinephrine auto-injectors from a wholesale distributor as defined in s. 499.003 or may enter into an arrangement with a wholesale distributor or manufacturer as defined in s. 499.003 for the epinephrine auto-injectors at fair-market, free, or reduced prices for use in the event a student has an anaphylactic reaction. The epinephrine auto-injectors must be maintained in a secure location on the public school's premises. The participating school district shall adopt a protocol developed by a licensed physician for the administration by school personnel who are trained to recognize an anaphylactic reaction and to administer an epinephrine auto-injection. The supply of epinephrine auto-injectors may be provided to and used by a student authorized to self-administer epinephrine by auto-injector under subparagraph 1. or trained school personnel.
- 3. The school district and its employees, agents, and the physician who provides the standing protocol for school epinephrine auto-injectors are not liable for any injury arising from the use of an epinephrine auto-injector administered by trained school personnel who follow the adopted protocol and whose professional opinion is that the student is having an anaphylactic reaction:
- a. Unless the trained school personnel's action is willful and wanton;
- b. Notwithstanding that the parents or guardians of the student to whom the epinephrine is administered have not been provided notice or have not signed a statement acknowledging

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that the school district is not liable; and

- c. Regardless of whether authorization has been given by the student's parents or guardians or by the student's physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse.
- (j) Diabetes management.—A school district may not restrict the assignment of a student who has diabetes to a particular school on the basis that the student has diabetes, that the school does not have a full-time school nurse, or that the school does not have trained diabetes personnel. Diabetic students whose parent provides his or her and physician provide their written authorization and the student's prescription, receipt of prescription issued by a pharmacist, or a physician's approval to the school principal may carry diabetic supplies and equipment on their person and attend to the management and care of their diabetes while in school, participating in schoolsponsored activities, or in transit to or from school or schoolsponsored activities to the extent authorized by the parent and physician and within the parameters set forth by State Board of Education rule. The written authorization shall identify the diabetic supplies and equipment that the student is authorized to carry and shall describe the activities the child is capable of performing without assistance, such as performing bloodglucose level checks and urine ketone testing, administering insulin through the insulin-delivery system used by the student, and treating hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia. The State Board of Education, in cooperation with the Department of Health, shall adopt rules to encourage every school in which a student with diabetes is enrolled to have personnel trained in routine and

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emergency diabetes care. The State Board of Education, in cooperation with the Department of Health, shall also adopt rules for the management and care of diabetes by students in schools that include provisions to protect the safety of all students from the misuse or abuse of diabetic supplies or equipment. A school district, county health department, and public-private partner, and the employees and volunteers of those entities, shall be indemnified by the parent of a student authorized to carry diabetic supplies or equipment for any and all liability with respect to the student's use of such supplies and equipment pursuant to this paragraph.

(k) Use of prescribed pancreatic enzyme supplements.—A student who has experienced or is at risk for pancreatic insufficiency or who has been diagnosed as having cystic fibrosis may carry and self-administer a prescribed pancreatic enzyme supplement while in school, participating in schoolsponsored activities, or in transit to or from school or schoolsponsored activities if the school has been provided with authorization from the student's parent and the student's prescription, a receipt of prescription issued by a pharmacist, or a physician's approval prescribing practitioner. The State Board of Education, in cooperation with the Department of Health, shall adopt rules for the use of prescribed pancreatic enzyme supplements which shall include provisions to protect the safety of all students from the misuse or abuse of the supplements. A school district, county health department, public-private partner, and their employees and volunteers shall be indemnified by the parent of a student authorized to use prescribed pancreatic enzyme supplements for any and all

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liability with respect to the student's use of the supplements under this paragraph.

(4) DISCIPLINE.-

- (a) Suspension of public school student.—In accordance with the provisions of s. 1006.09(1)-(4):
- 1. A student may be suspended only as provided by rule of the district school board. A good faith effort must be made to immediately inform the parent by telephone of the student's suspension and the reason. Each suspension and the reason must be reported in writing within 24 hours to the parent by United States mail or other method as adopted in district school board policy which is reasonably calculated to notify the parent. A good faith effort must be made to use parental assistance before suspension unless the situation requires immediate suspension.
- 2. A student with a disability may only be recommended for suspension or expulsion in accordance with State Board of Education rules.
- (16) SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT RATING REPORTS; FISCAL TRANSPARENCY.—Parents of public school students have the right to an easy-to-read report card about the school's grade designation or, if applicable under s. 1008.341, the school's improvement rating, and the school's accountability report, including the school financial report as required under s. 1010.215. The school financial report must be provided to the parents and indicate the average amount of money expended per student in the school, which must also be included in the student handbook or a similar publication. The department shall produce the reports under this subsection and make the reports for each school available on the department's website in a

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prominent location. Each public school district must provide a link on its website to these reports for parent access.

(24) ECONOMIC SECURITY REPORT.—Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year and annually thereafter, each middle school and high school student or the student's parent prior to registration shall be provided a two-page summary of the Department of Economic Opportunity's economic security report of employment and earning outcomes prepared pursuant to s. 445.07 and electronic access to the report.

Section 12. Paragraphs (e) and (g) of subsection (18) of section 1002.33, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1002.33 Charter schools.-

(18) FACILITIES.—

(e) If a district school board facility or property is available because it is surplus, marked for disposal, or otherwise unused, it shall be provided for a charter school's use on the same basis as it is made available to other public schools in the district. A charter school that receives surplus, marked for disposal, or otherwise unused facilities or receiving property from the sponsor may not sell or dispose of such facilities or property without written permission of the sponsor. Similarly, for an existing public school converting to charter status, no rental or leasing fee for the existing facility or for the property normally inventoried to the conversion school may be charged by the district school board to the parents and teachers organizing the charter school. The charter school shall agree to reasonable maintenance provisions in order to maintain the facility in a manner similar to district school board standards. The Public Education Capital

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Outlay maintenance funds or any other maintenance funds generated by the facility operated as a conversion school shall remain with the conversion school.

(g) Each school district shall annually provide to the Department of Education as part of its 5-year work plan the number of existing vacant classrooms in each school that the district does not intend to use or does not project will be needed for educational purposes for the following school year. The department may recommend that a district make such space available to an appropriate charter school.

Section 13. Paragraph (d) of subsection (7) of section 1002.333, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.333 Persistently low-performing schools.-

- (7) FACILITIES.—
- (d) A school district may make available No later than January 1, the department shall annually provide to school districts a list of all underused, vacant, or surplus facilities owned or operated by the school district to as reported in the Florida Inventory of School Houses. A school district may provide evidence to the department that the list contains errors or omissions within 30 days after receipt of the list. By each April 1, the department shall update and publish a final list of all underused, vacant, or surplus facilities owned or operated by each school district, based upon updated information provided by each school district. a hope operator establishing a school of hope may use an educational facility identified in this paragraph at no cost or at a mutually agreeable cost not to exceed \$600 per student. A hope operator using a facility pursuant to this paragraph may not sell or dispose of such

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facility without the written permission of the school district. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "underused, vacant, or surplus facility" means an entire facility or portion thereof which is not fully used or is used irregularly or intermittently by the school district for instructional or program use.

Section 14. Subsection (4) of section 1003.03, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.03 Maximum class size.-

(4) ACCOUNTABILITY.—Each district that has not complied with the requirements in subsection (1), based on the October student membership survey, shall submit to the commissioner by February 1 a plan certified by the district school board that describes the specific actions the district will take in order to fully comply with the requirements in subsection (1) by October of the following school year.

Section 15. Subsection (5) of section 1003.53, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.53 Dropout prevention and academic intervention.-

(5) Each district school board providing a dropout prevention and academic intervention program pursuant to this section shall maintain for each participating student records documenting the student's eligibility, the length of participation, the type of program to which the student was assigned or the type of academic intervention services provided, and an evaluation of the student's academic and behavioral performance while in the program. The school principal or his or her designee shall, prior to placement in a dropout prevention and academic intervention program or the provision of an academic service, provide written notice of placement or

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services by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the student's parent. Written notice may be provided to the parent by United States mail or by electronic transmission if authorized by district school board policy as reasonably calculated to notify the parent The parent of the student shall sign an acknowledgment of the notice of placement or service and return the signed acknowledgment to the principal within 3 days after receipt of the notice. The parents of a student assigned to such a dropout prevention and academic intervention program shall be notified in writing and entitled to an administrative review of any action by school personnel relating to such placement pursuant to the provisions of chapter 120.

Section 16. <u>Section 1006.025</u>, <u>Florida Statutes</u>, is repealed.

Section 17. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 1006.09, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1006.09 Duties of school principal relating to student discipline and school safety.—

(1)

(b) The principal or the principal's designee may suspend a student only in accordance with the rules of the district school board. The principal or the principal's designee shall make a good faith effort to immediately inform a student's parent by telephone of a student's suspension and the reasons for the suspension. Each suspension and the reasons for the suspension shall be reported in writing within 24 hours to the student's parent by United States mail or by electronic transmission if authorized by district school board policy as reasonably calculated to notify the parent. Each suspension and the reasons

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for the suspension shall also be reported in writing within 24 hours to the district school superintendent. A good faith effort shall be made by the principal or the principal's designee to employ parental assistance or other alternative measures prior to suspension, except in the case of emergency or disruptive conditions which require immediate suspension or in the case of a serious breach of conduct as defined by rules of the district school board. Such rules shall require oral and written notice to the student of the charges and an explanation of the evidence against him or her prior to the suspension. Each student shall be given an opportunity to present his or her side of the story. No student shall be suspended for unexcused tardiness, lateness, absence, or truancy. The principal or the principal's designee may suspend any student transported to or from school at public expense from the privilege of riding on a school bus for violation of district school board transportation policies, which shall include a policy regarding behavior at school bus stops, and the principal or the principal's designee shall give notice in writing to the student's parent and to the district school superintendent within 24 hours. School personnel shall not be held legally responsible for suspensions of students made in good faith.

Section 18. Paragraph (j) is added to subsection (6) of section 1006.1494, Florida Statutes, to read:

1006.1494 Student online personal information protection.-

- (6) This section does not do any of the following:
- (j) Require a K-12 school, school district, or district school board to include any provision in a contract with any operator or vendor.

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The State Board of Education may adopt rules to implement this section.

Section 19. Subsection (1) of section 1010.02, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1010.02 Financial accounting and expenditures.-

- (1) All funds accruing to a school district or a Florida College System institution must be received, accounted for, and expended in accordance with law and rules of the State Board of Education.
- (a) A school district may be subject to varying reporting frequencies based on its financial status, as determined in State Board of Education rule:
- 1. A school district identified as having a financial concern may be required to submit monthly financial reports.
- 2. A school district not identified as having a financial concern may be required to submit financial reports no more often than once every quarter.
- (b) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to establish criteria for determining the financial status of school districts for the purpose of financial reporting.

Section 20. Section 1010.11, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1010.11 Electronic transfer of funds.—Pursuant to the provisions of s. 215.85, each district school board, Florida College System institution board of trustees, and university board of trustees shall adopt written policies prescribing the accounting and control procedures under which any funds under their control are allowed to be moved by electronic transaction

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for any purpose including direct deposit, wire transfer,
withdrawal, investment, or payment. Electronic transactions
shall comply with the provisions of chapter 668. However,
district school boards are exempt from the requirements in s.

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Section 21. Subsection (2) of section 1010.20, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1010.20 Cost accounting and reporting for school districts.—

- (2) COST REPORTING.-
- (a) Each district shall report on a district-aggregate basis expenditures for inservice training pursuant to s. 1011.62(3) and for categorical programs as provided in s. 1011.62(17).
- (b) Each district shall report to the department on a school-by-school and on an aggregate district basis expenditures for:
 - 1. Each program funded in s. 1011.62(1)(c).
- 2. Total operating costs as reported pursuant to s. 1010.215.
- 3. Expenditures for classroom instruction pursuant to the calculation in s. 1010.215(4)(b)1. and 2.
- (c) <u>Each charter school shall receive and respond to</u> monitoring questions from the department.
 - (d) The department shall:
- 1. Categorize all public schools and districts into appropriate groups based primarily on average full-time equivalent student enrollment as reported on the most recent student membership survey under s. 1011.62 and in state board

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rule to determine groups of peer schools and districts.

- 2. Annually calculate for each public school, district, and for the entire state, the percentage of classroom expenditures to total operating expenditures reported in subparagraphs (b)2. and 3. The results shall be categorized pursuant to this paragraph.
- 3. Annually calculate for all public schools, districts, and the state, the average percentage of classroom expenditures to total operating expenditures reported in subparagraphs (b)2. and 3. The results shall be categorized pursuant to this paragraph.
- 4. Develop a web-based fiscal transparency tool that identifies public schools and districts that produce high academic achievement based on the ratio of classroom instruction expenditures to total expenditures. The fiscal transparency tool shall combine the data calculated pursuant to this paragraph with the student performance measurements calculated pursuant to s. 1012.34(7) to determine the financial efficiency of each public school and district. The results shall be displayed in an easy to use format that enables the user to compare performance among public schools and districts.
- (e) (d) The Commissioner of Education shall present to the Legislature, prior to the opening of the regular session each year, a district-by-district report of the expenditures reported pursuant to paragraphs (a) and (b). The report shall include total expenditures, a detailed analysis showing expenditures for each program, and such other data as may be useful for management of the education system. The Commissioner of Education shall also compute cost factors relative to the base

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student allocation for each funded program in s. 1011.62(1)(c).

Section 22. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 1011.03, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1011.03 Public hearings; budget to be submitted to Department of Education.—

- (1) Each district school board shall cause a summary of its tentative budget, including the proposed millage levies as provided for by law, to be posted on the district's official website and advertised once in a newspaper of general circulation published in the district or on a publicly accessible website as provided in s. 50.0311 to be posted at the courthouse if there be no such newspaper.
- (3) The board shall hold public hearings to adopt tentative and final budgets pursuant to s. 200.065. The hearings shall be primarily for the purpose of hearing requests and complaints from the public regarding the budgets and the proposed tax levies and for explaining the budget and proposed or adopted amendments thereto, if any. The tentative budget must be posted on the district's official website at least 2 days before the budget hearing held pursuant to s. 200.065 or other law. The final adopted budget must be posted on the district's official website within 30 days after adoption. The board shall require the superintendent to transmit two copies of the adopted budget to the Department of Education as prescribed by law and rules of the State Board of Education.

Section 23. Subsections (2) and (4) of section 1011.035, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

- 1011.035 School district fiscal transparency.-
- (2) Each district school board shall post on its website:

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(a) A plain language version of each proposed, tentative, and official budget which describes each budget item in terms that are easily understandable to the public and includes:

- (a) Graphical representations, for each public school within the district and for the school district, of the following:
 - 1. Summary financial efficiency data.
 - 2. Fiscal trend information for the previous 3 years on:
- a. The ratio of full-time equivalent students to full-time equivalent instructional personnel.
- b. The ratio of full-time equivalent students to full-time equivalent administrative personnel.
- c. The total operating expenditures per full-time equivalent student.
- d. The total instructional expenditures per full-time equivalent student.
- e. The general administrative expenditures as a percentage of total budget.
- f. The rate of change in the general fund's ending fund balance not classified as restricted.
- (b) A link to the web-based fiscal transparency tool developed by the department pursuant to s. 1010.20 to enable taxpayers to evaluate the financial efficiency of the school district and compare the financial efficiency of the school district with other similarly situated school districts.

This information must be prominently posted on the school district's website in a manner that is readily accessible to the public.

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- (4) The website should contain links to:
- (a) Help explain or provide background information on various budget items that are required by state or federal law.
- (b) Allow users to navigate to related sites to view supporting details.
- (e) enable taxpayers, parents, and education advocates to send e-mails asking questions about the budget and enable others to view the questions and responses.

Section 24. Subsection (1) of section 1011.14, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 1011.14 Obligations for a period of 1 year.—District school boards are authorized only under the following conditions to create obligations by way of anticipation of budgeted revenues accruing on a current basis without pledging the credit of the district or requiring future levy of taxes for certain purposes for a period of 1 year; however, such obligations may be extended from year to year with the consent of the lender for a period not to exceed 4 years, or for a total of 5 years including the initial year of the loan:
- (1) PURPOSES.—The purposes for which such obligations may be incurred within the intent of this section shall include only the purchase of school buses, land, and equipment for educational purposes; the erection of, alteration to, or addition to educational plants, ancillary plants, and auxiliary facilities; and the adjustment of insurance on educational property on a 5-year plan, as provided by rules of the State Board of Education.

Section 25. Subsection (2) of section 1011.60, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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1011.60 Minimum requirements of the Florida Education Finance Program.—Each district which participates in the state appropriations for the Florida Education Finance Program shall provide evidence of its effort to maintain an adequate school program throughout the district and shall meet at least the following requirements:

(2) MINIMUM TERM.—Operate all schools for a term of 180 actual teaching days or the equivalent on an hourly basis as specified by rules of the State Board of Education each school year. The State Board of Education may prescribe procedures for altering, and, upon written application, may alter, this requirement during a national, state, or local emergency as it may apply to an individual school or schools in any district or districts if the district school board certifies to the Commissioner of Education that if, in the opinion of the board, it is not necessary feasible to make up lost days or hours, and the apportionment may, at the discretion of the Commissioner of Education and if the board determines that the reduction of school days or hours is caused by the existence of a bona fide emergency, be reduced for such district or districts in proportion to the decrease in the length of term in any such school or schools. A strike, as defined in s. 447.203(6), by employees of the school district may not be considered an emergency.

Section 26. Subsection (4) of section 1011.68, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1011.68 Funds for student transportation.—The annual allocation to each district for transportation to public school programs, including charter schools as provided in s.

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1002.33(17)(b), of students in membership in kindergarten through grade 12 and in migrant and exceptional student programs below kindergarten shall be determined as follows:

(4) No district shall use funds to purchase transportation equipment and supplies at prices which exceed those determined by the department to be the lowest which can be obtained, as prescribed in s. 1006.27(1).

Section 27. Subsection (4) of section 1011.69, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (5) is added to that section, to read:

1011.69 Equity in School-Level Funding Act.-

- (4) After providing Title I, Part A, Basic funds to schools above the 75 percent poverty threshold, which may include high schools above the 50 percent threshold as permitted by federal law, school districts shall provide any remaining Title I, Part A, Basic funds directly to all eligible schools as provided in this subsection. For purposes of this subsection, an eligible school is a school that is eligible to receive Title I funds, including a charter school. The threshold for identifying eligible schools may not exceed the threshold established by a school district for the 2016-2017 school year or the statewide percentage of economically disadvantaged students, as determined annually.
- (a) Prior to the allocation of Title I funds to eligible schools, a school district may withhold funds only as follows:
- 1. One percent for parent involvement, in addition to the one percent the district must reserve under federal law for allocations to eligible schools for parent involvement;
 - 2. A necessary and reasonable amount for administration

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which includes the district's indirect cost rate, not to exceed a total of 10 percent;

- 3. A reasonable and necessary amount to provide:
- a. Homeless programs;
- b. Delinquent and neglected programs;
- c. Prekindergarten programs and activities;
- d. Private school equitable services; and
- e. Transportation for foster care children to their school of origin or choice programs;
- 4. Up to 5 percent to provide financial incentives and rewards to teachers who serve students in Title I schools identified for comprehensive support and improvement activities or targeted support and improvement activities, for the purpose of attracting and retaining qualified and effective teachers, including teachers of any subject or grade level for whom a measurement under s. 1012.34(7) or a state-approved Alternative Student Growth Model is unavailable; and
- 5.4. A necessary and reasonable amount, not to exceed 1 percent, for eligible schools to provide educational services in accordance with the approved Title I plan.
- (b) All remaining Title I funds shall be distributed to all eligible schools in accordance with federal law and regulation. An eligible school may use funds under this subsection to participate in discretionary educational services provided by the school district. Any funds provided by an eligible school to participate in discretionary educational services provided by the school district are not subject to the requirements of this subsection.
 - (c) Any funds carried forward by the school district are

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not subject to the requirements of this subsection.

(5) The Department of Education shall make funds from Title I, Title II, and Title III programs available to local education agencies for the full period of availability provided in federal law.

Section 28. Paragraphs (e) and (h) of subsection (2) and subsections (5) and (6) of section 1011.71, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraphs (1) and (m) are added to subsection (2) of that section, to read:

1011.71 District school tax.-

- (2) In addition to the maximum millage levy as provided in subsection (1), each school board may levy not more than 1.5 mills against the taxable value for school purposes for charter schools pursuant to s. 1013.62(1) and (3) and for district schools to fund:
- (e) Payments for educational plants, ancillary plants, and auxiliary facilities and sites due under a lease-purchase agreement entered into by a district school board pursuant to s. 1003.02(1)(f) or s. 1013.15(2), not exceeding, in the aggregate, an amount equal to three-fourths of the proceeds from the millage levied by a district school board pursuant to this subsection. The three-fourths limit is waived for lease-purchase agreements entered into before June 30, 2009, by a district school board pursuant to this paragraph. If payments under lease-purchase agreements in the aggregate, including lease-purchase agreements entered into before June 30, 2009, exceed three-fourths of the proceeds from the millage levied pursuant to this subsection, the district school board may not withhold the administrative fees authorized by s. 1002.33(20) from any

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charter school operating in the school district.

- (h) Payment of costs of leasing relocatable educational plants, ancillary plants, and auxiliary facilities, of renting or leasing educational plants, ancillary plants, and auxiliary facilities and sites pursuant to s. 1013.15(2), or of renting or leasing buildings or space within existing buildings pursuant to s. 1013.15(4).
- (1) The purchase, lease-purchase, or lease of driver education vehicles; motor vehicles used for the maintenance or operation of plants and equipment; security vehicles; or vehicles used in storing or distributing materials and equipment.
- (m) Payment of the cost of premiums, as defined in s.
 627.403, for property and casualty insurance necessary to insure school district educational and ancillary plants. As used in this paragraph, the term "casualty insurance" means the lines of insurance specified in s. 624.605(1)(d), (f), (g), (h), and (m).
 Operating revenues that are made available through the payment of property and casualty insurance premiums from revenues generated under this subsection may be expended only for nonrecurring operational expenditures of the school district.
- (5) A school district may expend, subject to s. 200.065, up to \$175 per unweighted full-time equivalent student from the revenue generated by the millage levy authorized by subsection (2) to fund, in addition to expenditures authorized in paragraphs (2) (a) (j), expenses for the following:
- (a) The purchase, lease-purchase, or lease of driver's education vehicles; motor vehicles used for the maintenance or operation of plants and equipment; security vehicles; or

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vehicles used in storing or distributing materials and equipment.

(b) Payment of the cost of premiums, as defined in s. 627.403, for property and casualty insurance necessary to insure school district educational and ancillary plants. As used in this paragraph, casualty insurance has the same meaning as in s. 624.605(1)(d), (f), (g), (h), and (m). Operating revenues that are made available through the payment of property and casualty insurance premiums from revenues generated under this subsection may be expended only for nonrecurring operational expenditures of the school district.

(6) Violations of the expenditure provisions in subsection (2) or subsection (5) shall result in an equal dollar reduction in the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) funds for the violating district in the fiscal year following the audit citation.

Section 29. Section 1013.15, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1013.15 Lease, rental, and lease-purchase of educational plants, ancillary plants, and auxiliary facilities and sites.—

(1) A board may lease any land, facilities, or educational plants owned by it to any person or entity for such term, for such rent, and upon such terms and conditions as the board determines to be in its best interests; any such lease may provide for the optional or binding purchase of the land, facilities, or educational plants by the lessee upon such terms and conditions as the board determines are in its best interests. A determination that any such land, facility, or educational plant so leased is unnecessary for educational

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purposes is not a prerequisite to the leasing or lease-purchase of such land, facility, or educational plant. Prior to entering into or executing any such lease, a board shall consider approval of the lease or lease-purchase agreement at a public meeting, at which a copy of the proposed agreement in its final form shall be available for inspection and review by the public, after due notice as required by law.

- (2) (a) A district school board may rent or lease educational plants, ancillary plants, and auxiliary facilities and sites as defined in s. 1013.01. Educational plants, ancillary plants, and auxiliary facilities and sites rented or leased for 1 year or less shall be funded through the operations budget or funds derived from millage proceeds pursuant to s. 1011.71(2). A lease contract for 1 year or less, when extended or renewed beyond a year, becomes a multiple-year lease. Operational funds or funds derived from millage proceeds pursuant to s. 1011.71(2) may be authorized to be expended for multiple-year leases. All leased facilities and sites must be inspected prior to occupancy by the authority having jurisdiction.
- 1. All newly leased spaces must be inspected and brought into compliance with the Florida Building Code pursuant to chapter 553 and the life safety codes pursuant to chapter 633, prior to occupancy, using the board's operations budget or funds derived from millage proceeds pursuant to s. 1011.71(2).
- 2. Plans for renovation or remodeling of leased space shall conform to the Florida Building Code and the Florida Fire Prevention Code for educational occupancies or other occupancies, as appropriate and as required in chapters 553 and

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1103 633, prior to occupancy.

- 3. All leased facilities must be inspected annually for firesafety deficiencies in accordance with the applicable code and have corrections made in accordance with s. 1013.12. Operational funds or funds derived from millage proceeds pursuant to s. 1011.71(2) may be used to correct deficiencies in leased space.
- 4. When the board declares that a public emergency exists, it may take up to 30 days to bring the leased facility into compliance with the requirements of State Board of Education rules.
- (b) A board is authorized to lease-purchase educational plants, ancillary plants, and auxiliary facilities and sites as defined in s. 1013.01, and a district school board is authorized to lease-purchase educational plants, ancillary plants, and auxiliary facilities and sites. The lease-purchase of educational plants, ancillary plants, and auxiliary facilities and sites must, where applicable, comply with shall be as required by s. 1013.37, subject to the authorization in s. 1013.385 to exempt certain facilities from the requirements of that section; must shall be advertised for and receive competitive proposals and be awarded to the best proposer; and must shall be funded using current or other funds specifically authorized by law to be used for such purpose.
- 1. A district school board, by itself, or through a direct-support organization formed pursuant to s. 1001.453 or nonprofit educational organization or a consortium of district school boards, may, in developing a lease-purchase of educational plants, ancillary plants, and auxiliary facilities and sites

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provide for separately advertising for and receiving competitive bids or proposals on the construction of facilities and the selection of financing to provide the lowest cost funding available, so long as the board determines that such process would best serve the public interest and the <u>available pledged</u> revenues are limited to those authorized in $\underline{s. 1011.71(2)}$ $\underline{s. 1011.71(2)}$ $\underline{s. 1011.71(2)}$

- 2. All activities and information, including lists of individual participants, associated with agreements made pursuant to this section shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 119 and s. 286.011.
- (c)1. The term of any lease-purchase agreement, including the initial term and any subsequent renewals, shall not exceed the useful life of the educational facilities and sites for which the agreement is made, or 30 years, whichever is less.
- 2. The initial term or any renewal term of any lease-purchase agreement shall expire on June 30 of each fiscal year, but may be automatically renewed annually, subject to a board making sufficient annual appropriations therefor. Under no circumstances shall the failure of a board to renew a lease-purchase agreement constitute a default or require payment of any penalty or in any way limit the right of a board to purchase or utilize educational plants, ancillary plants, and auxiliary facilities and sites similar in function to the educational plants, ancillary plants, and auxiliary facilities and sites that are the subject of the said lease-purchase agreement. Educational plants, ancillary plants, and auxiliary facilities and sites being acquired pursuant to a lease-purchase agreement shall be exempt from ad valorem taxation.

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3. No lease-purchase agreement entered into pursuant to this subsection shall constitute a debt, liability, or obligation of the state or a board or shall be a pledge of the faith and credit of the state or a board.

- 4. Any lease-purchase agreement entered into pursuant to this subsection shall stipulate an annual rate which may consist of a principal component and an interest component, provided that the maximum interest rate of any interest component payable under any such lease-purchase agreement, or any participation or certificated portion thereof, shall be calculated in accordance with and be governed by the provisions of s. 215.84.
- (3) Lease or lease-purchase agreements entered into by university boards of trustees shall comply with the provisions of ss. 1013.171 and 1010.62.
- (4) (a) A board may rent or lease existing buildings, or space within existing buildings, originally constructed or used for purposes other than education, for conversion to use as educational facilities. Such buildings rented or leased for 1 year or less shall be funded through the operations budget or funds derived from millage pursuant to s. 1011.71(2). A rental agreement or lease contract for 1 year or less, when extended or renewed beyond a year, becomes a multiple-year rental or lease. Operational funds or funds derived from millage proceeds pursuant to s. 1011.71(2) may be authorized to be expended for multiple-year rentals or leases. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, if a building was constructed in conformance with all applicable building and life safety codes, it shall be deemed to meet the requirements for use and occupancy as an educational facility subject only to the

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1190 provisions of this subsection.

- (b) Prior to occupying a rented or a leased existing building, or space within an existing building, pursuant to this subsection, a school board shall, in a public meeting, adopt a resolution certifying that the following circumstances apply to the building proposed for occupancy:
- 1. Growth among the school-age population in the school district has created a need for new educational facilities in a neighborhood where there is little or no vacant land.
- 2. There exists a supply of vacant space in existing buildings that meet state minimum building and life safety codes.
- 3. Acquisition and conversion to use as educational facilities of an existing building or buildings is a cost-saving means of providing the needed classroom space as determined by the difference between the cost of new construction, including land acquisition and preparation and, if applicable, demolition of existing structures, and the cost of acquisition through rental or lease and conversion of an existing building or buildings.
- 4. The building has been examined for suitability, safety, and conformance with state minimum building and life safety codes. The building examination shall consist, at a minimum, of a review of existing documents, building site reconnaissance, and analysis of the building conducted by, or under the responsible charge of, a licensed structural engineer.
- 5. A certificate of evaluation has been issued by an appropriately licensed design professional which states that, based on available documents, building site reconnaissance,

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current knowledge, and design judgment in the professional's opinion, the building meets the requirements of state minimum building and life safety codes, provides safe egress of occupants from the building, provides adequate firesafety, and does not pose a substantial threat to life to persons who would occupy the building for classroom use.

- 6. The plans for conversion of the building were prepared by an appropriate design professional licensed in this state and the work of conversion was performed by contractors licensed in this state.
- 7. The conversion of the building was observed by an appropriate design professional licensed in this state.
- 8. The building has been reviewed, inspected, and granted a certificate of occupancy by the local building department.
- 9. All ceilings, light fixtures, ducts, and registers within the area to be occupied for classroom purposes were constructed or have been reconstructed to meet state minimum requirements.

Section 30. Subsection (1) of section 1013.16, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1013.16 Construction of facilities on leased property; conditions.—

(1) A board may construct or place educational facilities and ancillary facilities on land that is owned by any person after the board has acquired from the owner of the land a long-term lease for the use of this land for a period of not less than 40 years or the life expectancy of the permanent facilities constructed thereon, whichever is longer; however, the minimum lease term of 40 years does not apply to district school boards.

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Section 31. Section 1013.19, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1013.19 Purchase, conveyance, or encumbrance of property interests above surface of land; joint-occupancy structures. - For the purpose of implementing jointly financed construction project agreements, or for the construction of combined occupancy structures, any board may purchase, own, convey, sell, lease, or encumber airspace or any other interests in property above the surface of the land, provided the lease of airspace for nonpublic use is for such reasonable rent, length of term, and conditions as the board in its discretion may determine. All proceeds from such sale or lease shall be used by a the board of trustees for a Florida College System institution or state university or boards receiving the proceeds solely for fixed capital outlay purposes. These purposes may include the renovation or remodeling of existing facilities owned by the board or the construction of new facilities; however, for a Florida College System institution board or university board, such new facility must be authorized by the Legislature. It is declared that the use of such rental by the board for public purposes in accordance with its statutory authority is a public use. Airspace or any other interest in property held by the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund or the State Board of Education may not be divested or conveyed without approval of the respective board. Any building, including any building or facility component that is common to both nonpublic and educational portions thereof, constructed in airspace that is sold or leased for nonpublic use pursuant to this section is subject to all applicable state, county, and municipal

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regulations pertaining to land use, zoning, construction of buildings, fire protection, health, and safety to the same extent and in the same manner as such regulations would be applicable to the construction of a building for nonpublic use on the appurtenant land beneath the subject airspace. Any educational facility constructed or leased as a part of a joint-occupancy facility is subject to all rules and requirements of the respective boards or departments having jurisdiction over educational facilities. Any contract executed by a university board of trustees pursuant to this section is subject to the provisions of s. 1010.62.

Section 32. Subsection (1) of section 1013.20, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1013.20 Standards for relocatables used as classroom space; inspections.—

(1) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules establishing standards for relocatables intended for long-term use as classroom space at a public elementary school, middle school, or high school. "Long-term use" means the use of relocatables at the same educational plant for a period of 4 years or more. Each relocatable acquired by a district school board after the effective date of the rules and intended for long-term use must comply with the standards. District school boards shall submit a plan for the use of existing relocatables within the 5-year work program to be reviewed and approved by the commissioner by January 1, 2003. A progress report shall be provided by the commissioner to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate each January thereafter. Relocatables that fail to meet the standards after

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completion of the approved plan may not be used as classrooms. The standards shall protect the health, safety, and welfare of occupants by requiring compliance with the Florida Building Code or the State Requirements for Educational Facilities for existing relocatables, as applicable, to ensure the safety and stability of construction and onsite installation; fire and moisture protection; air quality and ventilation; appropriate wind resistance; and compliance with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If appropriate and where relocatables are not scheduled for replacement, the standards must also require relocatables to provide access to the same technologies available to similar classrooms within the main school facility and, if appropriate, and where relocatables are not scheduled for replacement, to be accessible by adequate covered walkways. A relocatable that is subject to this section and does not meet the standards shall not be reported as providing satisfactory student stations in the Florida Inventory of School Houses.

Section 33. Section 1013.21, Florida Statutes, is repealed.
Section 34. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section
1013.28, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1013.28 Disposal of property.-

- (2) TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY.-
- (a) Tangible personal property that has been properly classified as surplus by a district school board or Florida College System institution board of trustees shall be disposed of in accordance with the procedure established by chapter 274. However, the provisions of chapter 274 shall not be applicable to a motor vehicle used in driver education to which title is

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obtained for a token amount from an automobile dealer or manufacturer. In such cases, the disposal of the vehicle shall be as prescribed in the contractual agreement between the automotive agency or manufacturer and the board. Tangible personal property that has been properly classified as surplus, marked for disposal, or otherwise unused by a district school board shall be provided for a charter school's use on the same basis as it is made available to other public schools in the district. A charter school receiving tangible personal property that has been properly classified as surplus, marked for disposal, or otherwise unused by a district school board property from the school district may not sell or dispose of such property without the written permission of the school district.

Section 35. Section 1013.31, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1013.31 Educational plant survey; localized need assessment; PECO project funding.—

institution and state university board shall arrange for an educational plant survey, to aid in formulating plans for housing the educational program and student population, faculty, administrators, staff, and auxiliary and ancillary services of the district or campus, including consideration of the local comprehensive plan. The Department of Education shall document the need for additional career and adult education programs and the continuation of existing programs before facility construction or renovation related to career or adult education may be included in the educational plant survey of a school

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district or Florida College System institution that delivers career or adult education programs. Information used by the Department of Education to establish facility needs must include, but need not be limited to, labor market data, needs analysis, and information submitted by the school district or Florida College System institution.

- (a) Educational plant survey and localized need assessment for capital outlay purposes. A survey recommendation is not required when a district uses funds from the following sources for educational, auxiliary, and ancillary plant capital outlay purposes:
- 1. The local capital outlay improvement fund, consisting of funds that come from and are a part of the district's basic operating budget;
- 2. A taxpayer-approved bond referendum, to fund construction of an educational, auxiliary, or ancillary plant facility;
 - 3. One-half cent sales surtax revenue;
 - 4. One cent local governmental surtax revenue;
- 1383 5. Impact fees;
- 1384 6. Private gifts or donations; and
- 1385 7. The district school tax levied pursuant to s. 1386 1011.71(2).
- (b) Survey preparation and required data. Each survey must shall be conducted by the Florida College System institution or 1389 state university board or an agency employed by the board. Surveys must shall be reviewed and approved by the board, and a file copy must shall be submitted to the Department of Education or the Chancellor of the State University System, as

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appropriate. The survey report <u>must</u> <u>shall</u> include at least an inventory of existing educational and ancillary plants, including safe access facilities; recommendations for existing educational and ancillary plants; recommendations for new educational or ancillary plants, including the general location of each in coordination with the land use plan and safe access facilities; campus master plan update and detail for Florida College System institutions; the utilization of school plants based on an extended school day or year-round operation; and such other information as may be required by the Department of Education. This report may be amended, if conditions warrant, at the request of the department or commissioner.

- (b) (c) Required need assessment criteria for district, Florida College System institution, state university, and Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind plant surveys.—
 Educational plant surveys must use uniform data sources and criteria specified in this paragraph. Each revised educational plant survey and each new educational plant survey supersedes previous surveys.
- 1. The school district's survey must be submitted as a part of the district educational facilities plan defined in s.

 1013.35. To ensure that the data reported to the Department of Education as required by this section is correct, the department shall annually conduct an onsite review of 5 percent of the facilities reported for each school district completing a new survey that year. If the department's review finds the data reported by a district is less than 95 percent accurate, within 1 year from the time of notification by the department the district must submit revised reports correcting its data. If a

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district fails to correct its reports, the commissioner may direct that future fixed capital outlay funds be withheld until such time as the district has corrected its reports so that they are not less than 95 percent accurate.

2. Each survey of a special facility, joint-use facility, or cooperative career education facility must be based on capital outlay full-time equivalent student enrollment data prepared by the department for school districts and Florida College System institutions and by the Chancellor of the State University System for universities. A survey of space needs of a joint-use facility shall be based upon the respective space needs of the school districts, Florida College System institutions, and universities, as appropriate. Projections of a school district's facility space needs may not exceed the norm space and occupant design criteria established by the State Requirements for Educational Facilities.

- 2.3. Each Florida College System institution's survey must reflect the capacity of existing facilities as specified in the inventory maintained by the Department of Education. Projections of facility space needs must comply with standards for determining space needs as specified by rule of the State Board of Education. The 5-year projection of capital outlay student enrollment must be consistent with the annual report of capital outlay full-time student enrollment prepared by the Department of Education.
- 3.4. Each state university's survey must reflect the capacity of existing facilities as specified in the inventory maintained and validated by the Chancellor of the State University System. Projections of facility space needs must be

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consistent with standards for determining space needs as specified by regulation of the Board of Governors. The projected capital outlay full-time equivalent student enrollment must be consistent with the 5-year planned enrollment cycle for the State University System approved by the Board of Governors.

 $\underline{4.5.}$ The district educational facilities plan of a school district and the educational plant survey of a Florida College System institution, state university, or the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind may include space needs that deviate from approved standards for determining space needs if the deviation is justified by the district or institution and approved by the department or the Board of Governors, as appropriate, as necessary for the delivery of an approved educational program.

(c) (d) Review and validation. - The Department of Education shall review and validate the surveys of school districts and Florida College System institutions, and the Chancellor of the State University System shall review and validate the surveys of universities, and any amendments thereto for compliance with the requirements of this chapter and shall recommend those in compliance for approval by the State Board of Education or the Board of Governors, as appropriate. Annually, the department shall perform an in-depth analysis of a representative sample of each survey of recommended needs for five districts selected by the commissioner from among districts with the largest need-torevenue ratio. For the purpose of this subsection, the need-torevenue ratio is determined by dividing the total 5-year cost of projects listed on the district survey by the total 5-year fixed capital outlay revenue projections from state and local sources as determined by the department. The commissioner may condition

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the receipt of direct fixed capital outlay funds provided from general revenue or from state trust funds by district school boards to be withheld from districts until such time as the district school board submits a survey that accurately projects facilities needs as indicated by the Florida Inventory of School Houses, as compared with the district's capital outlay full-time equivalent enrollment, as determined by the department.

- (d) (e) Periodic update of Florida Inventory of School Houses.—School districts shall periodically update their inventory of educational facilities as new capacity becomes available and as unsatisfactory space is eliminated. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to determine the timeframe in which districts must provide a periodic update.
- (2) Only the district school superintendent, Florida College System institution president, or the university president shall certify to the Department of Education a project's compliance with the requirements for expenditure of PECO funds prior to release of funds.
- (a) Upon request for release of PECO funds for planning purposes, certification must be made to the Department of Education that the need for and location of the facility are in compliance with the board-approved survey recommendations, that the project meets the definition of a PECO project and the limiting criteria for expenditures of PECO funding, and that the plan is consistent with the local government comprehensive plan.
- (b) Upon request for release of construction funds, certification must be made to the Department of Education that the need and location of the facility are in compliance with the board-approved survey recommendations, that the project meets

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the definition of a PECO project and the limiting criteria for expenditures of PECO funding, and that the construction documents meet the requirements of the Florida Building Code for educational facilities construction, subject to the authorization in s. 1013.385 to exempt certain facilities from the requirements of s. 1013.37, or other applicable codes as authorized in this chapter.

Section 36. Section 1013.35, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1013.35 School district educational facilities plan; definitions; preparation, adoption, and amendment; long-term work programs.—

- (1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:
- (a) "Adopted educational facilities plan" means the comprehensive planning document that is adopted annually by the district school board as provided in subsection (2) and that contains the educational plant survey.
- (b) "District facilities work program" means the 5-year listing of capital outlay projects adopted by the district school board as provided in subparagraph (2) (a) 2. and paragraph (2) (b) as part of the district educational facilities plan, which is required in order to:
- 1. Properly maintain the educational plant and ancillary facilities of the district.
- 2. Provide an adequate number of satisfactory student stations for the projected student enrollment of the district in K-12 programs in accordance with the goal in s. 1013.21.
- (c) "Tentative educational facilities plan" means the comprehensive planning document prepared annually by the

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district school board and submitted to the Office of Educational Facilities and the affected general-purpose local governments.

(2) PREPARATION OF TENTATIVE DISTRICT EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES PLAN.—

(a) Annually, before prior to the adoption of the district school budget, each district school board shall prepare a tentative district educational facilities plan that includes long-range planning for facilities needs over 5-year, 10-year, and 20-year periods. The plan must be developed in coordination with the general-purpose local governments and be consistent with the local government comprehensive plans. The school board's plan for provision of new schools must meet the needs of all growing communities in the district, ranging from small rural communities to large urban cities. The plan must include:

1. Projected student populations apportioned geographically at the local level. The projections must be based on information produced by the demographic, revenue, and education estimating conferences pursuant to s. 216.136, where available, as modified by the district based on development data and agreement with the local governments and the Office of Educational Facilities. The projections must be apportioned geographically with assistance from the local governments using local development trend data and the school district student enrollment data.

2. An inventory of existing school facilities. Any anticipated expansions or closures of existing school sites over the 5-year, 10-year, and 20-year periods must be identified. The inventory must include an assessment of areas proximate to existing schools and identification of the need for improvements to infrastructure, safety, including safe access routes, and

581-01443-24 20247002 1567 conditions in the community. The plan must also provide a 1568 listing of major repairs and renovation projects anticipated 1569 over the period of the plan. 3. Projections of facilities space needs, which may not 1570 1571 exceed the norm space and occupant design criteria established 1572 in the State Requirements for Educational Facilities. 1573 4. Information on leased, loaned, and donated space and 1574 relocatables used for conducting the district's instructional 1575 programs. 1576 5. The general location of public schools proposed to be 1577 constructed over the 5-year, 10-year, and 20-year time periods, 1578 including a listing of the proposed schools' site acreage needs 1579 and anticipated capacity and maps showing the general locations. 1580 The school board's identification of general locations of future 1581 school sites must be based on the school siting requirements of 1582 s. 163.3177(6)(a) and policies in the comprehensive plan which 1583 provide quidance for appropriate locations for school sites. 1584 6. The identification of options deemed reasonable and 1585 approved by the school board which reduce the need for 1586 additional permanent student stations. Such options may include, 1587 but need not be limited to: 1588 a. Acceptable capacity; 1589 b. Redistricting; 1590 c. Busing; 1591 d. Year-round schools; 1592 e. Charter schools; 1593 f. Magnet schools; and g. Public-private partnerships. 1594 1595 7. The criteria and method, jointly determined by the local

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government and the school board, for determining the impact of proposed development to public school capacity.

- (b) The plan must also include a financially feasible district facilities work program for a 5-year period. The work program must include:
- 1. A schedule of major repair and renovation projects
 necessary to maintain the educational facilities and ancillary
 facilities of the district.
- 2. A schedule of capital outlay projects necessary to ensure the availability of satisfactory student stations for the projected student enrollment in K-12 programs. This schedule shall consider:
- a. The locations, capacities, and planned utilization rates of current educational facilities of the district. The capacity of existing satisfactory facilities, as reported in the Florida Inventory of School Houses must be compared to the capital outlay full-time-equivalent student enrollment as determined by the department, including all enrollment used in the calculation of the distribution formula in s. 1013.64.
- b. The proposed locations of planned facilities, whether those locations are consistent with the comprehensive plans of all affected local governments, and recommendations for infrastructure and other improvements to land adjacent to existing facilities. The provisions of ss. 1013.33(6), (7), and (8) and 1013.36 must be addressed for new facilities planned within the first 3 years of the work plan, as appropriate.
- c. Plans for the use and location of relocatable facilities, leased facilities, and charter school facilities. d. Plans for multitrack scheduling, grade level

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organization, block scheduling, or other alternatives that reduce the need for additional permanent student stations.

e. Information concerning average class size and utilization rate by grade level within the district which will result if the tentative district facilities work program is fully implemented.

f. The number and percentage of district students planned to be educated in relocatable facilities during each year of the tentative district facilities work program. For determining future needs, student capacity may not be assigned to any relocatable classroom that is scheduled for elimination or replacement with a permanent educational facility in the current year of the adopted district educational facilities plan and in the district facilities work program adopted under this section. Those relocatable classrooms clearly identified and scheduled for replacement in a school-board-adopted, financially feasible, 5-year district facilities work program shall be counted at zero capacity at the time the work program is adopted and approved by the school board. However, if the district facilities work program is changed and the relocatable classrooms are not replaced as scheduled in the work program, the classrooms must be reentered into the system and be counted at actual capacity. Relocatable classrooms may not be perpetually added to the work program or continually extended for purposes of circumventing this section. All relocatable classrooms not identified and scheduled for replacement, including those owned, leasepurchased, or leased by the school district, must be counted at actual student capacity. The district educational facilities plan must identify the number of relocatable student stations

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scheduled for replacement during the 5-year survey period and the total dollar amount needed for that replacement.

g. Plans for the closure of any school, including plans for disposition of the facility or usage of facility space, and anticipated revenues.

h. Projects for which capital outlay and debt service funds accruing under s. 9(d), Art. XII of the State Constitution are to be used shall be identified separately in priority order on a project priority list within the district facilities work program.

3. The projected cost for each project identified in the district facilities work program. For proposed projects for new student stations, a schedule shall be prepared comparing the planned cost and square footage for each new student station, by elementary, middle, and high school levels, to the low, average, and high cost of facilities constructed throughout the state during the most recent fiscal year for which data is available from the Department of Education.

4. A schedule of estimated capital outlay revenues from each currently approved source which is estimated to be available for expenditure on the projects included in the district facilities work program.

5. A schedule indicating which projects included in the district facilities work program will be funded from current revenues projected in subparagraph 4.

6. A schedule of options for the generation of additional revenues by the district for expenditure on projects identified in the district facilities work program which are not funded under subparagraph 5. Additional anticipated revenues may

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include Classrooms First funds.

(c) To the extent available, the tentative district educational facilities plan shall be based on information produced by the demographic, revenue, and education estimating conferences pursuant to s. 216.136.

- $\underline{\text{(2)}}$ (d) Provision $\underline{\text{must}}$ shall be made for public comment concerning the tentative district educational facilities plan.
- (e) The district school board shall coordinate with each affected local government to ensure consistency between the tentative district educational facilities plan and the local government comprehensive plans of the affected local governments during the development of the tentative district educational facilities plan.
- (3)(f) Not less than once every 5 years, the district school board shall have an audit conducted of the district's educational planning and construction activities. An operational audit conducted by the Auditor General pursuant to s. 11.45 satisfies this requirement.
- (4) (3) SUBMITTAL OF TENTATIVE DISTRICT EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES PLAN TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The district school board shall submit a copy of its tentative district educational facilities plan to all affected local governments before prior to adoption by the board. The affected local governments may shall review the tentative district educational facilities plan and comment to the district school board on the consistency of the plan with the local comprehensive plan, whether a comprehensive plan amendment will be necessary for any proposed educational facility, and whether the local government supports a necessary comprehensive plan amendment. If the local

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government does not support a comprehensive plan amendment for a proposed educational facility, the matter <u>must shall</u> be resolved pursuant to the interlocal agreement when required by ss.

1715 163.3177(6)(h), 163.31777, and 1013.33(2). The process for the submittal and review <u>must shall</u> be detailed in the interlocal agreement when required pursuant to ss. 163.3177(6)(h),

1718 163.31777, and 1013.33(2).

- Annually, the district school board shall consider and adopt the tentative district educational facilities plan completed pursuant to subsection (2). Upon giving proper notice to the public and local governments and opportunity for public comment, the district school board may amend the plan to revise the priority of projects, to add or delete projects, to reflect the impact of change orders, or to reflect the approval of new revenue sources which may become available. The adopted district educational facilities plan must shall:
- (a) Be a complete, balanced, and financially feasible capital outlay financial plan for the district.
- (b) Set forth the proposed commitments and planned expenditures of the district to address the educational facilities needs of its students and to adequately provide for the maintenance of the educational plant and ancillary facilities, including safe access ways from neighborhoods to schools.
- (6) (5) EXECUTION OF ADOPTED DISTRICT EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES PLAN.—The first year of the adopted district educational facilities plan constitutes shall constitute the capital outlay budget required in s. 1013.61. The adopted district educational

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facilities plan shall include the information required in subparagraphs (2) (b) 1., 2., and 3., based upon projects actually funded in the plan.

Section 37. Section 1013.356, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1013.356 Local funding for educational facilities benefit districts or community development districts.—Upon confirmation by a district school board of the commitment of revenues by an educational facilities benefit district or community development district necessary to construct and maintain an educational facility contained within an individual district facilities work program or proposed by an approved charter school or a charter school applicant, the following funds shall be provided to the educational facilities benefit district or community development district annually, beginning with the next fiscal year after confirmation until the district's financial obligations are completed:

- (1) All educational facilities impact fee revenue collected for new development within the educational facilities benefit district or community development district. Funds provided under this subsection shall be used to fund the construction and capital maintenance costs of educational facilities.
- (2) For construction and capital maintenance costs not covered by the funds provided under subsection (1), an annual amount contributed by the district school board equal to one-half of the remaining costs of construction and capital maintenance of the educational facility. Any construction costs above the cost-per-student criteria established in s.

 1013.64(6)(b)1. shall be funded exclusively by the educational

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1770 facilities benefit district or the community development
1771 district. Funds contributed by a district school board shall not
1772 be used to fund operational costs.

Educational facilities funded pursuant to this act may be constructed on land that is owned by any person after the district school board has acquired from the owner of the land a long-term lease for the use of this land for a period of not less than 40 years or the life expectancy of the permanent facilities constructed thereon, whichever is longer. All interlocal agreements entered into pursuant to this act must shall provide for ownership of educational facilities funded pursuant to this act to revert to the district school board if such facilities cease to be used for public educational purposes before prior to 40 years after construction or prior to the end of the life expectancy of the educational facilities, whichever is longer.

Section 38. Section 1013.385, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1013.385 School district construction flexibility.-

(1) A district school board may, with a majority vote at a public meeting that begins no earlier than 5 p.m., adopt a resolution to implement one or more of the exceptions to the educational facilities construction requirements to provide provided in this section.

(2) A resolution adopted under this section may propose implementation of exceptions to requirements of the uniform statewide building code for the planning and construction of public educational and ancillary plants adopted pursuant to ss.

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553.73 and 1013.37 relating to:

- (a) Interior non-load-bearing walls, by approving the use of fire-rated wood stud walls in new construction or remodeling for interior non-load-bearing wall assemblies that will not be exposed to water or located in wet areas.
- (b) Walkways, roadways, driveways, and parking areas, by approving the use of designated, stabilized, and well-drained gravel or grassed student parking areas.
- (c) Standards for relocatables used as classroom space, as specified in s. 1013.20, by approving construction specifications for installation of relocatable buildings that do not have covered walkways leading to the permanent buildings onsite.
- (d) Site lighting, by approving construction specifications regarding site lighting that:
- 1. Do not provide for lighting of gravel or grassed auxiliary or student parking areas.
- 2. Provide lighting for walkways, roadways, driveways, paved parking lots, exterior stairs, ramps, and walkways from the exterior of the building to a public walkway through installation of a timer that is set to provide lighting only during periods when the site is occupied.
- 3. Allow lighting for building entrances and exits to be installed with a timer that is set to provide lighting only during periods in which the building is occupied. The minimum illumination level at single-door exits may be reduced to no less than 1 foot-candle.
- (e) Any other provisions that limit \underline{a} school with the ability \underline{of} a school to operate in a facility on the same basis

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as a charter school pursuant to s. 1002.33(18). When a hurricane evacuation shelter deficit, as determined by the Division of Emergency Management, in the regional planning council region in which the county is located makes public shelter design criteria applicable, any exceptions to the public shelter design criteria remain subject to the concurrence of the applicable local emergency management agency or the Division of Emergency Management so long as the regional planning council determines that there is sufficient shelter capacity within the school district as documented in the Statewide Emergency Shelter Plan.

A school board may not be required to build more emergency—shelter space than identified as needed in the Statewide Emergency Shelter Plan.

Section 39. Subsections (3) and (4) of section 1013.41, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1013.41 SMART schools; Classrooms First; legislative purpose.—

(3) SCHOOL DISTRICT EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES PLAN.—It is the purpose of the Legislature to create s. 1013.35, requiring each school district annually to adopt an educational facilities plan that provides an integrated long-range facilities plan, including the survey of projected needs and the 5-year work program. The purpose of the educational facilities plan is to keep the district school board, local governments, and the public fully informed as to whether the district is using sound policies and practices that meet the essential needs of students and that warrant public confidence in district operations. The educational facilities plan will be monitored by the Office of Educational Facilities, which will also apply performance

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standards pursuant to s. 1013.04.

(4) OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES.—It is the purpose of the Legislature to require the Office of Educational Facilities to assist school districts in building SMART schools utilizing functional and frugal practices. The Office of Educational Facilities shall must review district facilities work programs and projects and identify opportunities to maximize design and construction savings; develop school district facilities work program performance standards; and provide for review and recommendations to the Governor, the Legislature, and the State Board of Education.

Section 40. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) and subsection (4) of section 1013.45, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1013.45 Educational facilities contracting and construction techniques for school districts and Florida College System institutions.—

- (1) District school boards and boards of trustees of Florida College System institutions may employ procedures to contract for construction of new facilities, or for additions, remodeling, renovation, maintenance, or repairs to existing facilities, which include, but are not limited to:
- (e) Day-labor contracts not exceeding \$280,000 for construction, renovation, remodeling, or maintenance of existing facilities. This amount shall be adjusted annually based upon changes in the Consumer Price Index. <u>District school boards are exempt from the contract limitations provided in this paragraph.</u>
- (4) Except as otherwise provided in this section and s. 481.229, the services of a registered architect must be used \underline{by} Florida College System institution and state university boards

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of trustees for the development of plans for the erection, enlargement, or alteration of any educational facility. The services of a registered architect are not required for a minor renovation project for which the construction cost is less than \$50,000 or for the placement or hookup of relocatable educational-facilities that conform to standards adopted under s. 1013.37. However, boards must provide compliance with building code requirements and ensure that these structures are adequately anchored for wind resistance as required by law. A district school board shall reuse existing construction documents or design criteria packages if such reuse is feasible and practical. If a school district's 5-year educational facilities work plan includes the construction of two or more new schools for students in the same grade group and program, such as elementary, middle, or high school, the district school board must require that prototype design and construction be used for the construction of these schools. Notwithstanding s. 287.055, a board may purchase the architectural services for the design of educational or ancillary facilities under an existing contract agreement for professional services held by a district school board in the State of Florida, provided that the purchase is to the economic advantage of the purchasing board, the services conform to the standards prescribed by rules of the State Board of Education, and such reuse is not without notice to, and permission from, the architect of record whose plans or design criteria are being reused. Plans must be reviewed for compliance with the State Requirements for Educational Facilities. Rules adopted under this section must establish uniform prequalification, selection, bidding, and negotiation

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procedures applicable to construction management contracts and the design-build process. This section does not supersede any small, woman-owned, or minority-owned business enterprise preference program adopted by a board. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the negotiation procedures applicable to construction management contracts and the design-build process must conform to the requirements of s. 287.055. A board may not modify any rules regarding construction management contracts or the design-build process.

Section 41. <u>Section 1013.451</u>, <u>Florida Statutes</u>, is repealed.

Section 42. Section 1013.48, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1013.48 Changes in construction requirements after award of contract.—The board may, at its option and by written policy duly adopted and entered in its official minutes, authorize the superintendent or president or other designated individual to approve change orders in the name of the board for preestablished amounts. Approvals <u>must shall</u> be for the purpose of expediting the work in progress and <u>must shall</u> be reported to the board and entered in its official minutes. For accountability, the school district shall monitor and report the impact of change orders on its district educational facilities plan pursuant to s. 1013.35.

Section 43. Section 1013.64, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1013.64 Funds for comprehensive educational plant needs; construction cost maximums for school district capital projects.—Allocations from the Public Education Capital Outlay

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and Debt Service Trust Fund to the various boards for capital outlay projects must shall be determined as follows:

- (1)(a) Funds for remodeling, renovation, maintenance, repairs, and site improvement for existing satisfactory facilities shall be given priority consideration by the Legislature for appropriations allocated to the boards from the total amount of the Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund appropriated. These funds shall be calculated pursuant to the following basic formula: the building value times the building age over the sum of the years' digits assuming a 50-year building life. For modular noncombustible facilities, a 35-year life shall be used, and for relocatable facilities, a 20-year life shall be used. "Building value" is calculated by multiplying each building's total assignable square feet times the appropriate net-to-gross conversion rate found in state board rules and that product times the current average new construction cost. "Building age" is calculated by multiplying the prior year's building age times 1 minus the prior year's sum received from this subsection divided by the prior year's building value. To the net result shall be added the number 1. Each board shall receive the percentage generated by the preceding formula of the total amount appropriated for the purposes of this section.
- (b) Each board is prohibited from using the funds received pursuant to this section to supplant funds in the current fiscal year approved operating budget, and all budgeted funds shall be expended at a rate not less than would have been expended had the funds under this section not been received.
 - (c) Each remodeling, renovation, maintenance, repair, or

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site improvement project will expand or upgrade current educational plants to prolong the useful life of the plant.

- (d) Each board shall maintain fund accounting in a manner which will permit a detailed audit of the funds expended in this program.
- (e) Remodeling projects <u>must</u> shall be based on the recommendations of a survey pursuant to s. 1013.31, or, for district school boards, as indicated by the relative need as determined by the Florida Inventory of School Houses and the capital outlay full-time equivalent enrollment in the district.
- institution's or state university's board of trustees' board's annual allocation provided under this section <u>must shall</u> be spent to correct unsafe, unhealthy, or unsanitary conditions in its educational facilities, as required by s. 1013.12, or a lesser amount sufficient to correct all deficiencies cited in its annual comprehensive safety inspection reports. This paragraph <u>must shall</u> not be construed to limit the amount a board may expend to correct such deficiencies.
- (g) When an existing educational plant is determined to be unsatisfactory pursuant to the survey conducted under s. 1013.31, the board may, by resolution, designate the plant as a historic educational facility and may use funds generated for renovation and remodeling pursuant to this section to restore the facility for use by the board. The board shall agree to pay renovation and remodeling costs in excess of funds which such facility would have generated through the depreciation formula in paragraph (a) had the facility been determined to be satisfactory. The board shall further agree that the plant shall

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continue to house students. The board may designate a plant as a historic educational facility only if the Division of Historical Resources of the Department of State or the appropriate historic preservation board under chapter 266 certifies that:

- 1. The plant is listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, 16 U.S.C. s. 470;
- 2. The plant is designated historic within a certified local district pursuant to s. 48(g)(3)(B)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code; or
- 3. The division or historic preservation board otherwise finds that the plant is historically significant.
- (h) University boards of trustees may utilize funds appropriated pursuant to this section for replacement of minor facilities. Minor facilities may not be replaced from funds provided pursuant to this section unless the board determines that the cost of repair or renovation is greater than or equal to the cost of replacement.
- (2)(a) The department shall establish, as a part of the Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund, a separate account, in an amount determined by the Legislature, to be known as the "Special Facility Construction Account." The Special Facility Construction Account shall be used to provide necessary construction funds to school districts which have urgent construction needs but which lack sufficient resources at present, and cannot reasonably anticipate sufficient resources within the period of the next 3 years, for these purposes from currently authorized sources of capital outlay revenue. A school

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district requesting funding from the Special Facility Construction Account shall submit one specific construction project, not to exceed one complete educational plant, to the Special Facility Construction Committee. A district may not receive funding for more than one approved project in any 3-year period or while any portion of the district's participation requirement is outstanding. The first year of the 3-year period shall be the first year a district receives an appropriation. During the 2019-2020 school year, a school district that sustained hurricane damage in the 2018-2019 school year may request funding from the Special Facility Construction Account for a new project before the completion of the district's participation requirement for an outstanding project. The department shall encourage a construction program that reduces the average size of schools in the district. The request must meet the following criteria to be considered by the committee:

1. The project must be deemed a critical need and must be recommended for funding by the Special Facility Construction Committee. Before developing construction plans for the proposed facility, the district school board must request a preapplication review by the Special Facility Construction Committee or a project review subcommittee convened by the chair of the committee to include two representatives of the department and two staff members from school districts not eligible to participate in the program. A school district may request a preapplication review at any time; however, if the district school board seeks inclusion in the department's next annual capital outlay legislative budget request, the preapplication review request must be made before February 1.

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Within 90 days after receiving the preapplication review request, the committee or subcommittee must meet in the school district to review the project proposal and existing facilities. To determine whether the proposed project is a critical need, the committee or subcommittee shall consider, at a minimum, the capacity of all existing facilities within the district as determined by the Florida Inventory of School Houses; the district's pattern of student growth; the district's existing and projected capital outlay full-time equivalent student enrollment as determined by the demographic, revenue, and education estimating conferences established in s. 216.136; the district's existing satisfactory student stations in the vicinity of the proposed facility; the use of all existing district property and facilities; grade level configurations; and any other information that may affect the need for the proposed project.

- 2. The construction project must be recommended in the most recent survey or survey amendment cooperatively prepared by the district school board and the department, and approved by the department under the rules of the State Board of Education. If a district school board employs a consultant in the preparation of a survey or survey amendment, the consultant may not be employed by or receive compensation from a third party that designs or constructs a project recommended by the survey.
- 3. The construction project must appear on the district's approved project priority list under the rules of the State Board of Education.
- 4. The district <u>school board</u> must have selected and had approved a site for the construction project in compliance with

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s. 1013.36 and the rules of the State Board of Education.

- 5. The district school board shall have developed a district school board adopted list of facilities that do not exceed the norm for net square feet occupancy requirements under the State Requirements for Educational Facilities, using all possible programmatic combinations for multiple use of space to obtain maximum daily use of all spaces within the facility under consideration.
- 6. Upon construction, the total cost per student station, including change orders, must not exceed the cost per student station as provided in subsection (6) unless approved by the Special Facility Construction Committee. At the discretion of the committee, costs that exceed the cost per student station for special facilities may include legal and administrative fees, the cost of site improvements or related offsite improvements, the cost of complying with public shelter and hurricane hardening requirements, cost overruns created by a disaster as defined in s. 252.34(2), costs of security enhancements approved by the school safety specialist, and unforeseeable circumstances beyond the district's control.
- 7. There shall be an agreement signed by the district school board stating that it will advertise for bids within 30 days of receipt of its encumbrance authorization from the department.
- 7.8. For construction projects for which Special Facilities Construction Account funding is sought before the 2019-2020 fiscal year, the district shall, at the time of the request and for a continuing period necessary to meet the district's participation requirement, levy the maximum millage against its

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nonexempt assessed property value as allowed in s. 1011.71(2) or shall raise an equivalent amount of revenue from the school capital outlay surtax authorized under s. 212.055(6). Beginning with construction projects for which Special Facilities Construction Account funding is sought in the 2019-2020 fiscal year, the district shall, for a minimum of 3 years before submitting the request and for a continuing period necessary to meet its participation requirement, levy the maximum millage against the district's nonexempt assessed property value as authorized under s. 1011.71(2) or shall raise an equivalent amount of revenue from the school capital outlay surtax authorized under s. 212.055(6). Any district with a new or active project, funded under the provisions of this subsection, shall be required to budget no more than the value of 1 mill per year to the project until the district's participation requirement relating to the local discretionary capital improvement millage or the equivalent amount of revenue from the school capital outlay surtax is satisfied.

- 8.9. If a contract has not been signed 90 days after the advertising of bids, the funding for the specific project shall revert to the Special Facility New Construction Account to be reallocated to other projects on the list. However, an additional 90 days may be granted by the commissioner.
- 9.10. The department shall certify the inability of the district to fund the survey-recommended project over a continuous 3-year period using projected capital outlay revenue derived from s. 9(d), Art. XII of the State Constitution, as amended, paragraph (3)(a) of this section, and s. 1011.71(2).
 - 10.11. The district shall have on file with the department

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an adopted resolution acknowledging its commitment to satisfy its participation requirement, which is equivalent to all unencumbered and future revenue acquired from s. 9(d), Art. XII of the State Constitution, as amended, paragraph (3)(a) of this section, and s. 1011.71(2), in the year of the initial appropriation and for the 2 years immediately following the initial appropriation.

- 11.12. Phase I plans must be approved by the district school board as being in compliance with the building and life safety codes before June 1 of the year the application is made.
- (b) The Special Facility Construction Committee shall be composed of the following: two representatives of the Department of Education, a representative from the Governor's office, a representative selected annually by the district school boards, and a representative selected annually by the superintendents. A representative of the department shall chair the committee.
- (c) The committee shall review the requests submitted from the districts, evaluate the ability of the project to relieve critical needs, and rank the requests in priority order. This statewide priority list for special facilities construction shall be submitted to the Legislature in the commissioner's annual capital outlay legislative budget request at least 45 days prior to the legislative session.
- (3) (a) Each district school board shall receive an amount from the Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund to be calculated by computing the capital outlay membership as determined by the department. Such membership must include, but is not limited to, prekindergarten through grade 12 students whose instruction is funded by the Florida Education Finance

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Program and for whom the school district provides the educational facility.

- (b) The capital outlay full-time equivalent membership shall be determined by counting the reported unweighted full-time equivalent student membership for the second and third surveys with each survey limited to 0.5 full-time equivalent student membership per student and comparing the results on a school-by-school basis with the Florida Inventory of School Houses.
- (c) The capital outlay full-time equivalent membership by grade level organization shall be used in making calculations. The capital outlay membership by grade level organization for the 4th prior year must be used to compute the base-year allocation. The capital outlay full-time equivalent membership by grade-level organization for the prior year must be used to compute the growth over the highest of the 3 years preceding the prior year. From the total amount appropriated by the Legislature pursuant to this subsection, 40 percent shall be allocated among the base capital outlay full-time equivalent membership and 60 percent among the growth capital outlay fulltime equivalent membership. The allocation within each of these groups shall be prorated to the districts based upon each district's percentage of base and growth capital outlay fulltime equivalent membership. The most recent 4-year capital outlay full-time equivalent membership data shall be used in each subsequent year's calculation for the allocation of funds pursuant to this subsection. If a change, correction, or recomputation of data during any year results in a reduction or increase of the calculated amount previously allocated to a

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district, the allocation to that district shall be adjusted accordingly. If such recomputation results in an increase or decrease of the calculated amount, such additional or reduced amounts shall be added to or reduced from the district's future appropriations. However, no change, correction, or recomputation of data shall be made subsequent to 2 years following the initial annual allocation.

- (d) Funds accruing to a district school board from the provisions of this section shall be expended on needed projects as shown by survey or surveys under the rules of the State Board of Education.
- (e) A district school board may lease relocatable educational facilities for up to 3 years using nonbonded PECO funds and for any time period using local capital outlay millage.
- (f) Funds distributed to the district school boards shall be allocated solely based on the provisions of paragraphs (1)(a) and (2)(a) and paragraphs (a)-(c) of this subsection. No individual school district projects shall be funded off the top of funds allocated to district school boards.
- (4) (a) Florida College System institution boards of trustees and university boards of trustees shall receive funds for projects based on a 3-year priority list, to be updated annually, which is submitted to the Legislature in the legislative budget request at least 90 days prior to the legislative session. The State Board of Education shall submit a 3-year priority list for Florida College System institutions, and the Board of Governors shall submit a 3-year priority list for universities. The lists shall reflect decisions by the State

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2234 Board of Education for Florida College System institutions and 2235 the Board of Governors for state universities concerning program 2236 priorities that implement the statewide plan for program growth 2237 and quality improvement in education. No remodeling or 2238 renovation project shall be included on the 3-year priority list 2239 unless the project has been recommended pursuant to s. 1013.31 2240 or is for the purpose of correcting health and safety 2241 deficiencies. No new construction project shall be included on 2242 the first year of the 3-year priority list unless the 2243 educational specifications have been approved by the 2244 commissioner for a Florida College System institution project or 2245 by the Board of Governors for a university project, as 2246 applicable. The funds requested for a new construction project 2247 in the first year of the 3-year priority list shall be in 2248 conformance with the scope of the project as defined in the 2249 educational specifications. Any new construction project 2250 requested in the first year of the 3-year priority list which is 2251 not funded by the Legislature shall be carried forward to be 2252 listed first in developing the updated 3-year priority list for 2253 the subsequent year's capital outlay budget. Should the order of 2254 the priority of the projects change from year to year, a 2255 justification for such change shall be included with the updated 2256 priority list.

- (b) Florida College System institution boards of trustees and university boards of trustees may lease relocatable educational facilities for up to 3 years using nonbonded PECO funds.
- (c) Florida College System institution boards of trustees and university boards of trustees shall receive funds for

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remodeling, renovation, maintenance and repairs, and site improvement for existing satisfactory facilities pursuant to subsection (1).

- (5) District school boards shall identify each fund source and the use of each proportionate to the project cost, as identified in the bid document, to assure compliance with this section. The data shall be submitted to the department, which shall track this information as submitted by the boards. PECO funds shall not be expended as indicated in the following:
- (a) District school boards shall provide landscaping by local funding sources or initiatives. District school boards are exempt from local landscape ordinances but may comply with the local requirements if such compliance is less costly than compliance with the landscape requirements of the Florida Building Code for public educational facilities.
- (b) PECO funds shall not be used for the construction of football fields, bleachers, site lighting for athletic facilities, tennis courts, stadiums, racquetball courts, or any other competition-type facilities not required for physical education curriculum. Regional or intradistrict football stadiums may be constructed with these funds provided a minimum of two high schools and two middle schools are assigned to the facility and the stadiums are survey recommended. Sophisticated auditoria shall be limited to magnet performing arts schools, with all other schools using basic lighting and sound systems as determined by rule. Local funds shall be used for enhancement of athletic and performing arts facilities.
- (6)(a) Each district school board must meet all educational plant space needs of its elementary, middle, and high schools

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before spending funds from the Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund or the School District and Community College District Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund for any ancillary plant or any other new construction, renovation, or remodeling of ancillary space. Expenditures to meet such space needs may include expenditures for site acquisition; new construction of educational plants; renovation, remodeling, and maintenance and repair of existing educational plants, including auxiliary facilities; and the directly related costs of such services of school district personnel. It is not the intent of the Legislature to preclude the use of capital outlay funding for the labor costs necessary to accomplish the authorized uses for the capital outlay funding. Day-labor contracts or any other educational facilities contracting and construction techniques pursuant to s. 1013.45 are authorized. Additionally, if a school district has salaried maintenance staff whose duties consist solely of performing the labor necessary to accomplish the authorized uses for the capital outlay funding, such funding may be used for those salaries; however, if a school district has salaried staff whose duties consist partially of performing the labor necessary to accomplish the authorized uses for the capital outlay funding, the district shall prorate the portion of salary of each such employee that is based on labor for authorized capital outlay funding, and such funding may be used to pay that portion.

(b) 1. A district school board may not use funds from the following sources: Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund; School District and Community College District Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund; Classrooms

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First Program funds provided in s. 1013.68; nonvoted 1.5-mill levy of ad valorem property taxes provided in s. 1011.71(2); 2322 2323 Classrooms for Kids Program funds provided in s. 1013.735; 2324 District Effort Recognition Program funds provided in s. 2325 1013.736; or High Growth District Capital Outlay Assistance 2326 Grant Program funds provided in s. 1013.738 to pay for any 2327 portion of the cost of any new construction of educational plant 2328 space with a total cost per student station, including change 2329 orders, which exceeds: a. \$17,952 for an elementary school;

b. \$19,386 for a middle school; or

c. \$25,181 for a high school,

(January 2006) as adjusted annually to reflect increases or decreases in the Consumer Price Index. The department, in conjunction with the Office of Economic and Demographic Research, shall estimate review and adjust the cost per student station limits to reflect actual construction costs by January 1, 2020, and annually thereafter. The adjusted cost per student station shall be used by the department for computation of the statewide average costs per student station for each instructional level pursuant to paragraph (d). The department $\underline{\text{may}}$ shall also collaborate with the Office of Economic and Demographic Research to select an industry-recognized construction index to reflect annual changes in the cost per student station replace the Consumer Price Index by January 1, 2020, adjusted annually to reflect changes in the construction index.

2. District school boards School districts shall maintain

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accurate documentation related to the costs of all new construction of educational plant space reported to the Department of Education pursuant to paragraph (c) (d). The Auditor General shall review the documentation maintained by the school districts and verify compliance with the limits under this paragraph during its scheduled operational audits of the school district.

- 3. Except for educational facilities and sites subject to a lease-purchase agreement entered pursuant to s. 1011.71(2)(e) or funded solely through local impact fees, in addition to the funding sources listed in subparagraph 1., a district school board may not use funds from any sources for new construction of educational plant space with a total cost per student station, including change orders, which equals more than the current adjusted amounts provided in sub-subparagraphs 1.a.-c. However, if a contract has been executed for architectural and design services or for construction management services before July 1, 2017, a district school board may use funds from any source for the new construction of educational plant space and such funds are exempt from the total cost per student station requirements.
- 4. A district school board must not use funds from the Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund or the School District and Community College District Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund for any new construction of an ancillary plant that exceeds 70 percent of the average cost per square foot of new construction for all schools.
- (c) Except as otherwise provided, new construction for which a contract has been executed for architectural and design services or for construction management services by a district

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school board on or after July 1, 2017, may not exceed the cost per student station as provided in paragraph (b).

(d) The department shall:

- 1. Compute for each calendar year the statewide average construction costs for facilities serving each instructional level, for relocatable educational facilities, for administrative facilities, and for other ancillary and auxiliary facilities. The department shall compute the statewide average costs per student station for each instructional level.
- 2. Annually review the actual completed construction costs of educational facilities in each school district. For any school district in which the total actual cost per student station, including change orders, exceeds the statewide limits established in paragraph (b), the school district shall report to the department the actual cost per student station and the reason for the school district's inability to adhere to the limits established in paragraph (b). The department shall collect all such reports and shall provide these reports to the Auditor General for verification purposes.

Cost per student station includes contract costs, fees of architects and engineers, and the cost of furniture and equipment. Cost per student station does not include the cost of purchasing or leasing the site for the construction, legal and administrative costs, or the cost of related site or offsite improvements. Cost per student station also does not include the cost for securing entries, checkpoint construction, lighting specifically designed for entry point security, security cameras, automatic locks and locking devices, electronic

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security systems, fencing designed to prevent intruder entry into a building, bullet-proof glass, or other capital construction items approved by the school safety specialist to ensure building security for new educational, auxiliary, or ancillary facilities.

(e) Notwithstanding the requirements of this subsection, an unfinished construction project for new construction of educational plant space that was started on or before July 1, 2026, is exempt from the total cost per student station requirements established in paragraph (b).

Section 44. Subsections (5) and (6) of section 1013.68, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1013.68 Classrooms First Program; uses.—

- (5) A school district may only receive a distribution for use pursuant to paragraph (2)(a) if the district school board certifies to the Commissioner of Education that the district has no <u>immediate</u> unmet need for permanent classroom facilities in its <u>facilities</u> 5-year capital outlay work plan. If the work plan contains such unmet needs, the district must use its distribution for the payment of bonds pursuant to paragraph (2)(b). If the district does not require its full bonded distribution to eliminate such unmet need, it may bond only that portion of its allocation necessary to meet the needs.
- (6) School districts may enter into interlocal agreements to lend their Classrooms First Program funds as provided in paragraph (2)(c). A school district or multiple school districts that receive cash proceeds may, after considering their own new construction needs outlined in their 5-year district facilities work program, lend their Classrooms First Program funds to

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another school district that has need for new facilities. The interlocal agreement must be approved by the Commissioner of Education and must outline the amount of the funds to be lent, the term of the loan, the repayment schedule, and any interest amount to be repaid in addition to the principal amount of the loan.

Section 45. Paragraph (e) of subsection (6) of section 163.3180, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

163.3180 Concurrency.-

(6)

(e) A school district that includes relocatable facilities in its inventory of student stations shall include the capacity of such relocatable facilities as provided in s. \\\
\frac{1013.35(2)(b)2.f.}{}, \text{ provided the relocatable facilities were purchased after 1998 and the relocatable facilities meet the standards for long-term use pursuant to s. 1013.20.

Section 46. Subsection (5) of section 1002.31, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.31 Controlled open enrollment; public school parental choice.—

(5) For a school or program that is a public school of choice under this section, the calculation for compliance with maximum class size pursuant to $\underline{s.\ 1003.03(1)}\ \underline{s.\ 1003.03(4)}$ is the average number of students at the school level.

Section 47. Paragraph (i) of subsection (2) of section 1003.621, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.621 Academically high-performing school districts.—It is the intent of the Legislature to recognize and reward school districts that demonstrate the ability to consistently maintain

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or improve their high-performing status. The purpose of this section is to provide high-performing school districts with flexibility in meeting the specific requirements in statute and rules of the State Board of Education.

- (2) COMPLIANCE WITH STATUTES AND RULES.—Each academically high-performing school district shall comply with all of the provisions in chapters 1000-1013, and rules of the State Board of Education which implement these provisions, pertaining to the following:
- (i) Those statutes pertaining to educational facilities, including chapter 1013, except that s. 1013.20, relating to covered walkways for portables, and s. 1013.21, relating to the use of relocatable facilities that exceed 20 years of age, are eligible for exemption.

Section 48. Paragraph (e) of subsection (2) of section 1003.631, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.631 Schools of Excellence.—The Schools of Excellence Program is established to provide administrative flexibility to the state's top schools so that the instructional personnel and administrative staff at such schools can continue to serve their communities and increase student learning to the best of their professional ability.

- (2) ADMINISTRATIVE FLEXIBILITIES.—A School of Excellence must be provided the following administrative flexibilities:
- (e) Calculation for compliance with maximum class size pursuant to $\underline{\text{s. }1003.03(1)}$ $\underline{\text{s. }1003.03(4)}$ based on the average number of students at the school level.

Section 49. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section 1011.6202, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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1011.6202 Principal Autonomy Program Initiative.—The Principal Autonomy Program Initiative is created within the Department of Education. The purpose of the program is to provide a highly effective principal of a participating school with increased autonomy and authority to operate his or her school, as well as other schools, in a way that produces significant improvements in student achievement and school management while complying with constitutional requirements. The State Board of Education may, upon approval of a principal autonomy proposal, enter into a performance contract with the district school board for participation in the program.

- (3) EXEMPTION FROM LAWS.-
- (b) A participating school or a school operated by a principal pursuant to subsection (5) shall comply with the provisions of chapters 1000-1013, and rules of the state board that implement those provisions, pertaining to the following:
- 1. Those laws relating to the election and compensation of district school board members, the election or appointment and compensation of district school superintendents, public meetings and public records requirements, financial disclosure, and conflicts of interest.
- 2. Those laws relating to the student assessment program and school grading system, including chapter 1008.
- 3. Those laws relating to the provision of services to students with disabilities.
- 4. Those laws relating to civil rights, including s. 1000.05, relating to discrimination.
- 5. Those laws relating to student health, safety, and welfare.

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6. Section 1001.42(4)(f), relating to the uniform opening date for public schools.

- 7. Section 1003.03, governing maximum class size, except that the calculation for compliance pursuant to s. 1003.03 is the average at the school level for a participating school.
- 8. Sections 1012.22(1) (c) and 1012.27(2), relating to compensation and salary schedules.
- 9. Section 1012.33(5), relating to workforce reductions for annual contracts for instructional personnel. This subparagraph does not apply to at-will employees.
- 10. Section 1012.335, relating to annual contracts for instructional personnel hired on or after July 1, 2011. This subparagraph does not apply to at-will employees.
- 11. Section 1012.34, relating to personnel evaluation procedures and criteria.
- 12. Those laws pertaining to educational facilities, including chapter 1013, except that s. 1013.20, relating to covered walkways for relocatables, and s. 1013.21, relating to the use of relocatable facilities exceeding 20 years of age, are eligible for exemption.
- 13. Those laws pertaining to participating school districts, including this section and ss. 1011.69(2) and 1012.28(8).
- Section 50. Subsection (2) of section 1011.73, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 1011.73 District millage elections.
- (2) MILLAGE AUTHORIZED NOT TO EXCEED 4 YEARS.—The district school board, pursuant to resolution adopted at a regular meeting, shall direct the county commissioners to call an

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election at which the electors within the school district may approve an ad valorem tax millage as authorized under \underline{s} . $\underline{1011.71(8)}$ \underline{s} . $\underline{1011.71(9)}$. Such election may be held at any time, except that not more than one such election shall be held during any 12-month period. Any millage so authorized shall be levied for a period not in excess of 4 years or until changed by another millage election, whichever is earlier. If any such election is invalidated by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidated election shall be considered not to have been held.

Section 51. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 1012.555, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1012.555 Teacher Apprenticeship Program.-

(2)

(b) As a condition of participating in the program, an apprentice teacher must commit to spending the first 2 years in the classroom of a mentor teacher using team teaching strategies identified in $\underline{s.\ 1003.03(4)(b)}\ s.\ 1003.03(5)(b)$ and fulfilling the on-the-job training component of the registered apprenticeship and its associated standards.

Section 52. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section 1013.62, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1013.62 Charter schools capital outlay funding.-

- (3) If the school board levies the discretionary millage authorized in s. 1011.71(2), the department shall use the following calculation methodology to determine the amount of revenue that a school district must distribute to each eligible charter school:
 - (a) Reduce the total discretionary millage revenue by the

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2582 school district's annual debt service obligation incurred as of 2583 March 1, 2017, which has not been subsequently retired, and any 2584 amount of participation requirement pursuant to s. 2585 1013.64(2) (a) 7. s. 1013.64(2) (a) 8. that is being satisfied by 2586 revenues raised by the discretionary millage. 2587 2588 By October 1 of each year, each school district shall certify to 2589 the department the amount of debt service and participation 2590 requirement that complies with the requirement of paragraph (a) 2591 and can be reduced from the total discretionary millage revenue. 2592 The Auditor General shall verify compliance with the 2593 requirements of paragraph (a) and s. 1011.71(2)(e) during 2594 scheduled operational audits of school districts. 2595 Section 53. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.