

By the Committees on Appropriations; and Education Pre-K -12;  
and Senator Yarborough

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to education; amending s. 1002.321,  
3       F.S.; providing legislative findings; authorizing a  
4       school district to receive grant funds for specified  
5       purposes; requiring grant recipients to select an  
6       artificial intelligence platform that meets certain  
7       requirements; amending s. 1002.411, F.S.; revising  
8       eligibility requirements for a New Worlds Scholarship  
9       account; requiring a parent to use the administrator's  
10      system to make direct purchases of qualifying  
11      expenditures; specifying additional qualifying  
12      expenditures; requiring that the administrator of a  
13      New Worlds Scholarship account be an eligible  
14      nonprofit scholarship-funding organization; requiring  
15      each school district and prekindergarten provider to  
16      notify the parent of each eligible student of the  
17      process to request and receive a scholarship when  
18      providing certain screening and progress monitoring  
19      results; requiring eligible nonprofit scholarship-  
20      funding organizations to develop a system that allows  
21      eligible students to make direct purchases of  
22      qualifying expenditures; deleting a requirement for  
23      payments to be made on a quarterly basis; amending s.  
24      1003.485, F.S.; revising definitions of the terms  
25      "administrator" and "micro-credential"; deleting  
26      responsibilities for the Department of Education  
27      relating to the New Worlds Reading Initiative;  
28      requiring the department to provide the administrator  
29      with progress monitoring data for certain students;

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30 revising the information that the administrator must  
31 include in an annual financial report; making  
32 technical changes; creating s. 1004.561, F.S.;  
33 creating the Lastinger Center for Learning at the  
34 University of Florida; providing the duties of the  
35 center; amending s. 1008.25, F.S.; making technical  
36 changes; requiring that the progress monitoring system  
37 provide prekindergarten instructors with certain  
38 results within a specified timeframe; creating s.  
39 1008.366, F.S.; creating the New Worlds Tutoring  
40 Program; providing the purpose of the program;  
41 providing requirements for the program; requiring the  
42 administrator of the program to provide a report to  
43 specified entities by a specified date annually;  
44 amending ss. 1003.01 and 1003.499, F.S.; conforming  
45 cross-references; providing an effective date.

46  
47 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

48  
49 Section 1. Present subsections (4) and (5) of section  
50 1002.321, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (5)  
51 and (6), respectively, a new subsection (4) is added to that  
52 section, and subsection (3) of that section is amended, to read:

53 1002.321 Digital learning.—

54 (3) CUSTOMIZED AND ACCELERATED LEARNING.—The Legislature  
55 finds that artificial intelligence provides opportunities to  
56 customize and accelerate learning for students and reduce  
57 teacher workload. A school district may receive grant funds for  
58 subscription fees and professional learning to support and

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59 accelerate learning for students in grades 6 through 12 during  
60 the school day. Grant recipients must select an artificial  
61 intelligence platform that:

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

64 (b) Provides professional learning to teachers.

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

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

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

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

76 (a) School district operated part-time or full-time virtual  
77 instruction programs under s. 1002.45(1)(b) for kindergarten  
78 through grade 12 students enrolled in the school district. A  
79 full-time program shall operate under its own Master School  
80 Identification Number.

81 (b) Florida Virtual School instructional services  
82 authorized under s. 1002.37.

83 (c) Blended learning instruction provided by charter  
84 schools authorized under s. 1002.33.

85 (d) Virtual charter school instruction authorized under s.  
86 1002.33.

87 (e) Courses delivered in the traditional school setting by

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88 personnel providing direct instruction through virtual  
89 instruction or through blended learning courses consisting of  
90 both traditional classroom and online instructional techniques  
91 pursuant to s. 1003.498.

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

95 Section 2. Subsection (2), paragraph (a) of subsection (3),  
96 subsections (4) and (6), and paragraphs (c) and (e) through (h)  
97 of subsection (7) of section 1002.411, Florida Statutes, are  
98 amended to read:

99 1002.411 New Worlds Scholarship accounts.—

100 (2) ELIGIBILITY.—Contingent upon available funds, and on a  
101 first-come, first-served basis, each student who is enrolled in  
102 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program pursuant to s.  
103 1002.53 or a Florida public school in kindergarten through grade  
104 5 is eligible for a scholarship account if the student:

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

116 (b) Exhibits a substantial deficiency in early mathematics

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117 skills based upon the results of the most recent progress  
118 monitoring administered pursuant to s. 1008.25(9), has a  
119 substantial deficiency in mathematics or the characteristics of  
120 dyscalculia as identified under s. 1008.25(6)(a), or scored  
121 below a Level 3 on the most recent statewide, standardized  
122 Mathematics assessment ~~in the prior school year.~~

123 (3) PARENT AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PARTICIPATION.—

124 (a) For an eligible student to receive a scholarship  
125 account, the student's parent must:

126 1. Submit an application to an eligible nonprofit  
127 scholarship-funding organization by the deadline established by  
128 such organization; and

129 2. If available, use the administrator's system to make  
130 direct purchases ~~Submit eligible expenses to the eligible~~  
131 ~~nonprofit scholarship-funding organization for reimbursement of~~  
132 qualifying expenditures, which may include:

133 a. Instructional materials.

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

138 c. Tuition and fees for part-time tutoring services  
139 provided by a person who holds a valid Florida educator's  
140 certificate pursuant to s. 1012.56, a person who holds a  
141 baccalaureate or graduate degree in the subject area, a person  
142 who holds an adjunct teaching certificate pursuant to s.  
143 1012.57, ~~or~~ a person who has demonstrated a mastery of subject  
144 area knowledge pursuant to s. 1012.56(5), a person who holds a  
145 micro-credential under s. 1003.485, or, for a prekindergarten

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146 student, a person who holds a credential under s.  
 147 1002.55(3)(c)1. or an educational credential under s.  
 148 1002.55(4)(a) or (b).

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

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

153

154 A provider of any services receiving payments pursuant to this  
 155 subparagraph may not share any moneys from the scholarship with,  
 156 or provide a refund or rebate of any moneys from such  
 157 scholarship to, the parent or participating student in any  
 158 manner. A parent, student, or provider of any services may not  
 159 bill an insurance company, Medicaid, or any other agency for the  
 160 same services that are paid for using scholarship funds.

161 (4) ADMINISTRATOR ADMINISTRATION.—An eligible nonprofit  
 162 scholarship-funding organization as defined in s. 1002.395(2)  
 163 shall be the administrator and participating in the Florida Tax  
 164 Credit Scholarship Program established by s. 1002.395 may  
 165 establish scholarship accounts for eligible students in  
 166 accordance with the requirements of eligible nonprofit  
 167 scholarship-funding organizations under this chapter.

168 (6) SCHOOL DISTRICT AND PRIVATE PREKINDERGARTEN PROVIDER  
 169 OBLIGATIONS; PARENTAL OPTIONS.—

170 (a) Each By September 30, the school district and private  
 171 prekindergarten provider shall notify the parent of each  
 172 eligible student of the process to request and receive a  
 173 scholarship, subject to available funds, when providing results  
 174 from the standardized coordinated screening and progress

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175 monitoring pursuant to s. 1008.25(9)(c).

176 (b) A school district may not prohibit instructional  
177 personnel from providing services pursuant to this section on  
178 the instructional personnel's school campus outside regular work  
179 hours, subject to school district policies for safety and  
180 security operations to protect students, instructional  
181 personnel, and educational facilities.

182 (7) ACCOUNT FUNDING AND PAYMENT.—

183 (c) Upon ~~notification from the eligible nonprofit~~  
184 ~~scholarship-funding organization that~~ a student being ~~has been~~  
185 determined eligible for a scholarship, the department shall,  
186 within 45 days, release the student's scholarship funds to such  
187 organization to be deposited into the student's account.

188 (e) The eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization  
189 may develop a system that permits eligible students to use  
190 program funds to make direct purchases of qualifying  
191 expenditures for payment of scholarship funds by funds transfer,  
192 ~~including, but not limited to, debit cards, electronic payment~~  
193 ~~cards, or any other means of payment that the department deems~~  
194 ~~to be commercially viable or cost-effective. A student's~~  
195 ~~scholarship award may not be reduced for debit card or~~  
196 ~~electronic payment fees.~~ Commodities or services related to the  
197 development of such a system shall be procured by competitive  
198 solicitation unless they are purchased from a state term  
199 contract pursuant to s. 287.056.

200 (f) ~~Payment of the scholarship shall be made by the~~  
201 ~~eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization no less~~  
202 ~~frequently than on a quarterly basis.~~

203 ~~(g)~~ Moneys received pursuant to this section do not

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204 constitute taxable income to the qualified student or his or her  
205 parent.

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

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

213 2. Three consecutive fiscal years in which an account has  
214 been inactive.

215 Section 3. Paragraphs (a) and (g) of subsection (1),  
216 paragraph (d) of subsection (2), subsection (3), paragraphs (f),  
217 (i), and (j) of subsection (4), and paragraphs (a) and (c) of  
218 subsection (6) of section 1003.485, Florida Statutes, are  
219 amended to read:

220 1003.485 The New Worlds Reading Initiative.—

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

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

226 (g) "Micro-credential" means evidence-based professional  
227 learning development activities grounded in the science of  
228 reading which are competency-based, personalized, and on-demand.  
229 Educators must demonstrate their competence via evidence  
230 submitted and reviewed by trained evaluators.

231 (2) NEW WORLDS READING INITIATIVE; PURPOSE.—The purpose of  
232 the New Worlds Reading Initiative established under the



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233 department is to instill a love of reading by providing high-  
234 quality, free books to students in prekindergarten through grade  
235 5 who are reading below grade level and to improve the literacy  
236 skills of students in prekindergarten through grade 12. The New  
237 Worlds Reading Initiative shall consist of:

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

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

242 (a) ~~Designate an administrator to implement the initiative~~  
243 ~~and to receive funding as provided in this section. The~~  
244 ~~administrator must have an academic innovation institution with~~  
245 ~~extensive experience in:~~

246 1. ~~Conducting academic research in early literacy~~  
247 ~~instruction.~~

248 2. ~~Implementing online delivery of early learning and~~  
249 ~~literacy training for educators nationally.~~

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

252 4. ~~Conducting fundraising and public awareness campaigns to~~  
253 ~~support the development and growth of evidence-based educational~~  
254 ~~initiatives that support learning at home and in schools.~~

255 ~~(b)~~ Publish information about the initiative and tax  
256 credits under subsection (5) on its website, including the  
257 process for a taxpayer to select the administrator as the  
258 recipient of funding through a tax credit.

259 ~~(b)(c)~~ Beginning September 30, 2022, and Annually  
260 ~~thereafter,~~ report on its website the number of students  
261 participating in the initiative in each school district,

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262 information from the annual financial report under paragraph  
263 (4)(j), and the academic achievement and learning gains, as  
264 applicable, of participating students based on data provided by  
265 school districts as permitted under s. 1002.22. The department  
266 shall establish a date by which the administrator and each  
267 school district must annually provide the data necessary to  
268 complete the report.

269 (c) Provide the administrator with progress monitoring data  
270 for eligible prekindergarten through grade 12 students within 30  
271 days after the close of each progress monitoring period.

272 (4) ADMINISTRATOR RESPONSIBILITIES.—The administrator  
273 shall:

274 (f) Provide professional learning development and resources  
275 to teachers that correlate with the books provided through the  
276 initiative.

277 (i) Administer the early literacy micro-credential program  
278 established under this section, which must include components on  
279 content, student learning, pedagogy, and professional learning  
280 ~~development~~ and must build on a strong foundation of  
281 scientifically researched and evidence-based reading  
282 instructional and intervention programs that incorporate  
283 explicit, systematic, and sequential approaches to teaching  
284 phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and text  
285 comprehension and incorporate decodable or phonetic text  
286 instructional strategies, as identified by the Just Read,  
287 Florida! Office, pursuant to s. 1001.215(7).

288 1. At a minimum, the micro-credential curriculum must be  
289 designed specifically for instructional personnel in  
290 prekindergarten through grade 3 based upon the strategies and

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291 techniques identified in s. 1002.59 and address foundational  
292 literacy skills of students in grades 4 through 12.

293 2. The micro-credential must be competency based and  
294 designed for eligible instructional personnel to complete the  
295 credentialing process in no more than 60 hours, in an online  
296 format. The micro-credential may be delivered in an in-person  
297 format. Eligible instructional personnel may receive the micro-  
298 credential once competency is demonstrated even if it is before  
299 ~~prior to~~ the completion of 60 hours.

300 3. The micro-credential must be available by December 31,  
301 2022, at no cost, to instructional personnel as defined in s.  
302 1012.01(2); prekindergarten instructors as specified in ss.  
303 1002.55, 1002.61, and 1002.63; and child care personnel as  
304 defined in ss. 402.302(3) and 1002.88(1)(e).

305 (j) Annually submit to the department an annual financial  
306 report that includes, at a minimum, the amount of eligible  
307 contributions received by the administrator; the amount spent on  
308 each activity required by this subsection, including  
309 administrative expenses; the number of micro-credentials and  
310 reading endorsements earned; and the number of students and  
311 households served under each component of the initiative, by  
312 school district, including the means by which additional  
313 literacy support was provided to students.

314 (6) ELIGIBILITY; NOTIFICATION; SCHOOL DISTRICT  
315 OBLIGATIONS.—

316 (a) A student in prekindergarten through grade 5 must be  
317 provided books through the initiative if the student is not yet  
318 reading on grade level, has a substantial reading deficiency  
319 identified under s. 1008.25(5)(a) ~~or (b)~~, has a substantial

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320 deficiency in early literacy skills based upon the results of  
321 the coordinated screening and progress monitoring under s.  
322 1008.25(9), or scored below a Level 3 on the most recent  
323 ~~preceding year's~~ statewide, standardized English Language Arts  
324 assessment under s. 1008.22.

325 (c) Once an eligible student is identified, the school  
326 district shall coordinate with the administrator to initiate  
327 book delivery on a monthly basis during the school year, which  
328 must begin no later than October and continue through at least  
329 June. ~~However, for the 2021-2022 school year only, delivery may~~  
330 ~~begin no later than December 31, 2021, provided that no fewer~~  
331 ~~than 9 books are delivered to each student before book~~  
332 ~~deliveries begin for the 2022-2023 school year.~~

333 Section 4. Section 1004.561, Florida Statutes, is created  
334 to read:

335 1004.561 University of Florida Lastinger Center for  
336 Learning.—There is created at the University of Florida the  
337 Lastinger Center for Learning. The center shall:

338 (1) Develop and administer programs to improve student  
339 achievement outcomes in early learning, literacy, and  
340 mathematics.

341 (2) Provide professional learning for educators to improve  
342 the quality of instruction in early learning, literacy, and  
343 mathematics. Professional learning includes the development of  
344 micro-credentials pursuant to s. 1003.485 and may include the  
345 development of other micro-credentials that require educators to  
346 demonstrate competency. Micro-credentials must be provided at  
347 low or no cost and be personalized, and may be provided online  
348 or in person.

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349 (3) Provide technical assistance and support to school  
350 districts and schools and early learning coalitions in improving  
351 student achievement.

352 (4) Conduct and publish research on teaching and learning  
353 in early learning, literacy, and mathematics, as well as  
354 professional learning for educators.

355 (5) Administer the New Worlds Tutoring Program that  
356 supports school districts and schools in improving student  
357 achievement in reading and mathematics pursuant to s. 1008.366.

358 Section 5. Paragraph (d) of subsection (5), paragraph (c)  
359 of subsection (6), and paragraph (c) of subsection (9) of  
360 section 1008.25, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

361 1008.25 Public school student progression; student support;  
362 coordinated screening and progress monitoring; reporting  
363 requirements.—

364 (5) READING DEFICIENCY AND PARENTAL NOTIFICATION.—

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

368 1. That his or her child has been identified as having a  
369 substantial deficiency in reading, including a description and  
370 explanation, in terms understandable to the parent, of the exact  
371 nature of the student's difficulty in learning and lack of  
372 achievement in reading.

373 2. A description of the current services that are provided  
374 to the child.

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

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

381           5. Strategies, including multisensory strategies and  
382 programming, through a read-at-home plan the parent can use in  
383 helping his or her child succeed in reading. The read-at-home  
384 plan must provide access to the resources identified in  
385 paragraph (e) ~~(f)~~.

386           6. That the statewide, standardized English Language Arts  
387 assessment is not the sole determiner of promotion and that  
388 additional evaluations, portfolio reviews, and assessments are  
389 available to the child to assist parents and the school district  
390 in knowing when a child is reading at or above grade level and  
391 ready for grade promotion.

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

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

403           9. Information about the student's eligibility for the New  
404 Worlds Reading Initiative under s. 1003.485 and the New Worlds  
405 Scholarship Accounts under s. 1002.411 and information on parent  
406 training modules and other reading engagement resources

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407 available through the initiative.

408

409 After initial notification, the school shall apprise the parent  
410 at least monthly of the student's progress in response to the  
411 intensive interventions and supports. Such communications must  
412 be in writing and must explain any additional interventions or  
413 supports that will be implemented to accelerate the student's  
414 progress if the interventions and supports already being  
415 implemented have not resulted in improvement.

416 (6) MATHEMATICS DEFICIENCY AND PARENTAL NOTIFICATION.—

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

420 1. That his or her child has been identified as having a  
421 substantial deficiency in mathematics, including a description  
422 and explanation, in terms understandable to the parent, of the  
423 exact nature of the student's difficulty in learning and lack of  
424 achievement in mathematics.

425 2. A description of the current services that are provided  
426 to the child.

427 3. A description of the proposed intensive interventions  
428 and supports that will be provided to the child that are  
429 designed to remediate the identified area of mathematics  
430 deficiency.

431 4. Strategies, including multisensory strategies and  
432 programming, through a home-based plan the parent can use in  
433 helping his or her child succeed in mathematics. The home-based  
434 plan must provide access to the resources identified in  
435 paragraph (d) ~~(e)~~.

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437 After the initial notification, the school shall apprise the  
438 parent at least monthly of the student's progress in response to  
439 the intensive interventions and supports. Such communications  
440 must be in writing and must explain any additional interventions  
441 or supports that will be implemented to accelerate the student's  
442 progress if the interventions and supports already being  
443 implemented have not resulted in improvement.

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

445 (c) To facilitate timely interventions and supports  
446 pursuant to subsection (4), the system must provide results from  
447 the first two administrations of the progress monitoring to a  
448 student's teacher or prekindergarten instructor within 1 week  
449 and to the student's parent within 2 weeks after ~~of~~ the  
450 administration of the progress monitoring. Delivery of results  
451 from the comprehensive, end-of-year progress monitoring ELA  
452 assessment for grades 3 through 10 and Mathematics assessment  
453 for grades 3 through 8 must be in accordance with s.  
454 1008.22(7)(h).

455 1. A student's results from the coordinated screening and  
456 progress monitoring system must be recorded in a written, easy-  
457 to-comprehend individual student report. Each school district  
458 shall provide a parent secure access to his or her child's  
459 individual student reports through a web-based portal as part of  
460 its student information system. Each early learning coalition  
461 shall provide parents the individual student report in a format  
462 determined by state board rule.

463 2. In addition to the information under subparagraph (a)5.,  
464 the report must also include parent resources that explain the



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465 purpose of progress monitoring, assist the parent in  
466 interpreting progress monitoring results, and support informed  
467 parent involvement. Parent resources may include personalized  
468 video formats.

469 3. The department shall annually update school districts  
470 and early learning coalitions on new system features and  
471 functionality and collaboratively identify with school districts  
472 and early learning coalitions strategies for meaningfully  
473 reporting to parents results from the coordinated screening and  
474 progress monitoring system. The department shall develop ways to  
475 increase the utilization, by instructional staff and parents, of  
476 student assessment data and resources.

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

479 Section 6. Section 1008.366, Florida Statutes, is created  
480 to read:

481 1008.366 The New Worlds Tutoring Program.—

482 (1) The New Worlds Tutoring Program is created to support  
483 school districts and schools in improving student achievement in  
484 reading and mathematics by:

485 (a) Providing best practice science of reading guidelines  
486 for districts in consultation with the Just Read, Florida!  
487 Office.

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

491 (c) Establishing minimum standards that each school  
492 district must meet to participate in the program. The minimum  
493 standards must address:

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494 1. Appropriate group sizes for tutoring sessions.

495 2. The frequency and duration of tutoring sessions.

496 3. Minimum staffing qualifications for tutors.

497 4. The use of ongoing, informal and formal assessments to  
498 target instructional interventions.

499 5. Prioritization strategies for tutoring students.

500 (d) Providing access during the school day to additional  
501 literacy or mathematics support through evidence-based automated  
502 literacy tutoring software that provides each student with real-  
503 time interventions that are based in science of reading  
504 principles or mathematics instructional best practices and  
505 individually tailored to the needs and ability of each student.  
506 Access must be provided to students in kindergarten through  
507 grade 5 enrolled in a public school who have a substantial  
508 deficiency in reading or mathematics in accordance with s.  
509 1008.25. The term "evidence-based" has the same meaning as in s.  
510 1003.4201(6).

511 (e) Awarding grants to school districts which may be used  
512 for stipends for in-person tutoring during the school day,  
513 before and after school, or during a summer program. In-person  
514 tutoring may be provided to, at a minimum, kindergarten through  
515 grade 5 students enrolled in a public school who have a  
516 substantial deficiency in reading or mathematics in accordance  
517 with s. 1008.25. To identify eligible students, the department  
518 shall provide the administrator with mathematics and reading  
519 progress monitoring data for eligible kindergarten through grade  
520 12 students within 30 days after the close of each progress  
521 monitoring period.

522 (f) Providing technical assistance and professional

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523 learning to school districts, including:

524 1. Advising district staff on tutoring program design and  
525 intervention selection upon request.

526 2. Assisting districts in reviewing tutoring programs,  
527 professional learning programs, curriculum, and resources to  
528 ensure that they adhere to the science of reading or best  
529 practices in mathematics.

530 3. Providing professional learning to district staff to  
531 build their knowledge and skills around the science of reading  
532 or best practices in mathematics.

533 (2) Annually, by July 1, the administrator of the New  
534 Worlds Tutoring Program shall provide to the President of the  
535 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the  
536 Commissioner of Education a report summarizing school district  
537 use of program funds and student academic outcomes as a result  
538 of the additional literacy or mathematics support provided under  
539 this section.

540 Section 7. Subsection (5) of section 1003.01, Florida  
541 Statutes, is amended to read:

542 1003.01 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

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

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

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

551 (c) Courses in grades 9 through 12 in subjects that are

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552 measured by state assessment at any grade level and courses that  
553 are specifically identified by name in statute as required for  
554 high school graduation and that are not measured by state  
555 assessment, excluding extracurricular courses pursuant to  
556 subsection (11);

557 (d) Exceptional student education courses; and

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

559

560 The term is limited in meaning and used for the sole purpose of  
561 designating classes that are subject to the maximum class size  
562 requirements established in s. 1, Art. IX of the State  
563 Constitution. This term does not include courses offered under  
564 ss. 1002.321(4)(e) ~~1002.321(3)(e)~~, 1002.33(7)(a)2.c., 1002.37,  
565 1002.45, and 1003.499.

566 Section 8. Subsection (2) of section 1003.499, Florida  
567 Statutes, is amended to read:

568 1003.499 Florida Approved Courses and Tests (FACT)  
569 Initiative.—

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

574 (a) As used in this section, the term "Florida approved  
575 courses" means online courses provided by individuals which  
576 include, but are not limited to, massive open online courses or  
577 remedial education associated with the courses that are measured  
578 pursuant to s. 1008.22. Massive open online courses may be  
579 authorized in the following subject areas: Algebra I, biology,  
580 geometry, and civics. Courses may be applied toward requirements

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581 for promotion or graduation in whole, in subparts, or in a  
582 combination of whole and subparts. A student may not be required  
583 to repeat subparts that are satisfactorily completed.

584 (b) A Florida approved course must be annually identified,  
585 approved, published, and shared for consideration by interested  
586 students and school districts. The Commissioner of Education  
587 shall approve each Florida approved course for application in K-  
588 12 public schools in accordance with rules of the State Board of  
589 Education.

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