

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE AMENDMENT

Bill No. CS/HB 1255 (2025)

Amendment No. 1

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

ADOPTED ☐ (Y/N)

ADOPTED AS AMENDED ☐ (Y/N)

ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION ☐ (Y/N)

FAILED TO ADOPT ☐ (Y/N)

WITHDRAWN ☐ (Y/N)

OTHER ☐

Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Education & Employment
Committee

Representative Trabulsy offered the following:

Amendment (with title amendment)

Remove everything after the enacting clause and insert:

**Section 1. Paragraphs (d) and (f) of subsection (2) of
section 11.45, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

11.45 Definitions; duties; authorities; reports; rules.—

(2) DUTIES.—The Auditor General shall:

(d) Annually conduct financial audits of the accounts and
records of all district school boards in counties with
populations of less ~~fewer~~ than 150,000, according to the most
recent federal decennial statewide census, and ~~and~~ the Florida
School for the Deaf and the Blind; ~~and the Florida School for
Competitive Academics.~~

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(f) At least every 3 years, conduct operational audits of the accounts and records of state agencies, state universities, state colleges, district school boards, the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation, water management districts, and the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, ~~and the Florida School for Competitive Academics.~~

The Auditor General shall perform his or her duties independently but under the general policies established by the Legislative Auditing Committee. This subsection does not limit the Auditor General's discretionary authority to conduct other audits or engagements of governmental entities as authorized in subsection (3).

Section 2. Subsection (3) of section 110.211, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

110.211 Recruitment.—

(3) Recruiting shall seek efficiency in advertising and may be assisted by a contracted vendor responsible for maintenance of the personnel data. Recruiting may include the use of an apprenticeship program, as defined in s. 446.021(6). Open competition is not required for a position that will be filled by a person who has successfully completed an apprenticeship program with the hiring agency.

Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 125.901, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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125.901 Children's services; independent special district;
council; powers, duties, and functions; public records
exemption.—

(1) Each county may by ordinance create an independent special district, as defined in ss. 189.012 and 200.001(8)(e), to provide funding for children's services throughout the county in accordance with this section. The boundaries of such district shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the county. The county governing body shall obtain approval at a general election, as defined in s. 97.021, by a majority vote of those electors voting on the question, to annually levy ad valorem taxes which shall not exceed the maximum millage rate authorized by this section. Any district created pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall be required to levy and fix millage subject to the provisions of s. 200.065. Once such millage is approved by the electorate, the district shall not be required to seek approval of the electorate in future years to levy the previously approved millage. However, a referendum to increase the millage rate previously approved by the electors must be held at a general election, and the referendum may be held only once during the 48-month period preceding the effective date of the increased millage.

(b) However, any county as defined in s. 125.011(1) may instead have a governing body consisting of 33 members, including the superintendent of schools, or his or her designee;

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two representatives of public postsecondary education institutions located in the county; the county manager or the equivalent county officer, or his or her designee; the district administrator from the appropriate district of the Department of Children and Families, or the administrator's designee who is a member of the Senior Management Service or the Selected Exempt Service; the director of the county health department or the director's designee; the state attorney for the county or the state attorney's designee; the chief judge assigned to juvenile cases, or another juvenile judge who is the chief judge's designee and who shall sit as a voting member of the board, except that the judge may not vote or participate in setting ad valorem taxes under this section; an individual who is selected by the board of the local United Way or its equivalent; a member of a locally recognized faith-based coalition, selected by that coalition; a member of the local chamber of commerce, selected by that chamber or, if more than one chamber exists within the county, a person selected by a coalition of the local chambers; a member of the early learning coalition, selected by that coalition; a representative of a labor organization or union active in the county; ~~a member of a local alliance or coalition engaged in cross-system planning for health and social service delivery in the county, selected by that alliance or coalition;~~ a member of the local Parent-Teachers Association/Parent-Teacher-Student Association, selected by that association; a

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92 youth representative selected by the local school system's
93 student government; a local school board member appointed by the
94 chair of the school board; the mayor of the county or the
95 mayor's designee; one member of the county governing body,
96 appointed by the chair of that body; a member of the state
97 Legislature who represents residents of the county, selected by
98 the chair of the local legislative delegation; an elected
99 official representing the residents of a municipality in the
100 county, selected by the county municipal league; and 5 4
101 members-at-large, appointed to the council by the majority of
102 sitting council members. The remaining seven members shall be
103 appointed by the Governor in accordance with procedures set
104 forth in paragraph (a), except that the Governor may remove a
105 member for cause or upon the written petition of the council.
106 Appointments by the Governor must, to the extent reasonably
107 possible, represent the geographic and demographic makeup
108 ~~diversity~~ of the population of the county. Members who are
109 appointed to the council by reason of their position are not
110 subject to the length of terms and limits on consecutive terms
111 as provided in this section. The remaining appointed members of
112 the governing body shall be appointed to serve 3-year ~~2-year~~
113 terms, except that those members appointed by the Governor shall
114 be appointed to serve 4-year terms, and the youth representative
115 and the legislative delegate shall be appointed to serve 1-year
116 terms. A member may be reappointed; however, a member may not

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117 serve for more than three consecutive terms. A member is
118 eligible to be appointed again after a 2-year hiatus from the
119 council.

120 **Section 4. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section**
121 **216.251, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

122 216.251 Salary appropriations; limitations.—

123 (2)(a) The salary for each position not specifically
124 indicated in the appropriations acts shall be as provided in one
125 of the following subparagraphs:

126 1. Within the classification and pay plans provided for in
127 chapter 110.

128 2. Within the classification and pay plans established by
129 the Board of Trustees for the Florida School for the Deaf and
130 the Blind of the Department of Education and approved by the
131 State Board of Education for academic and academic
132 administrative personnel.

133 3. Within the classification and pay plan approved and
134 administered by the Board of Governors or the designee of the
135 board for those positions in the State University System.

136 4. Within the classification and pay plan approved by the
137 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
138 Representatives, as the case may be, for employees of the
139 Legislature.

140 5. Within the approved classification and pay plan for the
141 judicial branch.

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~~6. Within the classification and pay plans established by the Board of Trustees for the Florida School for Competitive Academics of the Department of Education and approved by the State Board of Education for academic and academic administrative personnel.~~

Section 5. Subsection (2) of section 447.203, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

447.203 Definitions.—As used in this part:

(2) "Public employer" or "employer" means the state or any county, municipality, or special district or any subdivision or agency thereof which the commission determines has sufficient legal distinctiveness properly to carry out the functions of a public employer. With respect to all public employees determined by the commission as properly belonging to a statewide bargaining unit composed of State Career Service System employees or Selected Professional Service employees, the Governor is deemed to be the public employer; and the Board of Governors of the State University System, or the board's designee, is deemed to be the public employer with respect to all public employees of each constituent state university. The board of trustees of a community college is deemed to be the public employer with respect to all employees of the community college. The district school board is deemed to be the public employer with respect to all employees of the school district. The Board of Trustees of the Florida School for the Deaf and the

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Blind is deemed to be the public employer with respect to the academic and academic administrative personnel of the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind. ~~The Board of Trustees of the Florida School for Competitive Academics is deemed to be the public employer with respect to the academic and academic administrative personnel of the Florida School for Competitive Academics.~~ The Governor is deemed to be the public employer with respect to all employees in the Correctional Education Program of the Department of Corrections established pursuant to s. 944.801.

Section 6. Subsection (7) of section 1000.04, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1000.04 Components for the delivery of public education within the Florida Early Learning-20 education system.—Florida's Early Learning-20 education system provides for the delivery of early learning and public education through publicly supported and controlled K-12 schools, Florida College System institutions, state universities and other postsecondary educational institutions, other educational institutions, and other educational services as provided or authorized by the Constitution and laws of the state.

~~(7) THE FLORIDA SCHOOL FOR COMPETITIVE ACADEMICS.—The Florida School for Competitive Academics is a component of the delivery of public education within Florida's Early Learning-20 education system.~~

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192 **Section 7. Effective upon this act becoming a law, section**
193 **1000.40, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

194 1000.40 Future repeal of the Interstate Compact on
195 Educational Opportunity for Military Children.—Sections 1000.36,
196 1000.361, 1000.38, and 1000.39 and this section shall stand
197 repealed on July 1, 2028 ~~2025~~, unless reviewed and saved from
198 repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

199 **Section 8. Subsection (5) of section 1001.03, Florida**
200 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

201 1001.03 Specific powers of State Board of Education.—
202 (5) IDENTIFICATION OF HIGH-DEMAND ~~CRITICAL~~ TEACHER NEEDS
203 ~~SHORTAGE~~ AREAS.—The State Board of Education shall identify
204 high-demand ~~critical~~ teacher needs ~~shortage~~ areas pursuant to s.
205 1012.07.

206 **Section 9. Paragraph (e) of subsection (4) of section**
207 **1001.20, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

208 1001.20 Department under direction of state board.—
209 (4) The Department of Education shall establish the
210 following offices within the Office of the Commissioner of
211 Education which shall coordinate their activities with all other
212 divisions and offices:

213 (e) Office of Inspector General.—Organized using existing
214 resources and funds and responsible for promoting
215 accountability, efficiency, and effectiveness and detecting
216 fraud and abuse within school districts, the Florida School for

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217 the Deaf and the Blind, ~~the Florida School for Competitive~~
218 ~~Academics~~, and Florida College System institutions in Florida.
219 If the Commissioner of Education determines that a district
220 school board, the Board of Trustees for the Florida School for
221 the Deaf and the Blind, ~~the Board of Trustees for the Florida~~
222 ~~School for Competitive Academics~~, or a Florida College System
223 institution board of trustees is unwilling or unable to address
224 substantiated allegations made by any person relating to waste,
225 fraud, or financial mismanagement within the school district,
226 the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, ~~the Florida~~
227 ~~School for Competitive Academics~~, or the Florida College System
228 institution, the office must conduct, coordinate, or request
229 investigations into such substantiated allegations. The office
230 shall investigate allegations or reports of possible fraud or
231 abuse against a district school board made by any member of the
232 Cabinet; the presiding officer of either house of the
233 Legislature; a chair of a substantive or appropriations
234 committee with jurisdiction; or a member of the board for which
235 an investigation is sought. The office may investigate
236 allegations or reports of suspected violations of a student's,
237 parent's, or teacher's rights. The office shall have access to
238 all information and personnel necessary to perform its duties
239 and shall have all of its current powers, duties, and
240 responsibilities authorized in s. 20.055.

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Section 10. Section 1001.325, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1001.325 Prohibited expenditures.—

(1) A public school, charter school, school district, charter school administrator, or direct-support organization may not expend any funds, regardless of source, to purchase membership in, or goods and services from, any organization that discriminates on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or religion.

(2) A public school, charter school, school district, charter school administrator, or direct-support organization may not expend any state or federal funds to promote, support, or maintain any programs or campus activities that:

(a) Violate s. 1000.05; or

(b) Advocate, promote, or engage in political or social activism, as defined by the State Board of Education.

Student fees to support student-led organizations are permitted notwithstanding any speech or expressive activity by such organizations which would otherwise violate this subsection, provided that public funds are allocated to student-led organizations pursuant to written policies or regulations of the school or district in which the student is enrolled, as applicable. Use of school or district facilities by student-led organizations is permitted notwithstanding any speech or

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expressive activity by such organizations which would otherwise violate this subsection, provided that such use is granted to student-led organizations pursuant to written policies or regulations of the school or school district, as applicable.

(3) Subsection (2) does not prohibit programs, campus activities, or functions required for compliance with general or federal laws or regulations, for obtaining or retaining accreditation, or for continuing to receive state funds with the approval of either the State Board of Education or the department.

(4) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to implement this section.

Section 11. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 1001.452, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1001.452 District and school advisory councils.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(a) The district school board shall establish an advisory council for each school in the district and shall develop procedures for the election and appointment of advisory council members. Each school advisory council shall include in its name the words "school advisory council." The school advisory council shall be the sole body responsible for final decisionmaking at the school relating to implementation of ss. 1001.42(18) and 1008.345. A majority of the members of each school advisory council must be persons who are not employed by the school

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291 district. Each advisory council shall be composed of the
292 principal and an appropriately balanced number of teachers,
293 education support employees, students, parents, and other
294 business and community citizens who are representative of the
295 ethnic, racial, and economic community served by the school.
296 Career center and high school advisory councils shall include
297 students, and middle and junior high school advisory councils
298 may include students. School advisory councils of career centers
299 and adult education centers are not required to include parents
300 as members. Council members representing teachers, education
301 support employees, students, and parents shall be elected by
302 their respective peer groups at the school in a fair and
303 equitable manner as follows:

304 1. Teachers shall be elected by teachers.

305 2. Education support employees shall be elected by
306 education support employees.

307 3. Students shall be elected by students.

308 4. Parents shall be elected by parents.
309

310 The district school board shall establish procedures to be
311 used by schools in selecting business and community members
312 which ~~that~~ include means of ensuring wide notice of vacancies
313 and of taking input on possible members from local business,
314 chambers of commerce, community and civic organizations and
315 groups, and the public at large. The district school board shall

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review the membership composition of each advisory council. If the district school board determines that the membership elected by the school is not representative of the ethnic, racial, and economic community served by the school, the district school board must ~~shall~~ appoint additional members to achieve proper representation. ~~The commissioner shall determine if schools have maximized their efforts to include on their advisory councils minority persons and persons of lower socioeconomic status.~~ Although schools are strongly encouraged to establish school advisory councils, the district school board of any school district that has a student population of 10,000 or less ~~fewer~~ may establish a district advisory council which includes at least one duly elected teacher from each school in the district. For the purposes of school advisory councils and district advisory councils, the term "teacher" includes classroom teachers, certified student services personnel, and media specialists. For purposes of this paragraph, "education support employee" means any person employed by a school who is not defined as instructional or administrative personnel pursuant to s. 1012.01 and whose duties require 20 or more hours in each normal working week.

Section 12. Paragraph (o) of subsection (3) and paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of section 1002.20, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

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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:

(3) HEALTH ISSUES.—

(o) Emergency opioid antagonist ~~Naloxone~~ use and supply.—

1. A public school may purchase a supply of an emergency ~~the~~ opioid antagonist approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) ~~naloxone~~ 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 an FDA-approved emergency opioid antagonist ~~naloxone~~ at fair-market, free, or reduced prices for use in the event that a student has an opioid overdose. The FDA-approved emergency opioid antagonist ~~naloxone~~ must be maintained in a secure location on the public school's premises.

2. A public school ~~district~~ employee who administers an approved emergency opioid antagonist to a student in compliance with ss. 381.887 and 768.13 is immune from civil liability under s. 768.13.

(4) DISCIPLINE.—

(c) Corporal punishment.—

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1. In accordance with the provisions of s. 1003.32, corporal punishment of a public school student may only be administered by a teacher or school principal within guidelines of the school principal and according to district school board policy. Another adult must be present and must be informed in the student's presence of the reason for the punishment. Upon request, the teacher or school principal must provide the parent with a written explanation of the reason for the punishment and the name of the other adult who was present.

2. A district school board having a policy authorizing the use of corporal punishment as a form of discipline shall include in such policy a requirement that a parent provide consent for the school to administer corporal punishment. The district school board policy may require such consent for the school year or before each administration. The district school board shall review its policy on corporal punishment once every 3 years during a district school board meeting held pursuant to s. 1001.372. The district school board shall take public testimony at the board meeting. If such board meeting is not held in accordance with this subparagraph, the portion of the district school board's policy authorizing corporal punishment expires.

Section 13. Paragraph (b) of subsection (16) and paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (18) of section 1002.33, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1002.33 Charter schools.—

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(16) EXEMPTION FROM STATUTES.—

(b) Additionally, a charter school shall be in compliance with the following statutes:

1. Section 286.011, relating to public meetings and records, public inspection, and criminal and civil penalties.

2. Chapter 119, relating to public records.

3. Section 1003.03, relating to the maximum class size, except that the calculation for compliance pursuant to s. 1003.03 shall be the average at the school level.

4. Section 1012.22(1)(c), relating to compensation and salary schedules.

5. Section 1012.33(5), relating to workforce reductions.

6. Section 1012.335, relating to contracts with instructional personnel hired on or after July 1, 2011.

7. Section 1012.34, relating to the substantive requirements for performance evaluations for instructional personnel and school administrators.

8. Section 1006.12, relating to safe-school officers.

9. Section 1006.07(7), relating to threat management teams.

10. Section 1006.07(9), relating to School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting.

11. Section 1006.07(10), relating to reporting of involuntary examinations.

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413 12. Section 1006.1493, relating to the Florida Safe
414 Schools Assessment Tool.

415 13. Section 1006.07(6)(d), relating to adopting an active
416 assailant response plan.

417 14. Section 943.082(4)(b), relating to the mobile
418 suspicious activity reporting tool.

419 15. Section 1012.584, relating to youth mental health
420 awareness and assistance training.

421 16. Section 1001.42(4)(f)2., relating to middle school and
422 high school start times. A charter school-in-the-workplace is
423 exempt from this requirement.

424 17. Section 1002.20(4)(c), relating to school corporal
425 punishment.

426 (18) FACILITIES.—

427 (a) 1. A startup charter school shall utilize facilities
428 which comply with the Florida Building Code pursuant to chapter
429 553 except for the State Requirements for Educational
430 Facilities. Conversion charter schools shall utilize facilities
431 that comply with the State Requirements for Educational
432 Facilities provided that the school district and the charter
433 school have entered into a mutual management plan for the
434 reasonable maintenance of such facilities. The mutual management
435 plan shall contain a provision by which the district school
436 board agrees to maintain charter school facilities in the same
437 manner as its other public schools within the district. Charter

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438 schools, with the exception of conversion charter schools, are
439 not required to comply, but may choose to comply, with the State
440 Requirements for Educational Facilities of the Florida Building
441 Code adopted pursuant to s. 1013.37.

442 2. The local governing authority may ~~shall~~ not adopt, ~~or~~
443 impose, or enforce any local building requirements, ~~or~~ site-
444 development restrictions, or operational requirements, such as
445 parking and site-size criteria, student enrollment and capacity,
446 hours of operation, and occupant load;~~;~~

447 a. That are addressed by and more stringent than those
448 found in the State Requirements for Educational Facilities of
449 the Florida Building Code; or

450 b. That are not uniformly imposed or enforced by the local
451 governing authority upon public schools within the jurisdiction
452 of the local governing authority.

453 3. A local governing authority must treat charter schools
454 equitably in comparison to similar requirements, restrictions,
455 and site planning processes imposed upon public schools that are
456 not charter schools, including such provisions that are
457 established by interlocal agreement, development order, or
458 development permit. An interlocal agreement entered into by a
459 school district for the development of only its own schools,
460 including provisions relating to the extension of
461 infrastructure, may be used by charter schools. A charter school
462 may not be subject to any land use regulation requiring a change

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to a local government comprehensive plan or requiring a development order or development permit, as those terms are defined in s. 163.3164, or any requirement or restriction that would not be required for a public or private school in the same location or a location on which a public or private school has previously been permitted. A local governing authority may not apply or enforce a condition against a charter school unless the condition is uniformly applied to other public schools within the jurisdiction of the local governing authority and the charter school is located on property that is the subject of a previously approved development order or development permit, and if such development order or development permit contains conditions applicable to the construction or operation of a public or private school, including, but not limited to:

- a. Limits on the number of students;
- b. Limits on the number of teachers;
- c. Limits on the number of classrooms;
- d. Limits on the hours of operation;
- e. Minimum outdoor recreation area; or
- f. Requirements to conform to a prior plan of development.

4. The agency having jurisdiction for inspection of a facility and issuance of a certificate of occupancy or use shall be the local municipality or, if in an unincorporated area, the county governing authority. A charter school that meets the requirements of state law consistent with the requirements of

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488 this subsection shall be administratively approved by the local
489 governing authority. If ~~a an official or employee of the~~ local
490 governing authority refuses to comply with this subsection
491 ~~paragraph~~, the aggrieved school or entity has an immediate right
492 to bring an action in circuit court to enforce its rights ~~by~~
493 ~~injunction~~. An aggrieved party that prevails in such an action
494 ~~receives injunctive relief~~ may be awarded attorney fees and
495 court costs.

496 (c) Any facility, or portion thereof, used to house a
497 charter school whose charter has been approved by the sponsor
498 and the governing board, pursuant to subsection (7), is exempt
499 from ad valorem taxes pursuant to s. 196.1983. Notwithstanding
500 any other law, local ordinance, or regulation to the contrary, a
501 local governing authority may not require a charter school to
502 obtain a special exemption or conditional use approval for the
503 charter school to be an allowable use under the local governing
504 authority's land development code. Any library, community
505 service, museum, performing arts, theater, cinema, or church
506 facility; any facility or land owned by a Florida College System
507 institution or university; any similar public institutional
508 facilities; and any facility recently used to house a school or
509 child care facility licensed under s. 402.305 may provide space
510 to charter schools within their facilities under their
511 preexisting zoning and land use designations without obtaining a
512 special exception, rezoning, or a land use change.

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513 **Section 14.** Section 1002.351, Florida Statutes, is
514 repealed.

515 **Section 15. Subsection (6) of section 1002.394, Florida**
516 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

517 1002.394 The Family Empowerment Scholarship Program.—

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

520 (a) Enrolled full time in a public school, including, but
521 not limited to, the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind,
522 the College-Preparatory Boarding Academy, ~~the Florida School for~~
523 ~~Competitive Academics,~~ the Florida Virtual School, the Florida
524 Scholars Academy, a developmental research school authorized
525 under s. 1002.32, or a charter school authorized under this
526 chapter. For purposes of this paragraph, a 3- or 4-year-old
527 child who receives services funded through the Florida Education
528 Finance Program is considered to be a student enrolled in a
529 public school;

530 (b) Enrolled in a school operating for the purpose of
531 providing educational services to youth in a Department of
532 Juvenile Justice commitment program;

533 (c) Receiving any other educational scholarship pursuant
534 to this chapter. However, an eligible public school student
535 receiving a scholarship under s. 1002.411 may receive a
536 scholarship for transportation pursuant to subparagraph

537 (4) (a)2.;

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

(e) Participating in a private tutoring program pursuant to s. 1002.43 unless he or she is determined eligible pursuant to paragraph (3)(b); or

(f) Participating in virtual instruction pursuant to s. 1002.455 that receives state funding pursuant to the student's participation.

Section 16. Subsection (4) of section 1002.395, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.395 Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program.—

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

(a) Enrolled full time in a public school, including, but not limited to, the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, the College-Preparatory Boarding Academy, ~~the Florida School for Competitive Academics,~~ the Florida Virtual School, the Florida Scholars Academy, a developmental research school authorized under s. 1002.32, or a charter school authorized under this chapter. For purposes of this paragraph, a 3- or 4-year-old child who receives services funded through the Florida Education

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Finance Program is considered a student enrolled full time in a public school;

(b) Enrolled in a school operating for the purpose of providing educational services to youth in a Department of Juvenile Justice commitment program;

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

(d) Not having regular and direct contact with his or her private school teachers pursuant to s. 1002.421(1)(i) unless he or she is enrolled in a personalized education program;

(e) Participating in a home education program as defined in s. 1002.01(1);

(f) Participating in a private tutoring program pursuant to s. 1002.43 unless he or she is enrolled in a personalized education program; or

(g) Participating in virtual instruction pursuant to s. 1002.455 that receives state funding pursuant to the student's participation.

Section 17. Paragraphs (e), (m), and (p) of subsection (1) of section 1002.421, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1002.421 State school choice scholarship program accountability and oversight.—

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

(e) Annually complete and submit to the department a notarized scholarship compliance statement certifying that all school employees and contracted personnel with direct student contact have undergone background screening ~~pursuant to s. 435.12~~ and have met the screening standards as provided in s. 1012.315 ~~s. 435.04~~.

(m) Require each employee and contracted personnel with direct student contact, upon employment or engagement to provide services, to undergo ~~a state and national~~ background screening ~~under s. 1012.315, pursuant to s. 943.0542, by electronically filing with the Department of Law Enforcement a complete set of fingerprints taken by an authorized law enforcement agency or an employee of the private school, a school district, or a private company who is trained to take fingerprints~~ and deny employment to or terminate an employee if he or she fails to meet the screening standards under s. 1012.315 ~~s. 435.04~~. ~~Results of the~~

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~~screening shall be provided to the participating private school.~~

For purposes of this paragraph:

1. An "employee or contracted personnel with direct student contact" means any employee or contracted personnel who has unsupervised access to a scholarship student for whom the private school is responsible.

2. The costs of fingerprinting and the background check shall not be borne by the state.

3. Continued employment of an employee or contracted personnel after notification that he or she has failed the background screening under this paragraph shall cause a private school to be ineligible for participation in a scholarship program.

4. An employee or contracted personnel holding a valid Florida teaching certificate who has been fingerprinted pursuant to s. 1012.32 is not required to comply with the provisions of this paragraph.

5. All fingerprints submitted to the Department of Law Enforcement as required by this section shall be retained in the Care Provider Background Screening Clearinghouse as provided in s. 435.12 ~~by the Department of Law Enforcement in a manner provided by rule and entered in the statewide automated biometric identification system authorized by s. 943.05(2)(b).~~ Such fingerprints shall thereafter be available for all purposes and uses authorized for arrest fingerprints entered in the

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~~statewide automated biometric identification system pursuant to s. 943.051.~~

6. Employees, contracted personnel, owners, and operators must be rescreened as required by s. 435.12.

7. Persons who apply for employment are governed by the laws and rules in effect at the time of application for employment, provided that the person is continually employed by the same school.

~~6. The Department of Law Enforcement shall search all arrest fingerprints received under s. 943.051 against the fingerprints retained in the statewide automated biometric identification system under subparagraph 5. Any arrest record that is identified with the retained fingerprints of a person subject to the background screening under this section shall be reported to the employing school with which the person is affiliated. Each private school participating in a scholarship program is required to participate in this search process by informing the Department of Law Enforcement of any change in the employment or contractual status of its personnel whose fingerprints are retained under subparagraph 5. The Department of Law Enforcement shall adopt a rule setting the amount of the annual fee to be imposed upon each private school for performing these searches and establishing the procedures for the retention of private school employee and contracted personnel fingerprints~~

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~~and the dissemination of search results. The fee may be borne by the private school or the person fingerprinted.~~

~~7. Employees and contracted personnel whose fingerprints are not retained by the Department of Law Enforcement under subparagraphs 5. and 6. are required to be refingerprinted and must meet state and national background screening requirements upon reemployment or reengagement to provide services in order to comply with the requirements of this section.~~

~~8. Every 5 years following employment or engagement to provide services with a private school, employees or contracted personnel required to be screened under this section must meet screening standards under s. 435.04, at which time the private school shall request the Department of Law Enforcement to forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for national processing. If the fingerprints of employees or contracted personnel are not retained by the Department of Law Enforcement under subparagraph 5., employees and contracted personnel must electronically file a complete set of fingerprints with the Department of Law Enforcement. Upon submission of fingerprints for this purpose, the private school shall request that the Department of Law Enforcement forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for national processing, and the fingerprints shall be retained by the Department of Law Enforcement under subparagraph 5.~~

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686 (p) Require each owner or operator of the private school,
687 prior to employment or engagement to provide services, to
688 undergo ~~level 2~~ background screening as provided in s. 1012.315
689 ~~under chapter 435~~. For purposes of this paragraph, the term
690 "owner or operator" means an owner, operator, superintendent, or
691 principal of, or a person with equivalent decisionmaking
692 authority over, a private school participating in a scholarship
693 program established pursuant to this chapter. The fingerprints
694 for the background screening must be electronically submitted to
695 the Department of Law Enforcement and may be taken by an
696 authorized law enforcement agency or a private company who is
697 trained to take fingerprints. However, the complete set of
698 fingerprints of an owner or operator may not be taken by the
699 owner or operator. ~~The owner or operator shall provide a copy of~~
700 ~~the results of the state and national criminal history check to~~
701 ~~the Department of Education~~. The cost of the background
702 screening may be borne by the owner or operator.

703 ~~1. Every 5 years following employment or engagement to~~
704 ~~provide services, each owner or operator must meet level 2~~
705 ~~screening standards as described in s. 435.04, at which time the~~
706 ~~owner or operator shall request the Department of Law~~
707 ~~Enforcement to forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of~~
708 ~~Investigation for level 2 screening. If the fingerprints of an~~
709 ~~owner or operator are not retained by the Department of Law~~
710 ~~Enforcement under subparagraph 2., the owner or operator must~~

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~~electronically file a complete set of fingerprints with the Department of Law Enforcement. Upon submission of fingerprints for this purpose, the owner or operator shall request that the Department of Law Enforcement forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for level 2 screening, and the fingerprints shall be retained by the Department of Law Enforcement under subparagraph 2.~~

~~2. Fingerprints submitted to the Department of Law Enforcement as required by this paragraph must be retained by the Department of Law Enforcement in a manner approved by rule and entered in the statewide automated biometric identification system authorized by s. 943.05(2)(b). The fingerprints must thereafter be available for all purposes and uses authorized for arrest fingerprints entered in the statewide automated biometric identification system pursuant to s. 943.051.~~

~~3. The Department of Law Enforcement shall search all arrest fingerprints received under s. 943.051 against the fingerprints retained in the statewide automated biometric identification system under subparagraph 2. Any arrest record that is identified with an owner's or operator's fingerprints must be reported to the owner or operator, who must report to the Department of Education. Any costs associated with the search shall be borne by the owner or operator.~~

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~~4. An owner or operator who fails the level 2 background screening is not eligible to participate in a scholarship program under this chapter.~~

1.5. In addition to the offenses listed in s. 435.04, a person required to undergo background screening pursuant to this part or authorizing statutes may not have an arrest awaiting final disposition for, must not have been found guilty of, or entered a plea of nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, and must not have been adjudicated delinquent for, and the record must not have been sealed or expunged for, any of the following offenses or any similar offense of another jurisdiction:

- a. Any authorizing statutes, if the offense was a felony.
- b. This chapter, if the offense was a felony.
- c. Section 409.920, relating to Medicaid provider fraud.
- d. Section 409.9201, relating to Medicaid fraud.
- e. Section 741.28, relating to domestic violence.
- f. Section 817.034, relating to fraudulent acts through mail, wire, radio, electromagnetic, photoelectronic, or photooptical systems.
- g. Section 817.234, relating to false and fraudulent insurance claims.
- h. Section 817.505, relating to patient brokering.
- i. Section 817.568, relating to criminal use of personal identification information.

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j. Section 817.60, relating to obtaining a credit card through fraudulent means.

k. Section 817.61, relating to fraudulent use of credit cards, if the offense was a felony.

l. Section 831.01, relating to forgery.

m. Section 831.02, relating to uttering forged instruments.

n. Section 831.07, relating to forging bank bills, checks, drafts, or promissory notes.

o. Section 831.09, relating to uttering forged bank bills, checks, drafts, or promissory notes.

p. Section 831.30, relating to fraud in obtaining medicinal drugs.

q. Section 831.31, relating to the sale, manufacture, delivery, or possession with the intent to sell, manufacture, or deliver any counterfeit controlled substance, if the offense was a felony.

~~2.6.~~ At least 30 calendar days before a transfer of ownership of a private school, the owner or operator shall notify the parent of each scholarship student.

~~3.7.~~ The owner or operator of a private school that has been deemed ineligible to participate in a scholarship program pursuant to this chapter may not transfer ownership or management authority of the school to a relative in order to participate in a scholarship program as the same school or a new

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784 school. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "relative"
785 means father, mother, son, daughter, grandfather, grandmother,
786 brother, sister, uncle, aunt, cousin, nephew, niece, husband,
787 wife, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law,
788 brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepson,
789 stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half brother, or half
790 sister.

791
792 The department shall suspend the payment of funds to a private
793 school that knowingly fails to comply with this subsection, and
794 shall prohibit the school from enrolling new scholarship
795 students, for 1 fiscal year and until the school complies. If a
796 private school fails to meet the requirements of this subsection
797 or has consecutive years of material exceptions listed in the
798 report required under paragraph (q), the commissioner may
799 determine that the private school is ineligible to participate
800 in a scholarship program.

801 **Section 18. Subsection (4) of section 1002.71, Florida**
802 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

803 1002.71 Funding; financial and attendance reporting.—

804 (4) Notwithstanding s. 1002.53(3) and subsection (2):

805 (a) A child who, ~~for any of the prekindergarten programs~~
806 ~~listed in s. 1002.53(3),~~ has not completed any of the
807 prekindergarten programs listed in s. 1002.53(3) ~~more than 70~~
808 ~~percent of the hours authorized to be reported for funding under~~

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~~subsection (2), or has not expended more than 70 percent of the~~
~~funds authorized for the child under s. 1002.66,~~ may withdraw
from the program for good cause and reenroll in one of the
programs. The total funding for a child who reenrolls in one of
the programs for good cause may not exceed one full-time
equivalent student. Funding for a child who withdraws and
reenrolls in one of the programs for good cause must ~~shall~~ be
issued in accordance with the department's uniform attendance
policy adopted pursuant to paragraph (6) (d).

(b) A child who has not ~~substantially~~ completed any of the
prekindergarten programs listed in s. 1002.53(3) may withdraw
from the program due to an extreme hardship that is beyond the
child's or parent's control, reenroll in one of the summer
programs, and be reported for funding purposes as a full-time
equivalent student in the summer program for which the child is
reenrolled.

A child may reenroll only once in a prekindergarten program
under this section. A child who reenrolls in a prekindergarten
program under this subsection may not subsequently withdraw from
the program and reenroll, unless the child is granted a good
cause exemption under this subsection. The department shall
establish criteria specifying whether a good cause exists for a
child to withdraw from a program under paragraph (a), ~~whether a~~
~~child has substantially completed a program under paragraph (b),~~

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and whether an extreme hardship exists which is beyond the child's or parent's control under paragraph (b).

Section 19. Subsection (2) of section 1003.05, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.05 Assistance to transitioning students from military families.—

(2) The Department of Education shall facilitate the development and implementation of memoranda of agreement between school districts and military installations which address strategies for assisting students who are the children of active duty military personnel in the transition to Florida schools.

(a) The strategies developed by the department must include the development and implementation of a training module relating to facilitating and expediting the transfer of a K-12 student's education records from an out-of-state school.

(b) The department shall provide the training module required under paragraph (a) to each district school board to provide to each public and charter K-12 school within its district. The district school board shall make the training available to employees who work directly with military students and families.

Section 20. Subsection (3) of section 1003.41, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.41 State academic standards.—

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(3) The Commissioner of Education shall, as deemed necessary, develop and submit proposed revisions to the standards for review and comment by Florida educators, school administrators, representatives of the Florida College System institutions and state universities who have expertise in the content knowledge and skills necessary to prepare a student for postsecondary education and careers, a representative from the Department of Commerce, business and industry leaders for in-demand careers, and the public. The commissioner, after considering reviews and comments, shall submit the proposed revisions to the State Board of Education for adoption. New and revised standards documents submitted for approval to the state board must consist only of academic standards and benchmarks. The commissioner shall revise all currently approved standards documents based on the requirements of this subsection and submit all revised standards documents to the state board for approval no later than July 1, 2026.

Section 21. Paragraph (o) of subsection (2) of section 1003.42, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.42 Required instruction.—

(2) Members of the instructional staff of the public schools, subject to the rules of the State Board of Education and the district school board, shall teach efficiently and faithfully, using the books and materials required that meet the highest standards for professionalism and historical accuracy,

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883 following the prescribed courses of study, and employing
884 approved methods of instruction, the following:

885 (o) Comprehensive age-appropriate and developmentally
886 appropriate K-12 instruction on:

887 1. Health education that addresses concepts of community
888 health, consumer health, environmental health, and family life,
889 including:

890 a. Injury prevention and safety.

891 b. Internet safety.

892 c. Nutrition.

893 d. Personal health.

894 e. Prevention and control of disease.

895 f. Substance use and abuse.

896 g. Prevention of child sexual abuse, exploitation, and
897 human trafficking.

898 h. Human embryologic development.

899 2. For students in grades 7 through 12, teen dating
900 violence and abuse. This component must include, but not be
901 limited to, the definition of dating violence and abuse, the
902 warning signs of dating violence and abusive behavior, the
903 characteristics of healthy relationships, measures to prevent
904 and stop dating violence and abuse, and community resources
905 available to victims of dating violence and abuse.

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906 3. For students in grades 6 through 12, awareness of the
907 benefits of sexual abstinence as the expected standard and the
908 consequences of teenage pregnancy.

909 4. Life skills that build confidence, support mental and
910 emotional health, and enable students to overcome challenges,
911 including:

912 a. Self-awareness and self-management.

913 b. Responsible decisionmaking.

914 c. Resiliency.

915 d. Relationship skills and conflict resolution.

916 e. Understanding and respecting other viewpoints and
917 backgrounds.

918 f. For grades 9 through 12, developing leadership skills,
919 interpersonal skills, organization skills, and research skills;
920 creating a résumé, including a digital résumé; exploring career
921 pathways; using state career planning resources; developing and
922 practicing the skills necessary for employment interviews;
923 workplace ethics and workplace law; managing stress and
924 expectations; and self-motivation.

925 5.a. For students in grades 6 through 12, the social,
926 emotional, and physical effects of social media. This component
927 must include, but need not be limited to, the negative effects
928 of social media on mental health, including addiction; the
929 distribution of misinformation on social media; how social media
930 manipulates behavior; the permanency of sharing materials

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931 online; how to maintain personal security and identify
932 cyberbullying, predatory behavior, and human trafficking on the
933 Internet; and how to report suspicious behavior encountered on
934 the Internet.

935 b. The Department of Education shall make available online
936 the instructional material being used pursuant to this
937 subparagraph, and each district school board shall notify
938 parents of its availability.

939 6.a. For students in grades 6 through 12, health education
940 addressing human embryologic development must include:

941 (I) A high-definition ultrasound video, at least 1 minute
942 in duration, showing the development of the heart and other
943 organs and movement of the limbs and head; and

944 (II) A high-quality, computer-generated rendering,
945 animation, video, or other multimedia, at least 3 minutes in
946 duration, showing and describing the process of fertilization
947 and various stages of human development inside the uterus,
948 noting significant markers in cell growth and organ development
949 by week from conception until birth.

950 b. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to
951 implement this subparagraph.

952
953 Health education and life skills instruction and materials may
954 not contradict the principles enumerated in subsection (3).
955

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The State Board of Education is encouraged to adopt standards and pursue assessment of the requirements of this subsection. Instructional programming that incorporates the values of the recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor and that is offered as part of a social studies, English Language Arts, or other schoolwide character building and veteran awareness initiative meets the requirements of paragraph (u).

Section 22. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) and subsection (3) of section 1003.4201, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1003.4201 Comprehensive system of reading instruction.— Each school district must implement a system of comprehensive reading instruction for students enrolled in prekindergarten through grade 12 and certain students who exhibit a substantial deficiency in early literacy.

(2)(a) Components of the reading instruction plan may include the following:

1. Additional time per day of evidence-based intensive reading instruction for kindergarten through grade 12 students, which may be delivered during or outside of the regular school day.

2. Highly qualified reading coaches, who must be endorsed in reading, to specifically support classroom teachers in making instructional decisions based on progress monitoring data collected pursuant to s. 1008.25(9) and improve classroom teacher delivery of effective reading instruction, reading

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intervention, and reading in the content areas based on student need.

3. Professional learning to help instructional personnel and certified prekindergarten teachers funded in the Florida Education Finance Program earn a certification, a credential, an endorsement, or an advanced degree in scientifically researched and evidence-based reading instruction.

4. Summer reading camps, using only classroom teachers or other district personnel who possess a micro-credential as specified in s. 1003.485 or are certified or endorsed in reading consistent with s. 1008.25(8)(b)3., for all students in kindergarten through grade 5 exhibiting a reading deficiency as determined by district and state assessments.

5. Intensive reading interventions that must be delivered by instructional personnel who possess a micro-credential as provided in s. 1003.485 or are certified or endorsed in reading as provided in s. 1012.586 and must incorporate evidence-based strategies identified by the Just Read, Florida! Office pursuant to s. 1001.215(7). Instructional personnel who possess a micro-credential as specified in s. 1003.485 and are delivering intensive reading interventions must be supervised by an individual certified or endorsed in reading. For the purposes of this subsection, the term "supervised" means the ability to communicate by way of telecommunication with or physical presence of the certified or endorsed personnel for consultation

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and direction of the actions of the personnel with the micro-credential. Incentives for instructional personnel and certified prekindergarten teachers funded in the Florida Education Finance Program who possess a reading certification or endorsement as specified in s. 1012.586 or micro-credential as specified in s. 1003.485 and provide educational support to improve student literacy.

6. Tutoring in reading.

7. A description of how the district prioritizes the assignment of highly effective teachers, as identified in s. 1012.34(2)(e), to students in kindergarten to grade 2.

(3) Each school district shall submit its approved reading instruction plan, including approved reading instruction plans for each charter school in the district, to the Department of Education for approval by August 1 of each fiscal year.

Section 23. Section 1003.4202, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1003.4202 Comprehensive system of mathematics instruction.—Each school district must implement a system of comprehensive mathematics instruction for students enrolled in prekindergarten through grade 12 and certain students who exhibit a substantial deficiency in early mathematics skills under s. 1008.25(6).

(1) As part of the reading instruction plan required under s. 1003.4201, each school district shall include a detailed

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1031 mathematics instruction plan that outlines the components of the
1032 district's comprehensive system of mathematics instruction.

1033 (2) Components of the mathematics instruction plan may
1034 include the following:

1035 (a) Additional time per day of evidence-based intensive
1036 mathematics instruction for students in kindergarten through
1037 grade 12, which may be delivered during or outside of the
1038 regular school day.

1039 (b) Highly qualified mathematics coaches who hold a
1040 certification that aligns with the certification requirements
1041 for the courses of the teachers they support and have 3
1042 consecutive years of a highly effective district evaluation,
1043 pursuant to s. 1012.34, to specifically support classroom
1044 teachers in making instructional decisions based on progress
1045 monitoring data collected pursuant to s. 1008.25(9) and improve
1046 classroom teacher delivery of effective mathematics instruction
1047 and mathematics intervention.

1048 (c) Tutoring in mathematics.

1049 (3) For purposes of this section, the term "evidence-
1050 based" means demonstrating a statistically significant effect on
1051 improving student outcomes or other relevant outcomes as
1052 provided in 20 U.S.C. s. 8101(21)(A)(i).

1053 **Section 24. Paragraph (h) of subsection (3) of section**
1054 **1003.4282, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

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1055 1003.4282 Requirements for a standard high school
1056 diploma.—

1057 (3) STANDARD HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA; COURSE AND ASSESSMENT
1058 REQUIREMENTS.—

1059 (h) *One-half credit in personal financial literacy.*—
1060 Beginning with students entering grade 9 in the 2023-2024 school
1061 year, each student must earn one-half credit in personal
1062 financial literacy and money management. This instruction must
1063 include discussion of or instruction in all of the following:

1064 1. Types of bank accounts offered, opening and managing a
1065 bank account, and assessing the quality of a depository
1066 institution's services.

1067 2. Balancing a checkbook.

1068 3. Basic principles of money management, such as spending,
1069 credit, credit scores, and managing debt, including retail and
1070 credit card debt.

1071 4. Completing a loan application.

1072 5. Receiving an inheritance and related implications.

1073 6. Basic principles of personal insurance policies.

1074 7. Computing federal income taxes.

1075 8. Local tax assessments.

1076 9. Computing interest rates by various mechanisms.

1077 10. Simple contracts.

1078 11. Contesting an incorrect billing statement.

1079 12. Types of savings and investments.

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13. State and federal laws concerning finance.

14. Costs of postsecondary education, including the cost of attendance, completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, scholarships and grants, and student loans.

Section 25. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) and paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section 1004.04, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1004.04 Public accountability and state approval for teacher preparation programs.—

(2) UNIFORM CORE CURRICULA AND CANDIDATE ASSESSMENT.—

(b) The rules to establish uniform core curricula for each state-approved teacher preparation program must include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Candidate instruction and assessment in the Florida Educator Accomplished Practices across content areas.

2. The use of state-adopted content standards to guide curricula and instruction.

3. Scientifically researched and evidence-based reading instructional strategies grounded in the science of reading which improve reading performance for all students, including explicit, systematic, and sequential approaches to teaching phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and text comprehension and multisensory intervention strategies. The primary instructional strategy for teaching word reading is phonics instruction for decoding and encoding. Instructional

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1105 strategies for foundational skills may not employ the three-
1106 cueing system model of reading or visual memory as a basis for
1107 teaching word reading. Instructional strategies may include
1108 visual information and strategies that improve background and
1109 experiential knowledge, add context, and increase oral language
1110 and vocabulary to support comprehension, but may not be used to
1111 teach word reading.

1112 4. Content in literacy and mathematics practices.

1113 5. Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, content in
1114 mathematics, including numbers and operations, fractions,
1115 algebraic reasoning, measurement, geometric reasoning, and data
1116 analysis and probability at the elementary level, for a minimum
1117 of 6 credit hours.

1118 6.5. Strategies appropriate for the instruction of English
1119 language learners.

1120 7.6. Strategies appropriate for the instruction of
1121 students with disabilities.

1122 8.7. Strategies to differentiate instruction based on
1123 student needs.

1124 9.8. Strategies and practices to support evidence-based
1125 content aligned to state standards and grading practices.

1126 10.9. Strategies appropriate for the early identification
1127 of a student in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge
1128 and the referral of such student to a mental health professional
1129 for support.

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1130 ~~11.40.~~ Strategies to support the use of technology in
1131 education and distance learning.

1132 ~~12.41.~~ Strategies and practices to support effective,
1133 research-based assessment and grading practices aligned to the
1134 state's academic standards.

1135 (4) CONTINUED PROGRAM APPROVAL.—Continued approval of a
1136 teacher preparation program shall be based upon evidence that
1137 the program continues to implement the requirements for initial
1138 approval and upon significant, objective, and quantifiable
1139 measures of the program and the performance of the program
1140 completers.

1141 (a) The criteria for continued approval must include each
1142 of the following:

1143 1. Candidate readiness based on passage rates on educator
1144 certification examinations under s. 1012.56, as applicable.

1145 2. Evidence of performance in each of the following areas:

1146 a. Performance of students in prekindergarten through
1147 grade 12 who are assigned to in-field program completers on
1148 statewide assessments using the results of the student learning
1149 growth formula adopted under s. 1012.34.

1150 b. Results of program completers' annual evaluations in
1151 accordance with the timeline as set forth in s. 1012.34.

1152 c. Workforce contributions, including placement of program
1153 completers in instructional positions in Florida public and
1154 private schools, with additional weight given to production of

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1155 program completers in statewide high-demand ~~critical~~ teacher
1156 needs ~~shortage~~ areas as identified in s. 1012.07.

1157 3. Results of the program completers' survey measuring
1158 their satisfaction with preparation for the realities of the
1159 classroom.

1160 4. Results of the employers' survey measuring satisfaction
1161 with the program and the program's responsiveness to local
1162 school districts.

1163 **Section 26. Effective July 1, 2026, paragraph (a) of**
1164 **subsection (3) of section 1004.85, Florida Statutes, is amended**
1165 **to read:**

1166 1004.85 Postsecondary educator preparation institutes.—

1167 (3) Educator preparation institutes approved pursuant to
1168 this section may offer competency-based certification programs
1169 specifically designed for noneducation major baccalaureate
1170 degree holders to enable program participants to meet the
1171 educator certification requirements of s. 1012.56. An educator
1172 preparation institute choosing to offer a competency-based
1173 certification program pursuant to the provisions of this section
1174 must implement a program developed by the institute and approved
1175 by the department for this purpose. Approved programs shall be
1176 available for use by other approved educator preparation
1177 institutes.

1178 (a) Within 90 days after receipt of a request for
1179 approval, the Department of Education shall approve a

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1180 preparation program pursuant to the requirements of this
1181 subsection or issue a statement of the deficiencies in the
1182 request for approval. The department shall approve a
1183 certification program if the institute provides evidence of the
1184 institute's capacity to implement a competency-based program
1185 that instructs and assesses each candidate in the following:

1186 1.a. The Florida Educator Accomplished Practices approved
1187 by the state board.

1188 b. The state academic standards provided under s. 1003.41,
1189 including scientifically based reading instruction, content
1190 literacy, and mathematical practices, for each subject
1191 identified on the statement of status of eligibility or the
1192 temporary certificate.

1193 c. Scientifically researched and evidence-based reading
1194 instructional strategies grounded in the science of reading
1195 which improve reading performance for all students, including
1196 explicit, systematic, and sequential approaches to teaching
1197 phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and text
1198 comprehension and multisensory intervention strategies. The
1199 primary instructional strategy for teaching word reading is
1200 phonics instruction for decoding and encoding. Instructional
1201 strategies for foundational skills may not employ the three-
1202 cueing system model of reading or visual memory as a basis for
1203 teaching word reading. Instructional strategies may include
1204 visual information and strategies which improve background and

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experiential knowledge, add context, and increase oral language and vocabulary to support comprehension, but may not be used to teach word reading.

d. Content in mathematics, including numbers and operations, fractions, algebraic reasoning, measurement, geometric reasoning, and data analysis and probability at the elementary level.

2. An educational plan for each participant to meet certification requirements and demonstrate his or her ability to teach the subject area for which the participant is seeking certification, which is based on an assessment of his or her competency in the areas listed in subparagraph 1.

3. Field experiences appropriate to the certification subject area specified in the educational plan under the supervision of qualified educators. The state board shall determine in rule the amount of field experience necessary to serve as the teacher of record, beginning with candidates entering a program in the 2023-2024 school year.

4. A certification ombudsman to facilitate the process and procedures required for participants who complete the program to meet any requirements related to the background screening pursuant to s. 1012.32 and educator professional or temporary certification pursuant to s. 1012.56.

Section 27. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 1006.09, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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1230 1006.09 Duties of school principal relating to student
1231 discipline and school safety.—

1232 (1)(a)1. Subject to law and to the rules of the State
1233 Board of Education and the district school board, the principal
1234 in charge of the school or the principal's designee shall
1235 develop policies for delegating to any teacher or other member
1236 of the instructional staff or to any bus driver transporting
1237 students of the school responsibility for the control and
1238 direction of students. Each school principal shall fully support
1239 the authority of his or her teachers and school bus drivers to
1240 remove disobedient, disrespectful, violent, abusive,
1241 uncontrollable, or disruptive students from the classroom and
1242 the school bus and, when appropriate and available, place such
1243 students in an alternative educational setting. The principal or
1244 the principal's designee must give full consideration to the
1245 recommendation for discipline made by a teacher, other member of
1246 the instructional staff, or a bus driver when making a decision
1247 regarding student referral for discipline.

1248 2. If the disobedient, disrespectful, violent, abusive,
1249 uncontrollable, or disruptive behavior continues, the school
1250 principal shall refer the case to the school's child study team
1251 to schedule a meeting with the parent to identify potential
1252 remedies.

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1253 3. If an initial meeting with the student's parent does
1254 not resolve the behavioral issues, the child study team shall
1255 implement the following:

1256 a. Frequent attempts by the school, including the
1257 student's teacher and a school administrator, at communicating
1258 with the student's family. The attempts may be made in writing
1259 or by telephone, but must be documented.

1260 b. A student evaluation for alternative education
1261 programs.

1262 c. Behavior contracts.
1263

1264 The child study team may, but is not required to, implement
1265 other interventions, including referral to other agencies for
1266 family services or a recommendation for filing a petition for a
1267 child in need of services pursuant to s. 984.15.

1268 **Section 28. Subsection (3) of section 1006.13, Florida**
1269 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

1270 1006.13 Policy of zero tolerance for crime and
1271 victimization.—

1272 (3)(a) Zero-tolerance policies must require students found
1273 to have committed one of the following offenses to be expelled,
1274 with or without continuing educational services, from the
1275 student's regular school for a period of not less than 1 full
1276 year, and to be referred to the criminal justice or juvenile
1277 justice system.

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1278 ~~1.(a)~~ Bringing a firearm or weapon, as defined in chapter
1279 790, to school, to any school function, or onto any school-
1280 sponsored transportation or possessing a firearm at school.

1281 ~~2.(b)~~ Making a threat or false report, as defined by ss.
1282 790.162 and 790.163, respectively, involving school or school
1283 personnel's property, school transportation, or a school-
1284 sponsored activity.

1285 (b) District school boards may assign the student to a
1286 disciplinary program for the purpose of continuing educational
1287 services during the period of expulsion. District school
1288 superintendents may consider the 1-year expulsion requirement on
1289 a case-by-case basis and request the district school board to
1290 modify the requirement by assigning the student to a
1291 disciplinary program or second chance school if the request for
1292 modification is in writing and it is determined to be in the
1293 best interest of the student and the school system. If a student
1294 committing any of the offenses in this subsection is a student
1295 who has a disability, the district school board shall comply
1296 with applicable State Board of Education rules.

1297 (c) Before the expiration of an expulsion period, the
1298 district school superintendent must determine, based upon the
1299 determination of the threat management team, whether the
1300 expulsion period should be extended and, if the expulsion period
1301 is extended, what educational services will be provided. A
1302 recommendation to extend the expulsion period must be provided

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1303 to the student and his or her parents in accordance with s.
1304 1006.08(1).

1305 **Section 29. Effective upon this act becoming a law,**
1306 **paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 1007.27, Florida**
1307 **Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (d) is added to subsection**
1308 **(2) of that section, to read:**

1309 1007.27 Articulated acceleration mechanisms.—

1310 (1)

1311 (b) The State Board of Education and the Board of
1312 Governors shall identify Florida College System institutions and
1313 state universities or a national consortium to develop courses
1314 that align with s. 1007.25 for students in secondary education
1315 and provide the training required under s. 1007.35(6).

1316 (2)

1317 (d) The department may join or establish a national
1318 consortium as an alternative method to develop and implement
1319 advanced courses that align with s. 1007.25.

1320 **Section 30. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (5),**
1321 **paragraph (j) of subsection (6), and subsection (8) of section**
1322 **1007.35, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

1323 1007.35 Florida Partnership for Minority and
1324 Underrepresented Student Achievement.—

1325 (5) Each public high school, including, but not limited
1326 to, schools and alternative sites and centers of the Department
1327 of Juvenile Justice, shall provide for the administration of the

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1328 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test
1329 (PSAT/NMSQT), the Classic Learning Test 10 (CLT10), or the
1330 PreACT to all enrolled 10th grade students. However, a written
1331 notice shall be provided to each parent which must include the
1332 opportunity to exempt his or her child from taking the
1333 PSAT/NMSQT, CLT10, or the PreACT.

1334 (b) Funding for the PSAT/NMSQT, CLT10, or the PreACT for
1335 all 10th grade students shall be contingent upon annual funding
1336 in the General Appropriations Act.

1337 (c) Public school districts must choose either the
1338 PSAT/NMSQT, CLT10, or the PreACT for districtwide
1339 administration.

1340 (6) The partnership shall:

1341 (j) Provide information to students, parents, teachers,
1342 counselors, administrators, districts, Florida College System
1343 institutions, and state universities regarding PSAT/NMSQT,
1344 CLT10, or the PreACT administration, including, but not limited
1345 to:

1346 1. Test administration dates and times.

1347 2. That participation in the PSAT/NMSQT, CLT10, or the
1348 PreACT is open to all 10th grade students.

1349 3. The value of such tests in providing diagnostic
1350 feedback on student skills.

1351 4. The value of student scores in predicting the
1352 probability of success on advanced course examinations.

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1353 (8) (a) By September 30 of each year, the partnership shall
1354 submit to the department a report that contains an evaluation of
1355 the effectiveness of the delivered services and activities.
1356 Activities and services must be evaluated on their effectiveness
1357 at raising student achievement and increasing the number of AP
1358 or other advanced course examinations in low-performing middle
1359 and high schools. Other indicators that must be addressed in the
1360 evaluation report include the number of middle and high school
1361 teachers trained; the effectiveness of the training; measures of
1362 postsecondary readiness of the students affected by the program;
1363 levels of participation in 10th grade PSAT/NMSQT, CLT10, or the
1364 PreACT testing; and measures of student, parent, and teacher
1365 awareness of and satisfaction with the services of the
1366 partnership.

1367 (b) The department shall contribute to the evaluation
1368 process by providing access, consistent with s. 119.071(5) (a),
1369 to student and teacher information necessary to match against
1370 databases containing teacher professional learning data and
1371 databases containing assessment data for the PSAT/NMSQT, SAT,
1372 ACT, PreACT, CLT, CLT10, AP, and other appropriate measures. The
1373 department shall also provide student-level data on student
1374 progress from middle school through high school and into college
1375 and the workforce, if available, in order to support
1376 longitudinal studies. The partnership shall analyze and report
1377 student performance data in a manner that protects the rights of

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students and parents as required in 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g and s. 1002.22.

Section 31. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (6) of section 1008.25, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

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

(6) MATHEMATICS DEFICIENCY AND PARENTAL NOTIFICATION.—

(a) Any student in a Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program provided by a public school who exhibits a substantial deficiency in early mathematics skills and any student in kindergarten through grade 4 who exhibits a substantial deficiency in mathematics or the characteristics of dyscalculia based upon screening, diagnostic, progress monitoring, or assessment data; statewide assessments; or teacher observations must:

1. Immediately following the identification of the mathematics deficiency, be provided systematic and explicit mathematics instruction to address his or her specific deficiencies through either:

a. Daily targeted small group mathematics intervention based on student need; or

b. Supplemental, evidence-based mathematics interventions before or after school, or both, delivered by a highly qualified

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1402 teacher of mathematics or a trained tutor, as defined by the
1403 State Board of Education.

1404 2. The performance of a student receiving mathematics
1405 instruction under subparagraph 1. must be monitored, and
1406 instruction must be adjusted based on the student's need.

1407 3. The department shall provide a list of state examined
1408 and approved mathematics intervention programs, curricula, and
1409 high-quality supplemental materials that may be used to improve
1410 a student's mathematics deficiencies. In addition, the
1411 department shall work, at a minimum, with the Florida Center for
1412 Mathematics and Science Education Research established in s.
1413 1004.86 to disseminate information to school districts and
1414 teachers on effective evidence-based explicit mathematics
1415 instructional practices, strategies, and interventions.

1416 4. A school may not wait for a student to receive a
1417 failing grade at the end of a grading period or wait until a
1418 plan under paragraph (4) (b) is developed to identify the student
1419 as having a substantial mathematics deficiency and initiate
1420 intensive mathematics interventions. In addition, a school may
1421 not wait until an evaluation conducted pursuant to s. 1003.57 is
1422 completed to provide appropriate, evidence-based interventions
1423 for a student whose parent submits documentation from a
1424 professional licensed under chapter 490 which demonstrates that
1425 the student has been diagnosed with dyscalculia. Such
1426 interventions must be initiated upon receipt of the

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documentation and based on the student's specific areas of difficulty as identified by the licensed professional.

5. The mathematics proficiency of a student receiving additional mathematics supports must be monitored and the intensive interventions must continue until the student demonstrates grade level proficiency in a manner determined by the district, which may include achieving a Level 3 on the statewide, standardized Mathematics assessment. The State Board of Education shall identify by rule guidelines for determining whether a student in a Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program has a deficiency in early mathematics skills or a student in kindergarten through grade 4 has a substantial deficiency in mathematics.

For the purposes of this subsection, a Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program student is deemed to exhibit a substantial deficiency in mathematics skills based upon the results of the midyear or final administration of the coordinated screening and progress monitoring under subsection (9).

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

1. That his or her child has been identified as having a substantial deficiency in mathematics, including a description and explanation, in terms understandable to the parent, of the

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1452 exact nature of the student's difficulty in learning and lack of
1453 achievement in mathematics.

1454 2. A description of the current services that are provided
1455 to the child.

1456 3. A description of the proposed intensive interventions
1457 and supports that will be provided to the child that are
1458 designed to remediate the identified area of mathematics
1459 deficiency.

1460 4. Strategies, including multisensory strategies and
1461 programming, through a home-based plan the parent can use in
1462 helping his or her child succeed in mathematics. The home-based
1463 plan must provide access to the resources identified in
1464 paragraph (d).

1465 5. Information about the student's eligibility for the New
1466 Worlds Scholarship Accounts under s. 1002.411 and the school
1467 district's tutoring services provided by the New Worlds Tutoring
1468 Program under s. 1008.366.

1470 After the initial notification, the school shall apprise the
1471 parent at least monthly of the student's progress in response to
1472 the intensive interventions and supports. Such communications
1473 must be in writing and must explain any additional interventions
1474 or supports that will be implemented to accelerate the student's
1475 progress if the interventions and supports already being
1476 implemented have not resulted in improvement. Upon the request

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of the parent, the teacher or school administrator shall meet to discuss the student's progress. The parent may request more frequent notification of the student's progress, more frequent interventions or supports, and earlier implementation of the additional interventions or supports described in the initial notification.

Section 32. Subsection (8) of section 1008.365, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1008.365 Reading Achievement Initiative for Scholastic Excellence Act.—

(8) As part of the RAISE Program, the department shall establish a tutoring program and develop training in effective reading tutoring practices and content, based on evidence-based practices grounded in the science of reading and aligned to the English Language Arts standards under s. 1003.41, which prepares eligible high school students to tutor students in kindergarten through grade 3 in schools identified under this section, instilling in those students a love of reading and improving their literacy skills.

(a) To be eligible to participate in the tutoring program, a high school student must be a rising junior or senior who has a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher, has no history of out-of-school suspensions or expulsions, is on track to complete all core course requirements to graduate, and has written recommendations from at least two of his or her present

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1502 or former high school teachers of record or extracurricular
1503 activity sponsors.

1504 (b) School districts that wish to participate in the
1505 tutoring program must recruit, train, and deploy eligible high
1506 school students using the materials developed under this
1507 section. Tutoring must occur during or after the school day on
1508 school district property in the presence and under the
1509 supervision of instructional personnel who are school district
1510 employees. A parent must give written permission for his or her
1511 child to receive tutoring through the program.

1512 (c) Tutoring may be part of a service-learning course
1513 adopted pursuant to s. 1003.497. Students may earn up to three
1514 elective credits for high school graduation based on the
1515 verified number of hours the student spends tutoring under the
1516 program. The hours of volunteer service must be documented in
1517 writing, and the document must be signed by the student, the
1518 student's parent or guardian, and an administrator or designee
1519 of the school in which the tutoring occurred. ~~The Unpaid~~ hours
1520 that a high school student devotes to tutoring may be counted
1521 toward meeting community service requirements for high school
1522 graduation and community service requirements for participation
1523 in the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program as provided in
1524 s. 1003.497(3)(b). The department shall designate a high school
1525 student who provides at least 75 verified hours of tutoring

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under the program as a New Worlds Scholar and award the student with a pin indicating such designation.

(d) School districts participating in the tutoring program may provide a stipend to instructional personnel and high school students serving as tutors for after-school tutoring.

Section 33. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and subsection (2) of section 1008.366, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1008.366 The New Worlds Tutoring Program.—

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

(b) Providing best practice guidelines for mathematics tutoring in alignment with Florida's Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards for mathematics in consultation with the Office of Mathematics and Sciences.

(2) Annually, by August 31 ~~July 1~~, the administrator of the New Worlds Tutoring Program shall provide to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Commissioner of Education a report summarizing school district use of program funds and student academic outcomes as a result of the additional literacy or mathematics support provided under this section.

Section 34. Sections 1011.58 and 1011.59, Florida Statutes, are repealed.

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Section 35. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section 1011.71, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1011.71 District school tax.—

(5) A school district may expend, subject to s. 200.065, up to \$200 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:

(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)(b), (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.

Section 36. Section 1012.07, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1012.07 Identification of high-demand ~~critical~~ teacher needs ~~shortage~~ areas.—

The term "high-demand ~~critical~~ teacher needs ~~shortage~~ area" means high-need content areas and high-priority location areas identified by the State Board of Education. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and

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120.54 necessary to annually identify high-demand ~~critical~~ teacher needs ~~shortage~~ areas. The state board must consider current and emerging educational requirements and workforce demands in determining high-demand ~~critical~~ teacher needs ~~shortage~~ areas. School grade levels may also be designated critical teacher shortage areas. Individual district school boards may identify and submit other high-demand ~~critical~~ teacher needs ~~shortage~~ areas. Such submissions must be aligned to current and emerging educational requirements and workforce demands in order to be approved by the State Board of Education. High-priority location areas must be in high-density, low-economic urban schools; low-density, low-economic rural schools; and schools that earned a grade of "F" or three consecutive grades of "D" pursuant to s. 1008.34. The State Board of Education shall develop strategies to address high-demand ~~critical~~ teacher needs ~~shortage~~ areas.

Section 37. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section 1012.22, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1012.22 Public school personnel; powers and duties of the district school board.—The district school board shall:

(1) Designate positions to be filled, prescribe qualifications for those positions, and provide for the appointment, compensation, promotion, suspension, and dismissal of employees as follows, subject to the requirements of this chapter:

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(c) Compensation and salary schedules.—

1. Definitions.—As used in this paragraph:

a. "Adjustment" means an addition to the base salary schedule that is not a bonus and becomes part of the employee's permanent base salary and shall be considered compensation under s. 121.021(22).

b. "Grandfathered salary schedule" means the salary schedule or schedules adopted by a district school board before July 1, 2014, pursuant to subparagraph 4.

c. "Instructional personnel" means instructional personnel as defined in s. 1012.01(2)(a)-(d), excluding substitute teachers.

d. "Performance salary schedule" means the salary schedule or schedules adopted by a district school board pursuant to subparagraph 5.

e. "Salary schedule" means the schedule or schedules used to provide the base salary for district school board personnel.

f. "School administrator" means a school administrator as defined in s. 1012.01(3)(c).

g. "Supplement" means an annual addition to the base salary for the term of the negotiated supplement as long as the employee continues his or her employment for the purpose of the supplement. A supplement does not become part of the employee's continuing base salary but shall be considered compensation under s. 121.021(22).

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1625 2. Cost-of-living adjustment.—A district school board may
1626 provide a cost-of-living salary adjustment if the adjustment:

1627 a. Does not discriminate among comparable classes of
1628 employees based upon the salary schedule under which they are
1629 compensated.

1630 b. Does not exceed 50 percent of the annual adjustment
1631 provided to instructional personnel rated as effective.

1632 3. Advanced degrees.—A district school board may use
1633 advanced degrees in setting a salary schedule for instructional
1634 personnel or school administrators if the advanced degree is
1635 held in the individual's area of certification.

1636 4. Grandfathered salary schedule.—

1637 a. The district school board shall adopt a salary schedule
1638 or salary schedules to be used as the basis for paying all
1639 school employees hired before July 1, 2014. Instructional
1640 personnel on annual contract as of July 1, 2014, shall be placed
1641 on the performance salary schedule adopted under subparagraph 5.
1642 Instructional personnel on continuing contract or professional
1643 service contract may opt into the performance salary schedule if
1644 the employee relinquishes such contract and agrees to be
1645 employed on an annual contract under s. 1012.335. Such an
1646 employee shall be placed on the performance salary schedule and
1647 may not return to continuing contract or professional service
1648 contract status. Any employee who opts into the performance

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1649 salary schedule may not return to the grandfathered salary
1650 schedule.

1651 b. In determining the grandfathered salary schedule for
1652 instructional personnel, a district school board must base a
1653 portion of each employee's compensation upon performance
1654 demonstrated under s. 1012.34 and shall provide differentiated
1655 pay for both instructional personnel and school administrators
1656 based upon district-determined factors, including, but not
1657 limited to, additional responsibilities, school demographics,
1658 high-demand teacher needs ~~critical shortage~~ areas, and level of
1659 job performance difficulties.

1660 5. Performance salary schedule.—By July 1, 2014, the
1661 district school board shall adopt a performance salary schedule
1662 that provides annual salary adjustments for instructional
1663 personnel and school administrators based upon performance
1664 determined under s. 1012.34. Employees hired on or after July 1,
1665 2014, or employees who choose to move from the grandfathered
1666 salary schedule to the performance salary schedule shall be
1667 compensated pursuant to the performance salary schedule once
1668 they have received the appropriate performance evaluation for
1669 this purpose.

1670 a. Base salary.—The base salary shall be established as
1671 follows:

1672 (I) The base salary for instructional personnel or school
1673 administrators who opt into the performance salary schedule

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shall be the salary paid in the prior year, including adjustments only.

(II) Instructional personnel or school administrators new to the district, returning to the district after a break in service without an authorized leave of absence, or appointed for the first time to a position in the district in the capacity of instructional personnel or school administrator shall be placed on the performance salary schedule.

b. Salary adjustments.—Salary adjustments for highly effective or effective performance shall be established as follows:

(I) The annual salary adjustment under the performance salary schedule for an employee rated as highly effective must be at least 25 percent greater than the highest annual salary adjustment available to an employee of the same classification through any other salary schedule adopted by the district.

(II) The annual salary adjustment under the performance salary schedule for an employee rated as effective must be equal to at least 50 percent and no more than 75 percent of the annual adjustment provided for a highly effective employee of the same classification.

(III) A salary schedule shall not provide an annual salary adjustment for an employee who receives a rating other than highly effective or effective for the year.

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1698 c. Salary supplements.—In addition to the salary
1699 adjustments, each district school board shall provide for salary
1700 supplements for activities that must include, but are not
1701 limited to:

1702 (I) Assignment to a Title I eligible school.

1703 (II) Assignment to a school that earned a grade of "F" or
1704 three consecutive grades of "D" pursuant to s. 1008.34 such that
1705 the supplement remains in force for at least 1 year following
1706 improved performance in that school.

1707 (III) Certification and teaching in high-demand ~~critical~~
1708 teacher needs shortage areas. Statewide high-demand ~~critical~~
1709 teacher needs shortage areas shall be identified by the State
1710 Board of Education under s. 1012.07. However, the district
1711 school board may identify other areas of high-demand needs
1712 ~~critical~~ shortage within the school district for purposes of
1713 this sub-sub-subparagraph and may remove areas identified by the
1714 state board which do not apply within the school district.

1715 (IV) Assignment of additional academic responsibilities.

1716
1717 If budget constraints in any given year limit a district school
1718 board's ability to fully fund all adopted salary schedules, the
1719 performance salary schedule shall not be reduced on the basis of
1720 total cost or the value of individual awards in a manner that is
1721 proportionally greater than reductions to any other salary
1722 schedules adopted by the district. Any compensation for

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longevity of service awarded to instructional personnel who are on any other salary schedule must be included in calculating the salary adjustments required by sub-subparagraph b.

Section 38. Section 1012.315, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1012.315 Screening standards.—

(1) A person is ineligible for educator certification or employment in any position that requires direct contact with students in a district school system, a charter school, or a private school that participates in a state scholarship program under chapter 1002, which includes being an owner or operator of a private school that participates in a scholarship program under chapter 1002, if the person:

(a) ~~(1)~~ Is on the disqualification list maintained by the department under s. 1001.10(4)(b);

(b) ~~(2)~~ Is registered as a sex offender as described in 42 U.S.C. s. 9858f(c)(1)(C);

(c) ~~(3)~~ Is ineligible based on a security background investigation under s. 435.04(2). ~~Beginning January 1, 2025, or a later date as determined by the Agency for Health Care Administration,~~ The Agency for Health Care Administration shall determine the eligibility of employees in any position that requires direct contact with students in a district school system, a charter school, or a private school that participates in a state scholarship program under chapter 1002;

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1748 (d)~~(4)~~ Would be ineligible for an exemption under s.
1749 435.07(4)(c); or

1750 (e)~~(5)~~ Has been convicted or found guilty of, has had
1751 adjudication withheld for, or has pled guilty or nolo contendere
1752 to:

1753 1.~~(a)~~ Any criminal act committed in another state or under
1754 federal law which, if committed in this state, constitutes a
1755 disqualifying offense under s. 435.04(2).

1756 2.~~(b)~~ Any delinquent act committed in this state or any
1757 delinquent or criminal act committed in another state or under
1758 federal law which, if committed in this state, qualifies an
1759 individual for inclusion on the Registered Juvenile Sex Offender
1760 List under s. 943.0435(1)(h)1.d.

1761 (2) Persons who apply for certification or employment are
1762 governed by the law and rules in effect at the time of
1763 application for issuance of the initial certificate or
1764 employment, provided that continuity of certificates or
1765 employment is maintained.

1766 **Section 39. Effective July 1, 2026, paragraph (a) of**
1767 **subsection (8) of section 1012.56, Florida Statutes, is amended**
1768 **to read:**

1769 1012.56 Educator certification requirements.—

1770 (8) PROFESSIONAL LEARNING CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.—

1771 (a) The Department of Education shall develop and each
1772 school district, charter school, and charter management

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organization may provide a cohesive competency-based professional learning certification program by which instructional staff may satisfy the mastery of professional preparation and education competence requirements specified in subsection (6) and rules of the State Board of Education. Participants must hold a state-issued temporary certificate. A school district, charter school, or charter management organization that implements the program shall provide a competency-based certification program developed by the Department of Education or developed by the district, charter school, or charter management organization and approved by the Department of Education. These entities may collaborate with other supporting agencies or educational entities for implementation. The program shall include the following:

1. A teacher mentorship and induction component.
 - a. Each individual selected by the district, charter school, or charter management organization as a mentor:
 - (I) Must hold a valid professional certificate issued pursuant to this section;
 - (II) Must have earned at least 3 years of teaching experience in prekindergarten through grade 12;
 - (III) Must have completed training in clinical supervision and participate in ongoing mentor training provided through the coordinated system of professional learning under s. 1012.98(4);

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1797 (IV) Must have earned an effective or highly effective
1798 rating on the prior year's performance evaluation; and

1799 (V) May be a peer evaluator under the district's
1800 evaluation system approved under s. 1012.34.

1801 b. The teacher mentorship and induction component must, at
1802 a minimum, provide routine opportunities for mentoring and
1803 induction activities, including ongoing professional learning as
1804 described in s. 1012.98 targeted to a teacher's needs,
1805 opportunities for a teacher to observe other teachers, co-
1806 teaching experiences, and reflection and followup discussions.
1807 Professional learning must meet the criteria established in s.
1808 1012.98(3). Mentorship and induction activities must be provided
1809 for an applicant's first year in the program and may be provided
1810 until the applicant attains his or her professional certificate
1811 in accordance with this section.

1812 2. An assessment of teaching performance aligned to the
1813 district's, charter school's, or charter management
1814 organization's system for personnel evaluation under s. 1012.34
1815 which provides for:

1816 a. An initial evaluation of each educator's competencies
1817 to determine an appropriate individualized professional learning
1818 plan.

1819 b. A summative evaluation to assure successful completion
1820 of the program.

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1821 3. Professional education preparation content knowledge,
1822 which must be included in the mentoring and induction activities
1823 under subparagraph 1., that includes, but is not limited to, the
1824 following:

1825 a. The state academic standards provided under s. 1003.41,
1826 including scientifically researched and evidence-based reading
1827 instructional strategies grounded in the science of reading,
1828 content literacy, and mathematical practices, for each subject
1829 identified on the temporary certificate. Reading instructional
1830 strategies for foundational skills shall include phonics
1831 instruction for decoding and encoding as the primary
1832 instructional strategy for word reading. Instructional
1833 strategies may not employ the three-cueing system model of
1834 reading or visual memory as a basis for teaching word reading.
1835 Instructional strategies may include visual information and
1836 strategies which improve background and experiential knowledge,
1837 add context, and increase oral language and vocabulary to
1838 support comprehension, but may not be used to teach word
1839 reading. Content in mathematics shall include numbers and
1840 operations, fractions, algebraic reasoning, measurement,
1841 geometric reasoning, and data analysis and probability at the
1842 elementary level.

1843 b. The educator-accomplished practices approved by the
1844 state board.

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4. Required achievement of passing scores on the subject area and professional education competency examination required by State Board of Education rule. Mastery of general knowledge must be demonstrated as described in subsection (3).

5. Beginning with candidates entering a program in the 2022-2023 school year, a candidate for certification in a coverage area identified pursuant to s. 1012.585(3)(f) must successfully complete all competencies for a reading endorsement, including completion of the endorsement practicum.

Section 40. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 1012.586, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (3) is added to that section, to read:

1012.586 Additions or changes to certificates; duplicate certificates; reading endorsement pathways; mathematics endorsement pathways.—

(2)

(b) As part of adopting a pathway pursuant to paragraph (a), the department shall review the competencies for the reading endorsement and subject area examinations for educator certificates identified pursuant to s. 1012.585(3)(f) for alignment with evidence-based instructional and intervention strategies rooted in the science of reading and identified pursuant to s. 1001.215(7) and recommend changes to the State Board of Education. Recommended changes must address identification of the characteristics of conditions such as

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dyslexia or dyscalculia, implementation of evidence-based classroom instruction and interventions, including evidence-based reading or mathematics instruction and interventions specifically for students with characteristics of dyslexia or dyscalculia, and effective progress monitoring. ~~By July 1, 2023, each school district reading endorsement add-on program must be resubmitted for approval by the department consistent with this paragraph.~~

(3) (a) By the beginning of the 2027-2028 school year, the department shall adopt one or more statewide, competency-based pathways by which instructional personnel may earn a mathematics endorsement. A pathway adopted by the department must allow a candidate to complete coursework online and demonstrate mastery of each endorsement competency either in person or remotely.

(b) As part of adopting a pathway pursuant to paragraph (a), the department shall establish the competencies for the mathematics endorsement and subject area examinations for educator certificates identified pursuant to s. 1012.585(3) (f) for alignment with evidence-based instructional and intervention strategies and recommend changes to the State Board of Education. Established competencies for the mathematics endorsement must include competency to teach numbers and operations, fractions, algebraic reasoning, measurement, geometric reasoning, and data analysis and probability at the elementary or secondary level.

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Section 41. Section 1012.77, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1012.77 Christa McAuliffe Ambassador for Education Program.—

(1) ~~The Legislature recognizes that Florida continues to face teacher shortages and that fewer young people consider teaching as a career.~~ It is the intent of the Legislature to promote the positive and rewarding aspects of being a teacher, to encourage more individuals to become teachers, and to provide annual sabbatical support for outstanding Florida teachers to serve as goodwill ambassadors for education. The Legislature further wishes to honor the memory of Christa McAuliffe, who epitomized the challenge and inspiration that teaching can be.

(2) The Christa McAuliffe Ambassador for Education Program is established to provide salary, travel, and other related expenses annually for an outstanding Florida teacher to promote the positive aspects of teaching as a career. The goals of the program are to:

(a) Enhance the stature of teachers and the teaching profession.

(b) Promote the importance of quality education and teaching for our future.

(c) Inspire and attract talented people to become teachers.

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(d) Provide information regarding Florida's scholarship and loan programs related to teaching.

(e) Promote the teaching profession within community and business groups.

(f) Provide information to retired military personnel and other individuals who might consider teaching as a second career.

(g) Work with and represent the Department of Education, as needed.

(h) Work with and encourage the efforts of school and district teachers of the year.

(i) Support the activities of the Florida Future Educator of America Program.

(j) Represent Florida teachers at business, trade, education, and other conferences and meetings.

(k) Promote the teaching profession in other ways related to the teaching responsibilities, background experiences, and aspirations of the Ambassador for Education.

(3) The Teacher of the Year shall serve as the Ambassador for Education. If the Teacher of the Year is unable to serve as the Ambassador for Education, the first runner-up shall serve in his or her place. The Department of Education shall establish application and selection procedures for determining an annual teacher of the year. Applications and selection criteria shall be developed and distributed annually by the Department of

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Education to all eligible entities identified in subsection (4)
~~school districts~~. The Commissioner of Education shall establish
a selection committee which assures representation from teacher
organizations, administrators, and parents to select the Teacher
of the Year and Ambassador for Education from among the district
teachers of the year.

(4) Eligible entities to submit to the Department of
Education a nominee for the Teacher of the Year and Ambassador
for Education are:

(a) Florida school districts, including lab schools as
defined in s. 1002.32.

(b) Charter school consortia with at least 30 member
schools and an approved professional learning system on file
with the department.

(5) (a) ~~(4) (a)~~ The Commissioner of Education shall pay an
annual salary, fringe benefits, travel costs, and other costs
associated with administering the program.

(b) The Ambassador for Education shall serve for 1 year,
from July 1 to June 30, and shall be assured of returning to his
or her teaching position upon completion of the program. The
ambassador will not have a break in creditable or continuous
service or employment for the period of time in which he or she
participates in the program.

Section 42. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this
act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon

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1969 | this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1,
1970 | 2025.

1971 |
1972 | -----

1973 | **T I T L E A M E N D M E N T**

1974 | Remove everything before the enacting clause and insert:

1975 | A bill to be entitled

1976 | An act relating to education; amending s. 11.45, F.S.;
1977 | conforming provisions to changes made by the act;
1978 | amending s. 110.211, F.S.; authorizing recruiting
1979 | within the career service system to include the use of
1980 | certain apprenticeship programs; providing that open
1981 | competition is not required under certain
1982 | circumstances relating to the career service system;
1983 | amending s. 125.901, F.S.; revising the composition
1984 | and terms of membership for councils on children's
1985 | services; amending ss. 216.251, 447.203, and 1000.04,
1986 | F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the
1987 | act; amending s. 1000.40, F.S.; revising the scheduled
1988 | repeal date of the Interstate Compact on Educational
1989 | Opportunity for Military Children; amending s.
1990 | 1001.03, F.S.; renaming critical teacher shortage
1991 | areas as "high-demand teacher needs areas"; amending
1992 | s. 1001.20, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes
1993 | made by the act; creating s. 1001.325, F.S.;

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1994 prohibiting the expenditure of funds by public
1995 schools, charter schools, school districts, charter
1996 school administrators, or direct-support organizations
1997 to purchase membership in, or goods or services from,
1998 any organization that discriminates on the basis of
1999 race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or
2000 religion; prohibiting the expenditure of funds by
2001 public schools, charter schools, school districts,
2002 charter school administrators, or direct-support
2003 organizations to promote, support, or maintain certain
2004 programs or activities; authorizing the use of student
2005 fees and school or district facilities by student-led
2006 organizations under certain circumstances; providing
2007 construction; requiring the State Board of Education
2008 to adopt rules; amending s. 1001.452, F.S.; deleting a
2009 provision requiring the Commissioner of Education to
2010 determine whether school districts have maximized
2011 efforts to include minority persons and persons of
2012 lower socioeconomic status on their school advisory
2013 councils; amending s. 1002.20, F.S.; authorizing
2014 public schools to purchase or enter into arrangements
2015 for certain emergency opioid antagonists, rather than
2016 only for naloxone; providing certain liability
2017 protections for charter school employees who
2018 administer an emergency opioid antagonist; requiring

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that district school board policies authorizing corporal punishment include a requirement that parental consent be provided before the administration of corporal punishment; amending s. 1002.33, F.S.; requiring a charter school to comply with provisions relating to corporal punishment; prohibiting local governing authorities from imposing or enforcing certain building requirements and restrictions on charter school facilities; requiring the local governing authority to administratively approve a charter school if certain requirements are met; amending the statutory cause of action for an aggrieved school or entity; prohibiting local governing authorities from requiring charter schools to obtain a special exemption or conditional use approval unless otherwise specified; repealing s. 1002.351, F.S., relating to the Florida School for Competitive Academics; amending ss. 1002.394 and 1002.395, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 1002.421, F.S.; revising the background screening requirements for certain private school personnel; amending s. 1002.71, F.S.; revising the conditions under which a student may withdraw from a prekindergarten program and reenroll in another program; amending s. 1003.05, F.S.; requiring that

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2044 strategies addressed in specified memoranda of
2045 agreement between school districts and military
2046 installations include the development and
2047 implementation of a specified training module;
2048 requiring the Department of Education to provide the
2049 training module to each district school board;
2050 requiring each district school board to provide such
2051 module to each public and charter K-12 school in its
2052 district; requiring district school boards to make
2053 certain training available to certain employees;
2054 amending s. 1003.41, F.S.; requiring that certain
2055 standards documents contain only academic standards
2056 and benchmarks; requiring the commissioner to revise
2057 currently approved standards documents and submit them
2058 to the state board by a specified date; amending s.
2059 1003.42, F.S.; requiring K-12 health education to
2060 include instruction on human embryologic development;
2061 providing requirements for such instruction; requiring
2062 the state board to adopt rules relating to such
2063 instruction; amending s. 1003.4201, F.S.; revising the
2064 requirements for certain reading instruction plans to
2065 include specified instruction and information;
2066 requiring the department to approve school district
2067 reading instruction plans; creating s. 1003.4202,
2068 F.S.; requiring school districts to implement a

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2069 certain system of comprehensive mathematics
2070 instruction for certain students; defining the term
2071 "evidence-based"; amending s. 1003.4282, F.S.;
2072 providing additional components for required
2073 instruction on financial literacy; amending s.
2074 1004.04, F.S.; revising the uniform core curricula for
2075 state-approved teacher preparation programs to include
2076 specified mathematics content; amending s. 1004.85,
2077 F.S.; revising the requirements for postsecondary
2078 educator preparation institutes to include certain
2079 instruction and assessments on specified mathematics
2080 content; amending s. 1006.09, F.S.; expanding the
2081 duties of school principals relating to student
2082 discipline and school safety; amending s. 1006.13,
2083 F.S.; requiring district school superintendents to
2084 provide a determination to extend the expulsion period
2085 for students; providing requirements for such
2086 determination; requiring such determination be
2087 provided to students and parents; amending s. 1007.27,
2088 F.S.; authorizing the department to join or establish
2089 a national consortium as an additional alternative
2090 method to develop and implement advanced placement
2091 courses; amending s. 1007.35, F.S.; authorizing public
2092 high schools to provide the Classic Learning Test
2093 CLT10 to specified students; amending s. 1008.25,

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2094 F.S.; requiring certain provisions to be defined in
2095 state board rules; requiring parents of a student who
2096 exhibits a substantial deficiency in mathematics to be
2097 notified in writing of information about the student's
2098 eligibility for the New Worlds Scholarship Accounts
2099 and the New Worlds Tutoring Program; amending s.
2100 1008.365, F.S.; expanding the types of tutoring hours
2101 that may be counted toward meeting the community
2102 service requirements for the Bright Futures
2103 scholarship to include paid tutoring hours; amending
2104 s. 1008.366, F.S.; requiring the New Worlds Tutoring
2105 Program to provide best practice guidelines for
2106 mathematics tutoring in consultation with the Office
2107 of Mathematics and Sciences; revising the submission
2108 date for a specified report relating to the New Worlds
2109 Tutoring Program; repealing s. 1011.58, F.S., relating
2110 to procedures for legislative budget requests for the
2111 Florida School for Competitive Academics; repealing s.
2112 1011.59, F.S.; relating to funds for the Florida
2113 School for Competitive Academics; amending s. 1011.71,
2114 F.S.; expanding the meaning of "casualty insurance";
2115 amending ss. 1012.07 and 1012.22, F.S.; conforming
2116 provisions to changes made by the act; amending s.
2117 1012.315, F.S.; revising the background screening
2118 requirements for certain private school personnel;

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2119 providing that certain background screening
2120 requirements remain in place for a specified period of
2121 time for certain personnel; amending s. 1012.56, F.S.;
2122 requiring competency-based professional learning
2123 certification programs to include specified
2124 mathematics content; amending s. 1012.586, F.S.;
2125 amending reading endorsements and subject area
2126 examinations to address identifications of the
2127 characteristics of dyscalculia; removing the
2128 requirement for school districts' reading endorsement
2129 add-on programs to be resubmitted for approval by a
2130 date certain; requiring the department to adopt
2131 mathematics endorsement pathways; amending s. 1012.77,
2132 F.S.; deleting obsolete language; authorizing certain
2133 charter school consortia to submit nominees for the
2134 Teacher of the Year and Ambassador for Education;
2135 providing effective dates.