

The Florida Senate  
**HOUSE MESSAGE SUMMARY**

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

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[2025h01255.hms.ed]

BILL: CS/CS/HB 1255

INTRODUCER: Education & Employment Committee; Student Academic Success Subcommittee and Rep. Trabulsy (CS/CS/SB 1618 by Fiscal Policy; Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education and Senator Calatayud)

SUBJECT: Education

DATE: May 2, 2025

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**I. Amendments Contained in Message:**

**House Amendment 087219 to Senate amendment 351932** (body with title)

**II. Summary of Amendments Contained in Message:**

**House Amendment 087219 to Senate amendment 351932** removes from the Senate bill provisions that:

- Authorize OPPAGA to develop contracts or agreements with SUS institutions to utilize the expertise of the state university faculty and research staff to provide assistance in analysis and evaluative research.
- Revise duties of the FAU Office of the Ocean Economy.
- Extends the background rescreening deadlines for public and private school employees by approximately six months, moving compliance dates from June 30 to December 1 over the next three years.
- Provide greater board authority for regional educational consortium duties, and adds duties such as safe school support; college, career, workforce development; and business services.
- Create a grant program administered by the three regional consortium service organizations to supplement member needs.
- Remove requirement that the DOE confer with the Council for Early Grade Success regarding differential payments related to VPK accountability.
- Remove the authorization for the DOE to recommend to the SBE that a provider be permitted to maintain its Gold Seal Quality Care status in certain circumstances.
- Modify required instruction on agriculture.
- Modify provisions related to students entering the Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) Program and authority for GATE institutions to enter into an agreement with an online provider.
- Expand authorized use of the GATE startup fund.
- Remove requirements related to the Student Open Access Resources Repository.
- Revise the grandparents' out-of-state fee waiver.
- Modify eligibility for the Florida Gold Seal Vocational and Florida Gold Seal CAPE scholars award.

- Create the Rural Incentive for Professional Educators program.
- Require that funds under the Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers, and Learners through Incentives for Nursing Education (PIPELINE) Fund be used for healthcare industry-related programs.
- Clarify that general background screening exemptions do not apply to public school and private scholarship school employees in positions that may require direct contact with a student.
- Clarify that, because districts are able to keep their maximum levy under the Special Facility Construction Account, the amount of revenue to be deducted from the discretionary capital millage is the value of 1.0 mill, rather than the participation agreement under the Account.
- Require that projects starting in 2025-2026 fiscal year, authorizes a school district that receives funds through the Special Facility Construction Account to retain its entire 1.5 mill discretionary ad valorem levy.
- Create the state college regional consortium service organizations.
- Remove the requirement for the BOG to provide electronic access to data on the top 25% of degrees with the highest job placement and earnings and the bottom 10% of degrees with the lowest job placement and earnings before registration.

The House amendment adds to the Senate bill the following provisions that:

- Change the definition of “economically disadvantaged” used for determining eligibility for the School Readiness (SR) program. The bill changes the threshold for “economically disadvantaged” from families with an income that does not exceed “150 percent of the federal poverty level” to “55 percent of the state median income.”
- Require that the uniform waitlists track children on the waitlist based on family household income and by the priorities specified in Florida law.
- Require that the data for the total number of unweighted full-time equivalent SR children that is adopted by the Early Learning Program Estimating conference must consider the historical trends of children served and population changes for each county.
- Require school districts to provide information to parents about student eligibility for New World’s Scholarship accounts and the and the school district’s tutoring services provided by the New Worlds Tutoring Program if the student is deemed to have a math deficiency.
- Require that the New Worlds Tutoring program, in consultation with DOE’s office of mathematics and science, provide best practice guidelines for mathematics tutoring in alignment with Florida’s Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards for mathematics.
- Prohibit a local governing authority may not adopt impose or enforce any local building requirements or operational requirements that impact parking and capacity, or hours of operation.
- Require that local governing authority may not adopt codes that are not uniformly imposed or enforced by the local governing authority upon public schools within the jurisdiction of the local governing authority.
- Prohibit a local governing authority from placing any requirement or restriction that would not be required for a public or private school in the location or a location on which a public or private school has previously been permitted.

- Prohibit a local governing authority from 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, with conditions.

The House amendment maintains the following provisions from the Senate Bill that:

- Expand eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship program to students who earned a high school diploma from a non-Florida school while living with a parent or guardian who retired from active duty or other public service within 12 months before the student's high school graduation.
- Repeal the Florida School for Competitive Academics.
- Change the required publishing date for the annual report on apprenticeship and preapprenticeship from September 1 to November 30.
- Change the name of "Hillsborough Community College" to "Hillsborough College".
- Remove the Commissioner's authority to determine if schools have maximized their efforts to include on their advisory councils minority persons and persons of lower socioeconomic status.
- Expand the standardized test options used to determine eligibility for the program by including an average Classical Learning Test (CLT) score of 83 or higher on a 120 score scale.
- Revise the definition and requirements for emergency opioid antagonists from specifying only naloxone for K-12 and postsecondary schools.
- Specify school board policy on corporal punishment must include parent permission.
- Authorize a private school located in a county with four incorporated municipalities to construct new facilities on property that meet certain conditions.
- Move the background screening requirements for private schools to the ACHA clearinghouse and aligns the fingerprinting requirements with the requirements of public-school teachers.
- Remove language that set the withdrawal and reenrollment threshold for children attending the VPK program as having completed 70 percent of the VPK hours or expended 70 percent of the funding for specialized programs. Therefore, it allows a family to use the full VPK voucher if they move to another provider, even if the child has attended greater than 70 percent of the program.
- Move the repeal of the Military Interstate Compact from July 1, 2025, to July 1, 2028, and require the Department of Education to develop training to facilitate the transfer of student records for military families.
- Require standards documents contain only standards and benchmarks.
- Require that intensive reading interventions must be delivered by instructional personnel who possess a micro-credential or are certified or endorsed in reading and must incorporate evidence-based strategies identified by Just Read, Florida! Office.
- Require that information related to the costs of higher education and completion of the FAFSA to financial literacy course.
- Rename the Identification of Critical Teacher Shortage Area to Identification of High-Demand Teacher Need Areas.
- Update terminology related to nonpublic religious postsecondary institutions and modifies the affidavit process for operating without licensure.
- Provides additional requirements for nonpublic religious institution affidavits, allows the Commission for Independent Education to request documentation with a 30-day response

period, requires affidavits to be reviewed in a public meeting, and provides for enforcement by the commission..

- Authorize certain provisions for students who continue to be disobedient or disrespectful.
- Provide that before the expiration of an expulsion period, the district school superintendent must determine, based upon the determination of the threat management team, whether the expulsion period should be extended and, if the expulsion period is extended, what educational services will be provided.
- Authorize the State Board of Education and Board of Governors to identify a national consortium to develop courses that align with general education courses for students in secondary education and provide training under the Florida Partnership for Minority and Underrepresented Student Achievement.
- Add the CLT 10 assessment as an approved assessment for 10th graders to participate in under Florida Partnership.
- Authorize the use of unpaid or paid hours that a high school student devotes to tutoring under the RAISE program can count toward meeting community service requirements for high school graduation and the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program.
- Authorize two EASE Grant institutions that are under the DOE administrative agency are eligible for LINE funds.
- Include liability insurance among the types of casualty insurance that may be funded using revenue from a school district's discretionary millage levy.
- Add lab schools and charter school consortia with at least thirty member schools and an approved professional learning system on file with the DOE to the entities eligible to submit to the DOE a nominee for the Teacher of the Year award.
- Change the interval for updates to university facility master plans from 5 to 10 years.