

Amendment No.

## CHAMBER ACTION

SenateHouse

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Representative Bartleman offered the following:

**Amendment (with title amendment)**

Between lines 826 and 827, insert:

**Section 16. Paragraph (d) of subsection (7), paragraph (c) of subsection (9), and paragraph (a) of subsection (10) of section 1002.394, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

1002.394 The Family Empowerment Scholarship Program.—

(7) SCHOOL DISTRICT OBLIGATIONS.—

(d) Upon the request of the department, a school district shall coordinate with the department to provide to a participating private school the statewide assessments administered under s. 1008.22 and any related materials for

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14 administering the assessments. ~~For a student who participates in~~  
15 ~~the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program whose parent requests~~  
16 ~~that the student take the statewide assessments under s.~~  
17 ~~1008.22, the district in which the student attends a~~  
18 ~~participating private school shall provide locations and times~~  
19 ~~to take all statewide assessments.~~ A school district is  
20 responsible for implementing test administrations at a  
21 participating private school, including the:

- 22 1. Provision of training for private school staff on test
- 23 security and assessment administration procedures;
- 24 2. Distribution of testing materials to a private school;
- 25 3. Retrieval of testing materials from a private school;
- 26 4. Provision of the required format for a private school
- 27 to submit information to the district for test administration
- 28 and enrollment purposes; and
- 29 5. Provision of any required assistance, monitoring, or
- 30 investigation at a private school.

31 (9) PRIVATE SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY AND OBLIGATIONS.—To be  
32 eligible to participate in the Family Empowerment Scholarship  
33 Program, a private school may be sectarian or nonsectarian and  
34 must:

35 (c)1.a. ~~Annually administer or make provision for students~~  
36 ~~participating in the program in grades 3 through 10 to take one~~  
37 ~~of the nationally norm-referenced tests that are identified by~~  
38 ~~the department pursuant to paragraph (8) (a) or to take the~~

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39 statewide assessments pursuant to s. 1008.22. Students with  
40 disabilities for whom the physician or psychologist who issued  
41 the diagnosis or the IEP team determines that standardized  
42 testing is not appropriate are exempt from this requirement. A  
43 participating private school shall report a student's scores to  
44 his or her parent and the department. The department must  
45 calculate a school grade for a participating private school  
46 using the components and methodology specified in s. 1008.34.  
47 The participating private school's school grade must be  
48 published on the department's website. Each year, the  
49 participating private school must publish its school grades for  
50 the past 5 years and the number of students participating in the  
51 scholarship program for each year. By August 15 of each year, a  
52 participating private school must report the scores of all  
53 participating students to a state university as described in s.  
54 1002.395(9)(f).

55 b. If a participating private school earns a grade of "D"  
56 or "F," the private school is ineligible to participate in the  
57 scholarship program until the private school commits to a  
58 remedial plan that is approved by the State Board of Education.  
59 If, after the implementation of the remedial plan, the private  
60 school earns a grade of "D" or "F," the private school is  
61 ineligible to participate in an educational choice scholarship  
62 program under this chapter for 5 years.

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63        2. ~~Administer the statewide assessments pursuant to s.~~  
64 ~~1008.22 if the private school chooses to offer the statewide~~  
65 ~~assessments.~~ A participating private school may choose to offer  
66 and administer the statewide assessments to all students who  
67 attend the private school in grades 3 through 10 and must submit  
68 a request in writing to the department by March 1 of each year  
69 in order to administer the statewide assessments in the  
70 subsequent school year.

71  
72 If a private school fails to meet the requirements of this  
73 subsection or s. 1002.421, the commissioner may determine that  
74 the private school is ineligible to participate in the  
75 scholarship program.

76        (10) PARENT AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PROGRAM  
77 PARTICIPATION.—

78        (a) A parent who applies for a scholarship under paragraph  
79 (3)(a) whose student will be enrolled full time in an eligible  
80 private school must:

81            1. Select an eligible private school and apply for the  
82 admission of his or her student.

83            2. Request the scholarship by the date established by the  
84 organization in a manner that creates a written or electronic  
85 record of the request and the date of receipt of the request.

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86 3.a. Beginning with new applications for the 2025-2026  
87 school year and thereafter, notify the organization by December  
88 15 that the scholarship is being accepted or declined.

89 b. Beginning with renewal applications for the 2025-2026  
90 school year and thereafter, notify the organization by May 31  
91 that the scholarship is being renewed or declined.

92 4. Inform the applicable school district when the parent  
93 withdraws his or her student from a public school to attend an  
94 eligible private school.

95 5. Require his or her student participating in the program  
96 to remain in attendance at the eligible private school  
97 throughout the school year unless excused by the school for  
98 illness or other good cause.

99 6. Meet with the eligible private school's principal or  
100 the principal's designee to review the school's academic  
101 programs and policies, specialized services, code of student  
102 conduct, and attendance policies before enrollment.

103 7. Require his or her student participating in the program  
104 to take ~~the norm-referenced assessment offered by the eligible~~  
105 ~~private school. The parent may also choose to have the student~~  
106 ~~participate in the statewide assessments pursuant to paragraph~~  
107 ~~(7)(d). If the parent requests that the student participating in~~  
108 ~~the program take all statewide assessments required pursuant to~~  
109 ~~s. 1008.22, the parent is responsible for transporting the~~

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~~student to the assessment site designated by the school district.~~

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

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

10. Comply with the scholarship application and renewal processes and requirements established by the organization.

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**T I T L E   A M E N D M E N T**

Between lines 131 and 132, insert:

amending s. 1002.394, F.S.; requiring private schools participating in the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program to administer specified assessments; requiring

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135 students receiving a scholarship through the program  
136 to participate in such assessments; requiring the  
137 department to calculate a school grade for such  
138 private schools using specified components and  
139 methodology; requiring such school grades and certain  
140 information to be published on specified websites;  
141 providing that certain private schools are ineligible  
142 for participation in the program until specified  
143 actions are taken; providing that certain private  
144 schools are ineligible for participation in the  
145 program for a specified period of time;

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