

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to educational choice; amending s.  
3           402.302, F.S.; providing that home education programs  
4           are not included in the definition of a childcare  
5           facility; amending s. 1002.394, F.S.; providing that  
6           the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program covers  
7           tuition and fees associated with a home education  
8           instructional program, rather than a home education  
9           program; requiring, rather than authorizing, a school  
10          district to use specified reports and plans of care to  
11          complete a matrix of services for a nonpublic school  
12          student without an individual education plan; amending  
13          s. 1002.395, F.S.; defining the term "home education  
14          instructional program"; prohibiting a student who  
15          exhibits a pattern of nonattendance from being  
16          eligible for a scholarship; providing applicability;  
17          revising the instructional materials for which Florida  
18          Tax Credit Scholarship Program funds may be used;  
19          providing requirements for a home education  
20          instructional program providing services through the  
21          program; revising the tutoring programs for which such  
22          scholarship program funds may be used; revising a date  
23          by which parents must apply to renew their students'  
24          scholarships; providing an exception; providing that a  
25          parent is responsible for customizing the home

26 education instructional program for his or her  
27 student; requiring school districts to record the  
28 volunteer service hours of certain students for  
29 purposes of the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship  
30 Program; requiring school districts to register as a  
31 provider with eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding  
32 organizations under certain circumstances; revising  
33 dates by which an eligible nonprofit scholarship-  
34 funding organization must make certain payments;  
35 providing an effective date.  
36

37 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
38

39 **Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 402.302, Florida**  
40 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

41 402.302 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

42 (2) "Child care facility" includes any child care center  
43 or child care arrangement which provides child care for more  
44 than five children unrelated to the operator and which receives  
45 a payment, fee, or grant for any of the children receiving care,  
46 wherever operated, and whether or not operated for profit. The  
47 following are not included:

48 (a) Public schools and nonpublic schools and their  
49 integral programs, except as provided in s. 402.3025;

50 (b) Summer camps having children in full-time residence;

51 (c) Summer day camps;

52 (d) Bible schools normally conducted during vacation  
53 periods; ~~and~~

54 (e) Operators of transient establishments, as defined in  
55 chapter 509, which provide child care services solely for the  
56 guests of their establishment or resort, provided that all child  
57 care personnel of the establishment are screened according to  
58 the level 2 screening requirements of chapter 435; and-

59 (f) Home education instructional programs as defined in s.  
60 1002.395.

61 **Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) and paragraph**  
62 **(b) of subsection (7) of section 1002.394, Florida Statutes, are**  
63 **amended to read:**

64 1002.394 The Family Empowerment Scholarship Program.—

65 (4) AUTHORIZED USES OF PROGRAM FUNDS.—

66 (b) Program funds awarded to a student with a disability  
67 determined eligible pursuant to paragraph (3) (b) may be used for  
68 the following purposes:

69 1. Instructional materials, including digital devices,  
70 digital periphery devices, and assistive technology devices that  
71 allow a student to access instruction or instructional content  
72 and training on the use of and maintenance agreements for these  
73 devices.

74 2. Curriculum as defined in subsection (2).

75 3. Specialized services by approved providers or by a

76 hospital in this state which are selected by the parent. These  
77 specialized services may include, but are not limited to:

78 a. Applied behavior analysis services as provided in ss.  
79 627.6686 and 641.31098.

80 b. Services provided by speech-language pathologists as  
81 defined in s. 468.1125(8).

82 c. Occupational therapy as defined in s. 468.203.

83 d. Services provided by physical therapists as defined in  
84 s. 486.021(8).

85 e. Services provided by listening and spoken language  
86 specialists and an appropriate acoustical environment for a  
87 child who has a hearing impairment, including deafness, and who  
88 has received an implant or assistive hearing device.

89 4. Tuition and fees associated with full-time or part-time  
90 enrollment in a home education instructional program; an  
91 eligible private school; an eligible postsecondary educational  
92 institution or a program offered by the postsecondary  
93 educational institution, unless the program is subject to s.  
94 1009.25 or reimbursed pursuant to s. 1009.30; an approved  
95 preapprenticeship program as defined in s. 446.021(5) which is  
96 not subject to s. 1009.25 and complies with all applicable  
97 requirements of the department pursuant to chapter 1005; a  
98 private tutoring program authorized under s. 1002.43; a virtual  
99 program offered by a department-approved private online provider  
100 that meets the provider qualifications specified in s.

101 1002.45(2)(a); the Florida Virtual School as a private paying  
102 student; or an approved online course offered pursuant to s.  
103 1003.499 or s. 1004.0961.

104 5. Fees for nationally standardized, norm-referenced  
105 achievement tests, Advanced Placement Examinations, industry  
106 certification examinations, assessments related to postsecondary  
107 education, or other assessments.

108 6. Contributions to the Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid  
109 College Program pursuant to s. 1009.98 or the Florida College  
110 Savings Program pursuant to s. 1009.981 for the benefit of the  
111 eligible student.

112 7. Contracted services provided by a public school or  
113 school district, including classes. A student who receives  
114 services under a contract under this paragraph is not considered  
115 enrolled in a public school for eligibility purposes as  
116 specified in subsection (6) but rather attending a public school  
117 on a part-time basis as authorized under s. 1002.44.

118 8. Tuition and fees for part-time tutoring services or  
119 fees for services provided by a choice navigator. Such services  
120 must be provided by a person who holds a valid Florida  
121 educator's certificate pursuant to s. 1012.56, a person who  
122 holds an adjunct teaching certificate pursuant to s. 1012.57, a  
123 person who has a bachelor's degree or a graduate degree in the  
124 subject area in which instruction is given, a person who has  
125 demonstrated a mastery of subject area knowledge pursuant to s.

126 | 1012.56(5), or a person certified by a nationally or  
127 | internationally recognized research-based training program as  
128 | approved by the department. As used in this subparagraph, the  
129 | term "part-time tutoring services" does not qualify as regular  
130 | school attendance as defined in s. 1003.01(16)(e).

131 | 9. Fees for specialized summer education programs.

132 | 10. Fees for specialized after-school education programs.

133 | 11. Transition services provided by job coaches.

134 | Transition services are a coordinated set of activities which  
135 | are focused on improving the academic and functional achievement  
136 | of a student with a disability to facilitate the student's  
137 | movement from school to postschool activities and are based on  
138 | the student's needs.

139 | 12. Fees for an annual evaluation of educational progress  
140 | by a state-certified teacher under s. 1002.41(1)(f), if this  
141 | option is chosen for a home education student.

142 | 13. Tuition and fees associated with programs offered by  
143 | Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program providers approved  
144 | pursuant to s. 1002.55, school readiness providers approved  
145 | pursuant to s. 1002.88, and prekindergarten programs offered by  
146 | an eligible private school.

147 | 14. Fees for services provided at a center that is a  
148 | member of the Professional Association of Therapeutic  
149 | Horsemanship International.

150 | 15. Fees for services provided by a therapist who is

151 certified by the Certification Board for Music Therapists or  
152 credentialed by the Art Therapy Credentials Board, Inc.

153 (7) SCHOOL DISTRICT OBLIGATIONS.—

154 (b)1. The parent of a student with a disability who does  
155 not have an IEP in accordance with subparagraph (3)(b)4. or who  
156 seeks a reevaluation of an existing IEP may request an IEP  
157 meeting and evaluation from the school district in order to  
158 obtain or revise a matrix of services. The school district shall  
159 notify a parent who has made a request for an IEP that the  
160 district is required to complete the IEP and matrix of services  
161 within 30 days after receiving notice of the parent's request.  
162 The school district shall conduct a meeting and develop an IEP  
163 and a matrix of services within 30 days after receipt of the  
164 parent's request in accordance with State Board of Education  
165 rules. The school district shall ~~must~~ accept the diagnosis and  
166 consider the service plan of the licensed professional providing  
167 the diagnosis pursuant to subparagraph (3)(b)4. The school  
168 district shall ~~must~~ complete a matrix that assigns the student  
169 to one of the levels of service as they existed before the 2000-  
170 2001 school year. For a nonpublic school student without an IEP,  
171 the school district shall ~~is authorized to~~ use the evaluation  
172 reports and plans of care developed by the licensed  
173 professionals under subparagraph (4)(b)3. to complete the matrix  
174 of services.

175 2.a. The school district shall ~~must~~ provide the student's

176 parent and the department with the student's matrix level within  
177 10 calendar days after its completion.

178 b. The department shall notify the parent and the  
179 organization of the amount of the funds awarded within 10 days  
180 after receiving the school district's notification of the  
181 student's matrix level.

182 c. A school district may change a matrix of services only  
183 if the change is a result of an IEP reevaluation or to correct a  
184 technical, typographical, or calculation error.

185 **Section 3. Present paragraphs (j) through (p) of**  
186 **subsection (2) of section 1002.395, Florida Statutes, are**  
187 **redesignated as paragraphs (k) through (q), respectively, a new**  
188 **paragraph (j) is added to that subsection, paragraphs (c) and**  
189 **(d) are added to subsection (10), and subsection (4), paragraphs**  
190 **(b), (c), (d), (e), and (i) of subsection (6), paragraph (a) of**  
191 **subsection (7), and paragraph (d) of subsection (11) that**  
192 **section are amended, to read:**

193 1002.395 Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program.—

194 (2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

195 (j) "Home education instructional program" means a  
196 business entity registered with the Division of Corporations of  
197 the Department of State which offers classes and activities at a  
198 nonresidential location for parents to supplement and enhance  
199 their child's home education program.

200 (4) SCHOLARSHIP PROHIBITIONS.—A student is not eligible

201 for a scholarship while he or she is:

202 (a) Enrolled full time in a public school, including, but  
 203 not limited to, the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind,  
 204 the College-Preparatory Boarding Academy, the Florida School for  
 205 Competitive Academics, the Florida Virtual School, the Florida  
 206 Scholars Academy, a developmental research school authorized  
 207 under s. 1002.32, or a charter school authorized under this  
 208 chapter. For purposes of this paragraph, a 3- or 4-year-old  
 209 child who receives services funded through the Florida Education  
 210 Finance Program is considered a student enrolled full time in a  
 211 public school;

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

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

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

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

225 (f) Participating in a private tutoring program pursuant

226 | to s. 1002.43 unless he or she is enrolled in a personalized  
 227 | education program; ~~or~~

228 | (g) Participating in virtual instruction pursuant to s.  
 229 | 1002.455 that receives state funding pursuant to the student's  
 230 | participation; or

231 | (h) Exhibiting a pattern of nonattendance. This  
 232 | prohibition only applies if the student is enrolled in a  
 233 | personalized education program under paragraph (7) (b).

234 | (6) OBLIGATIONS OF ELIGIBLE NONPROFIT SCHOLARSHIP-FUNDING  
 235 | ORGANIZATIONS.—An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding  
 236 | organization:

237 | (b) Must comply with the following background check  
 238 | requirements:

239 | 1. All owners and operators as defined in subparagraph  
 240 | (2) (1) 1. ~~(2) (k) 1.~~ are, before employment or engagement to  
 241 | provide services, subject to level 2 background screening as  
 242 | provided under chapter 435. The fingerprints for the background  
 243 | screening must be electronically submitted to the Department of  
 244 | Law Enforcement and can be taken by an authorized law  
 245 | enforcement agency or by an employee of the eligible nonprofit  
 246 | scholarship-funding organization or a private company who is  
 247 | trained to take fingerprints. However, the complete set of  
 248 | fingerprints of an owner or operator may not be taken by the  
 249 | owner or operator. The results of the state and national  
 250 | criminal history check shall be provided to the Department of

251 Education for screening under chapter 435. The cost of the  
252 background screening may be borne by the eligible nonprofit  
253 scholarship-funding organization or the owner or operator.

254 2. Every 5 years following employment or engagement to  
255 provide services or association with an eligible nonprofit  
256 scholarship-funding organization, each owner or operator must  
257 meet level 2 screening standards as described in s. 435.04, at  
258 which time the nonprofit scholarship-funding organization shall  
259 request the Department of Law Enforcement to forward the  
260 fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for level 2  
261 screening. If the fingerprints of an owner or operator are not  
262 retained by the Department of Law Enforcement under subparagraph  
263 3., the owner or operator must electronically file a complete  
264 set of fingerprints with the Department of Law Enforcement. Upon  
265 submission of fingerprints for this purpose, the eligible  
266 nonprofit scholarship-funding organization shall request that  
267 the Department of Law Enforcement forward the fingerprints to  
268 the Federal Bureau of Investigation for level 2 screening, and  
269 the fingerprints shall be retained by the Department of Law  
270 Enforcement under subparagraph 3.

271 3. Fingerprints submitted to the Department of Law  
272 Enforcement as required by this paragraph must be retained by  
273 the Department of Law Enforcement in a manner approved by rule  
274 and entered in the statewide automated biometric identification  
275 system authorized by s. 943.05(2)(b). The fingerprints must

276 thereafter be available for all purposes and uses authorized for  
277 arrest fingerprints entered in the statewide automated biometric  
278 identification system pursuant to s. 943.051.

279 4. The Department of Law Enforcement shall search all  
280 arrest fingerprints received under s. 943.051 against the  
281 fingerprints retained in the statewide automated biometric  
282 identification system under subparagraph 3. Any arrest record  
283 that is identified with an owner's or operator's fingerprints  
284 must be reported to the Department of Education. The Department  
285 of Education shall participate in this search process by paying  
286 an annual fee to the Department of Law Enforcement and by  
287 informing the Department of Law Enforcement of any change in the  
288 employment, engagement, or association status of the owners or  
289 operators whose fingerprints are retained under subparagraph 3.  
290 The Department of Law Enforcement shall adopt a rule setting the  
291 amount of the annual fee to be imposed upon the Department of  
292 Education for performing these services and establishing the  
293 procedures for the retention of owner and operator fingerprints  
294 and the dissemination of search results. The fee may be borne by  
295 the owner or operator of the nonprofit scholarship-funding  
296 organization.

297 5. A nonprofit scholarship-funding organization whose  
298 owner or operator fails the level 2 background screening is not  
299 eligible to provide scholarships under this section.

300 6. A nonprofit scholarship-funding organization whose

301 owner or operator in the last 7 years has filed for personal  
302 bankruptcy or corporate bankruptcy in a corporation of which he  
303 or she owned more than 20 percent shall not be eligible to  
304 provide scholarships under this section.

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

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

326 identification information.

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

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

331 l. Section 831.01, relating to forgery.

332 m. Section 831.02, relating to uttering forged  
333 instruments.

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

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

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

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

344 (c) Must not have an owner or operator, as defined in  
345 subparagraph (2)(1)1. ~~(2)(k)1.~~, who owns or operates an eligible  
346 private school that is participating in the scholarship program.

347 (d)1. For the 2023-2024 school year, may fund no more than  
348 20,000 scholarships for students who are enrolled pursuant to  
349 paragraph (7)(b). The number of scholarships funded for such  
350 students may increase by 40,000 in each subsequent school year.

351 This subparagraph is repealed July 1, 2027.

352       2. Shall establish a process for parents who are in  
353 compliance with paragraph (7)(a) to renew their students'  
354 scholarships. Renewal applications for the 2025-2026 school year  
355 and thereafter must provide for a renewal timeline beginning  
356 February 1 of the prior school year and ending April 30 of the  
357 prior school year. A student's renewal is contingent upon an  
358 eligible private school providing confirmation of admission  
359 pursuant to subsection (8). The process must require that  
360 parents confirm that the scholarship is being renewed or  
361 declined by May 31.

362       3. Shall establish a process that allows a parent to apply  
363 for a new scholarship. The process must be in a manner that  
364 creates a written or electronic record of the application  
365 request and the date of receipt of the application request. The  
366 process must require that parents confirm that the scholarship  
367 is being accepted or declined by a date set by the organization.

368       4. Shall ~~Must~~ establish and maintain separate scholarship  
369 accounts from eligible contributions for each eligible student.  
370 For each account, the organization shall ~~must~~ maintain a record  
371 of accrued interest retained in the student's account. The  
372 organization shall ~~must~~ verify that scholarship funds are used  
373 for:

374       a. Tuition and fees for full-time or part-time enrollment  
375 in an eligible private school.

376           b. Instructional materials, including digital materials,  
377 digital devices, peripheral devices needed to access materials,  
378 and Internet resources.

379           c. Curriculum as defined in s. 1002.394(2).

380           d. Tuition and fees associated with full-time or part-time  
381 enrollment in a home education instructional program that meets  
382 the following requirements:

383           (I) Is a program selected by parents as a part of their  
384 student's parent-directed instruction. Programs do not include  
385 private schools, virtual schools, and public or charter schools.

386           (II) Provides courses and activities that enhance or  
387 enrich the student's home education program or personalized  
388 education program.

389           (III) Has publicly available and reviewable program  
390 descriptions of courses and activities.

391           (IV) Has a published tuition and fee schedule.

392           (V) Makes tuition and fees payable to the registered  
393 business entity, not to an individual.†

394           e. An eligible postsecondary educational institution or a  
395 program offered by the postsecondary educational institution,  
396 unless the program is subject to s. 1009.25 or reimbursed  
397 pursuant to s. 1009.30; an approved preapprenticeship program as  
398 defined in s. 446.021(5) which is not subject to s. 1009.25 and  
399 complies with all applicable requirements of the Department of  
400 Education pursuant to chapter 1005; a private tutoring program

401 authorized under s. 1002.43 or an eligible national tutoring  
402 organization; a virtual program offered by a department-approved  
403 private online provider that meets the provider qualifications  
404 specified in s. 1002.45(2)(a); the Florida Virtual School as a  
405 private paying student; or an approved online course offered  
406 pursuant to s. 1003.499 or s. 1004.0961.

407 ~~f.e.~~ Fees for nationally standardized, norm-referenced  
408 achievement tests, Advanced Placement Examinations, industry  
409 certification examinations, assessments related to postsecondary  
410 education, or other assessments.

411 ~~g.f.~~ Contracted services provided by a public school or  
412 school district, including classes. A student who receives  
413 contracted services under this sub-subparagraph is not  
414 considered enrolled in a public school for eligibility purposes  
415 as specified in subsection (11) but rather attending a public  
416 school on a part-time basis as authorized under s. 1002.44.

417 ~~h.g.~~ Tuition and fees for part-time tutoring services or  
418 fees for services provided by a choice navigator. Such services  
419 must be provided by a person who holds a valid Florida  
420 educator's certificate pursuant to s. 1012.56, a person who  
421 holds an adjunct teaching certificate pursuant to s. 1012.57, a  
422 person who has a bachelor's degree or a graduate degree in the  
423 subject area in which instruction is given, a person who has  
424 demonstrated a mastery of subject area knowledge pursuant to s.  
425 1012.56(5), or a person certified by a nationally or

426 internationally recognized research-based training program as  
427 approved by the Department of Education or an eligible national  
428 tutoring organization. As used in this paragraph, the term  
429 "part-time tutoring services" does not qualify as regular school  
430 attendance as defined in s. 1003.01(16)(e).

431 (e) For students determined eligible pursuant to paragraph  
432 (7)(b), shall ~~must~~:

433 1. Establish a process for parents who are in compliance  
434 with subparagraph (7)(b)1. to apply for a new scholarship. New  
435 scholarship applications for the 2025-2026 school year and  
436 thereafter must provide for an application timeline beginning  
437 February 1 of the prior school year and ending April 30 of the  
438 prior school year. The process must require that parents confirm  
439 that the scholarship is being accepted or declined by May 31.

440 2. Establish a process for parents who are in compliance  
441 with paragraph (7)(b) to renew their students' scholarships.  
442 Renewal scholarship applications for the 2025-2026 school year  
443 and thereafter must provide for a renewal timeline beginning  
444 February 1 of the prior school year and ending June ~~April~~ 30 of  
445 the prior school year, unless scholarships are still available.  
446 The process must require that parents confirm that the  
447 scholarship is being renewed or declined by May 31.

448 3. Maintain a signed agreement from the parent which  
449 constitutes compliance with the attendance requirements under  
450 ss. 1003.01(16) and 1003.21(1).

451 4. Receive eligible student test scores and, beginning  
 452 with the 2027-2028 school year, by August 15, annually report  
 453 test scores for students pursuant to paragraph (7) (b) to a state  
 454 university pursuant to paragraph (9) (f).

455 5. Provide parents with information, guidance, and support  
 456 to create and annually update a student learning plan for their  
 457 student. The organization must maintain the plan and allow  
 458 parents to electronically submit, access, and revise the plan  
 459 continuously.

460 6. Upon submission by the parent of an annual student  
 461 learning plan, fund a scholarship for a student determined  
 462 eligible.

463 (i) May not restrict or reserve scholarships for use at a  
 464 particular eligible private school or provide scholarships to a  
 465 child of an owner or operator as defined in subparagraph

466 (2) (l) 1. ~~(2) (k) 1.~~

467  
 468 Information and documentation provided to the Department of  
 469 Education and the Auditor General relating to the identity of a  
 470 taxpayer that provides an eligible contribution under this  
 471 section shall remain confidential at all times in accordance  
 472 with s. 213.053.

473 (7) PARENT AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PROGRAM  
 474 PARTICIPATION.—

475 (a) A parent who applies for a scholarship whose student

476 will be enrolled full time in an eligible private school must:

477 1. Select an eligible private school and apply for the  
478 admission of his or her child.

479 2. Request the scholarship by the date established by the  
480 organization in a manner that creates a written or electronic  
481 record of the request and the date of receipt of the request.

482 3.a. Beginning with new applications for the 2025-2026  
483 school year and thereafter, notify the organization by a date  
484 set by the organization that the scholarship is being accepted  
485 or declined.

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

489 4. Inform the applicable school district when the parent  
490 withdraws his or her student from a public school to attend an  
491 eligible private school.

492 5. Require his or her student participating in the program  
493 to remain in attendance at the eligible private school  
494 throughout the school year unless excused by the school for  
495 illness or other good cause and comply with the private school's  
496 published policies.

497 6. Meet with the eligible private school's principal or  
498 the principal's designee to review the school's academic  
499 programs and policies, specialized services, code of student  
500 conduct, and attendance policies before enrollment. The parent

501 is responsible for customizing the home education instructional  
502 program for his or her student.

503 7. Require his or her student participating in the program  
504 to take the norm-referenced assessment offered by the  
505 participating private school. The parent may also choose to have  
506 the student participate in the statewide assessments pursuant to  
507 s. 1008.22. If the parent requests that the student  
508 participating in the program take statewide assessments pursuant  
509 to s. 1008.22 and the participating private school has not  
510 chosen to offer and administer the statewide assessments, the  
511 parent is responsible for transporting the student to the  
512 assessment site designated by the school district.

513 8. Approve each payment before the scholarship funds may  
514 be deposited by funds transfer. The parent may not designate any  
515 entity or individual associated with the participating private  
516 school as the parent's attorney in fact to approve a funds  
517 transfer. A participant who fails to comply with this paragraph  
518 forfeits the scholarship.

519 9. Authorize the nonprofit scholarship-funding  
520 organization to access information needed for income eligibility  
521 determination and verification held by other state or federal  
522 agencies, including the Department of Revenue, the Department of  
523 Children and Families, the Department of Education, the  
524 Department of Commerce, and the Agency for Health Care  
525 Administration, for students seeking priority eligibility.

526           10. Agree to have the organization commit scholarship  
527 funds on behalf of his or her student for tuition and fees for  
528 which the parent is responsible for payment at the participating  
529 private school before using scholarship account funds for  
530 additional authorized uses under paragraph (6)(d). A parent is  
531 responsible for all eligible expenses in excess of the amount of  
532 the scholarship.

533           11. Comply with the scholarship application and renewal  
534 processes and requirements established by the organization.

535  
536 An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization may not  
537 further regulate, exercise control over, or require  
538 documentation beyond the requirements of this subsection unless  
539 the regulation, control, or documentation is necessary for  
540 participation in the program.

541           (10) SCHOOL DISTRICT OBLIGATIONS; PARENTAL OPTIONS.—

542           (c) Upon the enrollment of a student in a personalized  
543 education program, the school district shall continue to record  
544 the student's volunteer service hours for the Florida Bright  
545 Futures Scholarship Program.

546           (d) To fulfill the obligation of offering contracted  
547 services and classes by a public school or district under  
548 subsection (6), each school district shall contract with the  
549 relevant eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations to  
550 become a registered provider.

551 (11) SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT AND PAYMENT.—

552 (d) Payment of the scholarship shall be made by the  
553 eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization no less  
554 frequently than on a quarterly basis, as follows: August 1,  
555 November 1, February 1, and April 1 of each school year in which  
556 the scholarship is in force.

557 **Section 4.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.