

# FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## BILL ANALYSIS

*This bill analysis was prepared by nonpartisan committee staff and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.*

**BILL #:** [HB 423](#)

**TITLE:** Family Empowerment Scholarship Program

**SPONSOR(S):** Bartleman, Rizo

**COMPANION BILL:** [SB 508](#) (Jones)

**LINKED BILLS:** None

**RELATED BILLS:** None

### Committee References

[Student Academic Success](#)

17 Y, 0 N



[Education & Employment](#)

## SUMMARY

### Effect of the Bill:

The bill requires that any private school participating in the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program notify parents of any specialized services or therapies offered by the school. Such schools must also inform parents which, if any, of a student's accommodations, modifications, or therapies will be honored by the school.

### Fiscal or Economic Impact:

None

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## ANALYSIS

### EFFECT OF THE BILL:

The bill requires that any private school participating in the [Family Empowerment Scholarship Program](#) notify parents, in writing, of any specialized services and therapies offered. Moreover, the bill requires that private schools inform parents of students with Individualized Education Plans, Education Plans, English Language Learner Plans, or 504 plans of what accommodations, modifications, and therapies included in their student's plan will be honored by the school. (Section [1](#))

The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2025. (Section [2](#)).

## RELEVANT INFORMATION

### SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

#### [The Family Empowerment Scholarship Program](#)

The Family Empowerment Scholarship Program (FES) provides children of families in Florida with educational options to achieve success in their education, including children of families with limited financial resources, children of law enforcement and military families, and children with disabilities.<sup>1</sup> Florida's scholarship programs are administered by Scholarship-Funding Organizations approved by the Department of Education.<sup>2</sup> The FES includes two types of scholarships: one assists eligible students to pay for the tuition and fees associated with attendance at a private school (FES-EO) and the other provides access to additional education options for a student with a disability by covering the cost of a variety of approved items, including: contracted services, curriculum, instructional materials, tutoring, specified education programs, and specialized services (FES-UA).<sup>3</sup> Each scholarship has unique student eligibility requirements, program requirements, award calculation methodologies, and allowable expenditures.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Section [1002.394, F.S.](#) See also Rule 6A-6.0952, F.A.C.

<sup>2</sup> See Section [1002.394\(11\), F.S.](#); Section [1002.395\(6\), F.S.](#); Section [1002.394\(15\), F.S.](#)

<sup>3</sup> Section [1002.394\(3\)\(a\)-\(b\), F.S.](#)

<sup>4</sup> Section [1002.394, F.S.](#)

**STORAGE NAME:** h0423a.SAS

**DATE:** 3/11/2025

Under current law, any private school participating in a state funded scholarship program is required to publish on their website, or provide in writing, information about the school, including programs, services, and the qualifications of classroom teachers.<sup>5</sup> Additionally, in 2023 the legislature added a requirement that such schools must publish on their website, or provide in writing, a statement that a parentally placed private school student with a disability does not have an individual right to receive some or all of the special education and related services the child would receive if they were enrolled in a public school.<sup>6</sup>

#### RECENT LEGISLATION:

YEAR	BILL #	HOUSE SPONSOR(S)	SENATE SPONSOR	OTHER INFORMATION
2023	<a href="#">CS/CS/CS/CS/HB 1</a>	Tuck, Plasencia	Simon	Became law on July 1, 2023.

#### BILL HISTORY

COMMITTEE REFERENCE	ACTION	DATE	STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF	ANALYSIS PREPARED BY
<a href="#">Student Academic Success Subcommittee Education &amp; Employment Committee</a>	17 Y, 0 N	3/11/2025	Sanchez	Blank

<sup>5</sup> Section [1002.421\(j\), F.S.](#)

<sup>6</sup> Ch. 2023-16, L.O.F.