

HB 1543

2026

A bill to be entitled
An act relating to schools of hope; amending s. 1002.333, F.S.; authorizing the mutual management plans for school district facilities used by schools of hope to include a provision for the school of hope and school district to share specified costs; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section 1002.333, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.333 Persistently low-performing schools.-

(7) FACILITIES.—

(a) A school of hope shall use facilities that comply with the Florida Building Code, except for the State Requirements for Educational Facilities. A school of hope that uses school district facilities must comply with the State Requirements for Educational Facilities only if the school district and the hope operator have entered into a mutual management plan for the reasonable maintenance of such facilities. The mutual management plan shall contain a provision by which the district school board agrees to maintain the school facilities in the same manner as its other public schools within the district or a provision that provides for the school of hope and district

26 school board to share the maintenance and other costs for such
27 school facilities. A school of hope may collocate with another
28 school in a public school facility. The school district must
29 permit any school of hope to use all or part of underused,
30 vacant, or surplus school district facilities, and receive
31 facility-related services, pursuant to State Board of Education
32 rule. Students enrolled in the school of hope shall be included
33 in the district's total capital outlay full-time equivalent
34 membership for the purpose of s. 1013.62 and for calculating the
35 Public Education Capital Outlay maintenance funds or any other
36 maintenance funds for the facility. The local governing
37 authority shall not adopt or impose any local building
38 requirements or site-development restrictions, such as parking
39 and site-size criteria, student enrollment, and occupant load,
40 that are addressed by and more stringent than those found in the
41 State Requirements for Educational Facilities of the Florida
42 Building Code. A local governing authority must treat schools of
43 hope equitably in comparison to similar requirements,
44 restrictions, and site planning processes imposed upon public
45 schools. The agency having jurisdiction for inspection of a
46 facility and issuance of a certificate of occupancy or use shall
47 be the local municipality or, if in an unincorporated area, the
48 county governing authority. If an official or employee of the
49 local governing authority refuses to comply with this paragraph,
50 the aggrieved school or entity has an immediate right to bring

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51 an action in circuit court to enforce its rights by injunction.
52 An aggrieved party that receives injunctive relief may be
53 awarded reasonable attorney fees and court costs.

54 **Section 2.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.