

By Senator Jones

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to the Family Empowerment Scholarship
Program; amending s. 1002.394, F.S.; requiring a
private school participating in the Family Empowerment
Scholarship Program to provide specified information
in writing to certain parents before a student's
initial enrollment in the school; providing private
school requirements relating to certain services;
providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (d) of subsection (9) of section
1002.394, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.394 The Family Empowerment Scholarship Program.—

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

(d) Before a student's initial enrollment, provide to the
parent in writing ~~For a student determined eligible pursuant to~~
~~paragraph (3)(b), discuss~~ the school's academic programs and
policies, ~~specialized services,~~ code of conduct, ~~and~~ attendance
policies, and specialized services and therapies offered at the
school. A private school may update the specialized services and
therapies offered once per school year or if the school district
updates its list of equitable services offered, whichever comes
first. In addition, within 30 days after the school district
provides the student with a private school services plan, each

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parent of a student with an individualized education plan,
education plan, English language learner plan, or 504 plan must
be informed of what modifications, accommodations, and therapies
included in the student's plan will be honored ~~before enrollment~~
~~with the parent to determine which programs and services may~~
~~meet the student's individual needs.~~

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

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