

CHAPTER 2025-110

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1255

An act relating to education; amending s. 11.45, F.S.; deleting the Florida School for Competitive Academics from the list of entities subject to certain audit requirements; amending s. 110.211, F.S.; authorizing recruiting within the career service system to include the use of certain apprenticeship programs; providing that open competition is not required under certain circumstances relating to the career service system; amending s. 125.901, F.S.; revising the composition and terms of membership of certain councils; amending s. 216.251, F.S.; deleting the Florida School for Competitive Academics from specified classification and pay plans; amending s. 446.032, F.S.; revising the date by which the Department of Education is required to publish an annual report on apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs; amending s. 447.203, F.S.; deleting the Florida School for Competitive Academics from the definition of a public employer; amending s. 1000.04, F.S.; deleting the Florida School for Competitive Academics from the components of Florida's Early Learning-20 education system; amending s. 1000.21, F.S.; renaming Hillsborough Community College as "Hillsborough College"; amending s. 1000.40, F.S.; revising the scheduled repeal date of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children; amending s. 1001.03, F.S.; renaming critical teacher shortage areas as "high-demand teacher needs areas"; amending s. 1001.20, F.S.; deleting oversight of the Florida School for Competitive Academics from the duties of the Office of Inspector General within the department; amending s. 1001.452, F.S.; deleting a provision requiring the Commissioner of Education to determine whether school districts have maximized efforts to include minority persons and persons of lower socioeconomic status on their school advisory councils; amending s. 1001.7065, F.S.; revising academic standards for the preeminent state research university program to include a specified average Classic Learning Test score; amending s. 1002.20, F.S.; authorizing public schools to purchase or enter into arrangements for certain emergency opioid antagonists, rather than only for naloxone; requiring that district school board policies authorizing corporal punishment include a requirement that parental consent be provided before the administration of corporal punishment; amending s. 1002.33, F.S.; requiring a charter school to comply with provisions relating to corporal punishment; prohibiting local governing authorities from imposing or enforcing certain building requirements and restrictions on charter school facilities; requiring the local governing authority to administratively approve a charter school if certain requirements are met; amending the statutory cause of action for an aggrieved school or entity; prohibiting local governing authorities from requiring charter schools to obtain a special exemption or conditional use approval unless otherwise specified; repealing s. 1002.351, F.S., relating to the Florida

School for Competitive Academics; amending s. 1002.394, F.S.; deleting the Florida School for Competitive Academics from Family Empowerment Scholarship prohibitions; amending s. 1002.395, F.S.; deleting the Florida School for Competitive Academics from Florida Tax Credit Scholarship prohibitions; amending s. 1002.42, F.S.; authorizing certain private schools to construct new facilities on property that meets specified criteria; amending s. 1002.421, F.S.; revising the background screening requirements for certain private school personnel; amending s. 1002.71, F.S.; revising the conditions under which a student may withdraw from a prekindergarten program and reenroll in another program; amending s. 1002.81, F.S.; revising definitions; amending s. 1002.82, F.S.; revising requirements for a specified statewide data information program within the school readiness program; amending s. 1002.84, F.S.; revising requirements for the program's uniform waiting list; amending s. 1002.85, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 1002.89, F.S.; revising the requirements for determining the school readiness program allocation; amending s. 1003.05, F.S.; requiring that strategies addressed in specified memoranda of agreement between school districts and military installations include the development and implementation of a specified training module; requiring the Department of Education to provide the training module to each district school board; requiring each district school board to provide such module to each public and charter K-12 school in its district; requiring district school boards to make certain training available to certain employees; amending s. 1003.41, F.S.; requiring that certain standards documents contain only academic standards and benchmarks; requiring the Commissioner of Education to revise currently approved standards documents and submit them to the State Board of Education by a specified date; amending s. 1003.4201, F.S.; authorizing the inclusion of intensive reading interventions in a school district comprehensive reading instruction plan; requiring that intensive reading interventions be delivered by instructional personnel who possess a micro-credential or are certified or endorsed in reading; requiring that such interventions incorporate certain strategies; requiring that instructional personnel with a micro-credential be supervised by an individual certified or endorsed in reading; defining the term "supervised"; authorizing the inclusion in the reading instruction plans of a description of how school districts prioritize the assignment of highly effective teachers; amending s. 1003.4282, F.S.; revising the requirements for instruction on financial literacy; amending s. 1004.04, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 1004.0971, F.S.; revising the definition of the term "emergency opioid antagonist"; amending s. 1005.06, F.S.; authorizing certain institutions to operate without licensure; specifying affirmations required as a part of an affidavit; requiring submission of requested documentation in a specified timeframe; requiring the Commission for Independent Education to review such affidavit in a public meeting; specifying commission actions for noncompliance; authorizing the commission to adopt rules; amending s. 1006.09, F.S.; expanding the duties of school principals relating to student discipline and school safety; amending s. 1006.13, F.S.; requiring

district school superintendents to provide a determination to extend the expulsion period for students; providing requirements for such determination; requiring such determination be provided to students and parents; amending s. 1007.27, F.S.; requiring the state board to identify national consortia to develop certain courses; authorizing the department to join or establish a national consortium as an additional alternative method to develop and implement advanced placement courses; amending s. 1007.35, F.S.; revising which examinations public high schools are required to administer; revising the examinations about which a partnership must provide information to specified individuals and entities; revising the examinations for which the department must provide the learning data from to a certain partnership; amending s. 1008.25, F.S.; requiring parents of a student who exhibits a substantial deficiency in mathematics to be notified in writing of information about the student's eligibility for the New Worlds Scholarship Accounts and the New Worlds Tutoring Program; amending s. 1008.365, F.S.; revising the types of tutoring hours that may be counted toward meeting the community service requirements for the Bright Futures Scholarship Program; amending s. 1008.366, F.S.; requiring the New Worlds Tutoring Program to provide best practice guidelines for mathematics tutoring in consultation with the Office of Mathematics and Sciences; revising the submission date for a specified report relating to the New Worlds Tutoring Program; amending s. 1009.8962, F.S.; revising the definition of the term "institution"; repealing s. 1011.58, F.S., relating to legislative budget requests of the Florida School for Competitive Academics; repealing s. 1011.59, F.S., relating to funds for the Florida School for Competitive Academics; amending s. 1011.71, F.S.; revising the types of casualty insurance premiums that may be paid by a district school tax; amending ss. 1012.07 and 1012.22, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 1012.315, F.S.; providing that specified provisions relating to ineligibility for educator certification or specified employment apply to owners and operators of certain private schools; providing that certain background screening requirements remain in place for a specified period of time for certain personnel; amending s. 1012.77, F.S.; specifying entities eligible to submit nominees for the Teacher of the Year and Ambassador for Education awards; amending s. 1013.30, F.S.; revising the timeframe for updates to state university campus master plans; amending s. 1009.531, F.S.; revising eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program for students who earn a high school diploma from a non-Florida school under certain circumstances; providing effective dates.

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

Section 1. Paragraphs (d) and (f) of subsection (2) of section 11.45, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

11.45 Definitions; duties; authorities; reports; rules.—

(2) DUTIES.—The Auditor General shall:

(d) Annually conduct financial audits of the accounts and records of all district school boards in counties with populations of less fewer than 150,000, according to the most recent federal decennial statewide census; and the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind; and the Florida School for Competitive Academies.

(f) At least every 3 years, conduct operational audits of the accounts and records of state agencies, state universities, state colleges, district school boards, the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation, water management districts, and the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, and the Florida School for Competitive Academies.

The Auditor General shall perform his or her duties independently but under the general policies established by the Legislative Auditing Committee. This subsection does not limit the Auditor General's discretionary authority to conduct other audits or engagements of governmental entities as authorized in subsection (3).

Section 2. Subsection (3) of section 110.211, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

110.211 Recruitment.—

(3) Recruiting shall seek efficiency in advertising and may be assisted by a contracted vendor responsible for maintenance of the personnel data. Recruiting may include the use of an apprenticeship program as defined in s. 446.021(6). Open competition is not required for a position that will be filled by a person who has successfully completed an apprenticeship program with the hiring agency.

Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 125.901, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

125.901 Children's services; independent special district; council; powers, duties, and functions; public records exemption.—

(1) Each county may by ordinance create an independent special district, as defined in ss. 189.012 and 200.001(8)(e), to provide funding for children's services throughout the county in accordance with this section. The boundaries of such district shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the county. The county governing body shall obtain approval at a general election, as defined in s. 97.021, by a majority vote of those electors voting on the question, to annually levy ad valorem taxes which shall not exceed the maximum millage rate authorized by this section. Any district created pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall be required to levy and fix millage subject to the provisions of s. 200.065. Once such millage is approved by the electorate, the district shall not be required to seek approval of the electorate in future years to levy the previously approved millage. However, a referendum to increase the millage rate previously approved by the

electors must be held at a general election, and the referendum may be held only once during the 48-month period preceding the effective date of the increased millage.

(b) However, any county as defined in s. 125.011(1) may instead have a governing body composed ~~consisting~~ of 33 members, including the superintendent of schools, or his or her designee; two representatives of public postsecondary education institutions located in the county; the county manager or the equivalent county officer, or his or her designee; the district administrator from the appropriate district of the Department of Children and Families, or the administrator's designee who is a member of the Senior Management Service or the Selected Exempt Service; the director of the county health department or the director's designee; the state attorney for the county or the state attorney's designee; the chief judge assigned to juvenile cases, or another juvenile judge who is the chief judge's designee and who shall sit as a voting member of the board, except that the judge may not vote or participate in setting ad valorem taxes under this section; an individual who is selected by the board of the local United Way or its equivalent; a member of a locally recognized faith-based coalition, selected by that coalition; a member of the local chamber of commerce, selected by that chamber or, if more than one chamber exists within the county, a person selected by a coalition of the local chambers; a member of the early learning coalition, selected by that coalition; a representative of a labor organization or union active in the county; ~~a member of a local alliance or coalition engaged in cross-system planning for health and social service delivery in the county, selected by that alliance or coalition~~; a member of the local Parent-Teachers Association/Parent-Teacher-Student Association, selected by that association; a youth representative selected by the local school system's student government; a local school board member appointed by the chair of the school board; the mayor of the county or the mayor's designee; one member of the county governing body, appointed by the chair of that body; a member of the state Legislature who represents residents of the county, selected by the chair of the local legislative delegation; an elected official representing the residents of a municipality in the county, selected by the county municipal league; and five 4 members-at-large, appointed to the council by the majority of sitting council members. The remaining seven members shall be appointed by the Governor in accordance with procedures set forth in paragraph (a), except that the Governor may remove a member for cause or upon the written petition of the council. Appointments by the Governor must, to the extent reasonably possible, represent the geographic and demographic makeup ~~diversity~~ of the population of the county. Members ~~who are~~ appointed to the council by reason of their position are not subject to the length of terms and limits on consecutive terms as provided in this section. The remaining appointed members of the governing body shall be appointed to serve 3-year ~~2-year~~ terms, except that those members appointed by the Governor shall be appointed to serve 4-year terms, and the youth representative and the legislative delegate shall be appointed to serve 1-year terms. A member may be reappointed; however, a member may

not serve for more than three consecutive terms. A member is eligible to be appointed again after a 2-year hiatus from the council.

Section 4. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 216.251, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

216.251 Salary appropriations; limitations.—

(2)(a) The salary for each position not specifically indicated in the appropriations acts shall be as provided in one of the following subparagraphs:

1. Within the classification and pay plans provided for in chapter 110.
2. Within the classification and pay plans established by the Board of Trustees for the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind of the Department of Education and approved by the State Board of Education for academic and academic administrative personnel.
3. Within the classification and pay plan approved and administered by the Board of Governors or the designee of the board for those positions in the State University System.
4. Within the classification and pay plan approved by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, as the case may be, for employees of the Legislature.
5. Within the approved classification and pay plan for the judicial branch.
- ~~6. Within the classification and pay plans established by the Board of Trustees for the Florida School for Competitive Academics of the Department of Education and approved by the State Board of Education for academic and academic administrative personnel.~~

Section 5. Subsection (2) of section 446.032, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

446.032 General duties of the department for apprenticeship training. The department shall:

- (2) By November 30 ~~September 1~~ of each year, publish an annual report on apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs. The report must be published on the department's website and, at a minimum, include all of the following:
 - (a) A list of registered apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs, sorted by local educational agency, as defined in s. 1004.02(18), and apprenticeship sponsor, under s. 446.071.
 - (b) A detailed summary of each local educational agency's expenditure of funds for apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs, including:

1. The total amount of funds received for apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs.
 2. The total amount of funds allocated by training provider, program, and occupation.
 3. The total amount of funds expended for administrative costs by training provider, program, and occupation.
 4. The total amount of funds expended for instructional costs by training provider, program, and occupation.
- (c) The number of apprentices and preapprentices per trade and occupation.
- (d) The percentage of apprentices and preapprentices who complete their respective programs in the appropriate timeframe.
- (e) Information and resources related to applications for new apprenticeship programs and technical assistance and requirements for potential applicants.
- (f) Documentation of activities conducted by the department to promote apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs through public engagement, community-based partnerships, and other initiatives and the outcomes of such activities and their impact on establishing or expanding apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs.
- (g) Retention and completion rates of participants disaggregated by training provider, program, and occupation.
- (h) Wage progression of participants as demonstrated by starting, exit, and postapprenticeship wages at 1 and 5 years after participants exit the program.

Section 6. Subsection (2) of section 447.203, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

447.203 Definitions.—As used in this part:

(2) “Public employer” or “employer” means the state or any county, municipality, or special district or any subdivision or agency thereof which the commission determines has sufficient legal distinctiveness properly to carry out the functions of a public employer. With respect to all public employees determined by the commission as properly belonging to a statewide bargaining unit composed of State Career Service System employees or Selected Professional Service employees, the Governor is deemed to be the public employer; and the Board of Governors of the State University System, or the board’s designee, is deemed to be the public employer with respect to all public employees of each constituent state university. The board of trustees of a community college is deemed to be the

public employer with respect to all employees of the community college. The district school board is deemed to be the public employer with respect to all employees of the school district. The Board of Trustees of the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind is deemed to be the public employer with respect to the academic and academic administrative personnel of the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind. ~~The Board of Trustees of the Florida School for Competitive Academics is deemed to be the public employer with respect to the academic and academic administrative personnel of the Florida School for Competitive Academics.~~ The Governor is deemed to be the public employer with respect to all employees in the Correctional Education Program of the Department of Corrections established pursuant to s. 944.801.

Section 7. Subsection (7) of section 1000.04, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1000.04 Components for the delivery of public education within the Florida Early Learning-20 education system.—Florida's Early Learning-20 education system provides for the delivery of early learning and public education through publicly supported and controlled K-12 schools, Florida College System institutions, state universities and other postsecondary educational institutions, other educational institutions, and other educational services as provided or authorized by the Constitution and laws of the state.

~~(7) THE FLORIDA SCHOOL FOR COMPETITIVE ACADEMICS.—The Florida School for Competitive Academics is a component of the delivery of public education within Florida's Early Learning-20 education system.~~

Section 8. Paragraph (j) of subsection (5) of section 1000.21, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1000.21 Systemwide definitions.—As used in the Florida Early Learning-20 Education Code:

(5) "Florida College System institution" except as otherwise specifically provided, includes all of the following public postsecondary educational institutions in the Florida College System and any branch campuses, centers, or other affiliates of the institution:

(j) Hillsborough Community College, which serves Hillsborough County.

Section 9. Effective upon this act becoming a law, section 1000.40, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1000.40 Future repeal of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.—Sections 1000.36, 1000.361, 1000.38, and 1000.39 and this section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2028 ~~2025~~, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

Section 10. Subsection (5) of section 1001.03, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1001.03 Specific powers of State Board of Education.—

(5) IDENTIFICATION OF HIGH-DEMAND CRITICAL TEACHER NEEDS SHORTAGE AREAS.—The State Board of Education shall identify high-demand critical teacher needs shortage areas pursuant to s. 1012.07.

Section 11. Paragraph (e) of subsection (4) of section 1001.20, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1001.20 Department under direction of state board.—

(4) The Department of Education shall establish the following offices within the Office of the Commissioner of Education which shall coordinate their activities with all other divisions and offices:

(e) *Office of Inspector General.*—Organized using existing resources and funds and responsible for promoting accountability, efficiency, and effectiveness and detecting fraud and abuse within school districts, the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, ~~the Florida School for Competitive Academies,~~ and Florida College System institutions in Florida. If the Commissioner of Education determines that a district school board, the Board of Trustees for the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, ~~the Board of Trustees for the Florida School for Competitive Academies,~~ or a Florida College System institution board of trustees is unwilling or unable to address substantiated allegations made by any person relating to waste, fraud, or financial mismanagement within the school district, the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, ~~the Florida School for Competitive Academies,~~ or the Florida College System institution, the office must conduct, coordinate, or request investigations into such substantiated allegations. The office shall investigate allegations or reports of possible fraud or abuse against a district school board made by any member of the Cabinet; the presiding officer of either house of the Legislature; a chair of a substantive or appropriations committee with jurisdiction; or a member of the board for which an investigation is sought. The office may investigate allegations or reports of suspected violations of a student's, parent's, or teacher's rights. The office shall have access to all information and personnel necessary to perform its duties and shall have all of its current powers, duties, and responsibilities authorized in s. 20.055.

Section 12. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 1001.452, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1001.452 District and school advisory councils.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(a) The district school board shall establish an advisory council for each school in the district and shall develop procedures for the election and

appointment of advisory council members. Each school advisory council shall include in its name the words “school advisory council.” The school advisory council shall be the sole body responsible for final decisionmaking at the school relating to implementation of ss. 1001.42(18) and 1008.345. A majority of the members of each school advisory council must be persons who are not employed by the school district. Each advisory council shall be composed of the principal and an appropriately balanced number of teachers, education support employees, students, parents, and other business and community citizens who are representative of the ethnic, racial, and economic community served by the school. Career center and high school advisory councils shall include students, and middle and junior high school advisory councils may include students. School advisory councils of career centers and adult education centers are not required to include parents as members. Council members representing teachers, education support employees, students, and parents shall be elected by their respective peer groups at the school in a fair and equitable manner as follows:

1. Teachers shall be elected by teachers.
2. Education support employees shall be elected by education support employees.
3. Students shall be elected by students.
4. Parents shall be elected by parents.

The district school board shall establish procedures to be used by schools in selecting business and community members which ~~that~~ include means of ensuring wide notice of vacancies and of taking input on possible members from local business, chambers of commerce, community and civic organizations and groups, and the public at large. The district school board shall review the membership composition of each advisory council. If the district school board determines that the membership elected by the school is not representative of the ethnic, racial, and economic community served by the school, the district school board must ~~shall~~ appoint additional members to achieve proper representation. ~~The commissioner shall determine if schools have maximized their efforts to include on their advisory councils minority persons and persons of lower socioeconomic status.~~ Although schools are strongly encouraged to establish school advisory councils, the district school board of any school district that has a student population of 10,000 or less ~~fewer~~ may establish a district advisory council which includes at least one duly elected teacher from each school in the district. For the purposes of school advisory councils and district advisory councils, the term “teacher” includes classroom teachers, certified student services personnel, and media specialists. For purposes of this paragraph, the term “education support employee” means any person employed by a school who is not defined as instructional or administrative personnel pursuant to s. 1012.01 and whose duties require 20 or more hours in each normal working week.

Section 13. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 1001.7065, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1001.7065 Preeminent state research universities program.—

(2) ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH EXCELLENCE STANDARDS.—The following academic and research excellence standards are established for the preeminent state research universities program and shall be reported annually in the Board of Governors Accountability Plan:

(a) An average weighted grade point average of 4.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale and an average SAT score of 1200 or higher on a 1600-point scale or an average ACT score of 25 or higher on a 36 score scale, using the latest published national concordance table developed jointly by the College Board and ACT, Inc., or an average Classic Learning Test score of 83 or higher on a 120 score scale, for fall semester incoming freshmen, as reported annually.

Section 14. Paragraph (o) of subsection (3) and paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of section 1002.20, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1002.20 K-12 student and parent rights.—Parents of public school students must receive accurate and timely information regarding their child's academic progress and must be informed of ways they can help their child to succeed in school. K-12 students and their parents are afforded numerous statutory rights including, but not limited to, the following:

(3) HEALTH ISSUES.—

(o) Emergency opioid antagonist Naloxone use and supply.—

1. A public school may purchase a supply of an emergency the opioid antagonist approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) naloxone from a wholesale distributor as defined in s. 499.003 or may enter into an arrangement with a wholesale distributor or manufacturer as defined in s. 499.003 for an FDA-approved emergency opioid antagonist naloxone at fair-market, free, or reduced prices for use in the event that a student has an opioid overdose. The FDA-approved emergency opioid antagonist naloxone must be maintained in a secure location on the public school's premises.

2. A public school district employee who administers an approved emergency opioid antagonist to a student in compliance with ss. 381.887 and 768.13 is immune from civil liability under s. 768.13.

(4) DISCIPLINE.—

(c) Corporal punishment.—

1. In accordance with ~~the provisions of~~ s. 1003.32, corporal punishment of a public school student may only be administered by a teacher or school principal within guidelines of the school principal and according to district

school board policy. Another adult must be present and must be informed in the student's presence of the reason for the punishment. Upon request, the teacher or school principal must provide the parent with a written explanation of the reason for the punishment and the name of the other adult who was present.

2. A district school board having a policy authorizing the use of corporal punishment as a form of discipline shall include in such policy a requirement that a parent provide consent for the school to administer corporal punishment. The district school board policy may require such consent for the school year, or before each administration. The district school board shall review its policy on corporal punishment once every 3 years during a district school board meeting held pursuant to s. 1001.372. The district school board shall take public testimony at the board meeting. If such board meeting is not held in accordance with this subparagraph, the portion of the district school board's policy authorizing corporal punishment expires.

Section 15. Paragraph (b) of subsection (16) and paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (18) of section 1002.33, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1002.33 Charter schools.—

(16) EXEMPTION FROM STATUTES.—

(b) Additionally, a charter school shall be in compliance with the following statutes:

1. Section 286.011, relating to public meetings and records, public inspection, and criminal and civil penalties.

2. Chapter 119, relating to public records.

3. Section 1003.03, relating to the maximum class size, except that the calculation for compliance pursuant to s. 1003.03 shall be the average at the school level.

4. Section 1012.22(1)(c), relating to compensation and salary schedules.

5. Section 1012.33(5), relating to workforce reductions.

6. Section 1012.335, relating to contracts with instructional personnel hired on or after July 1, 2011.

7. Section 1012.34, relating to the substantive requirements for performance evaluations for instructional personnel and school administrators.

8. Section 1006.12, relating to safe-school officers.

9. Section 1006.07(7), relating to threat management teams.

10. Section 1006.07(9), relating to School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting.

11. Section 1006.07(10), relating to reporting of involuntary examinations.
12. Section 1006.1493, relating to the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool.
13. Section 1006.07(6)(d), relating to adopting an active assailant response plan.
14. Section 943.082(4)(b), relating to the mobile suspicious activity reporting tool.
15. Section 1012.584, relating to youth mental health awareness and assistance training.
16. Section 1001.42(4)(f)2., relating to middle school and high school start times. A charter school-in-the-workplace is exempt from this requirement.
17. Section 1002.20(4)(c), relating to school corporal punishment.

(18) FACILITIES.—

(a)1. A startup charter school shall utilize facilities which comply with the Florida Building Code pursuant to chapter 553 except for the State Requirements for Educational Facilities. Conversion charter schools shall utilize facilities that comply with the State Requirements for Educational Facilities provided that the school district and the charter school 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 charter school facilities in the same manner as its other public schools within the district. Charter schools, with the exception of conversion charter schools, are not required to comply, but may choose to comply, with the State Requirements for Educational Facilities of the Florida Building Code adopted pursuant to s. 1013.37.

2. The local governing authority ~~may shall~~ not adopt, ~~or~~ impose, ~~or enforce~~ any local building requirements, ~~or site-development restrictions, or operational requirements that impact,~~ such as parking and site-size criteria, student enrollment and capacity, hours of operation, and occupant load;

a. That are addressed by and more stringent than those found in the State Requirements for Educational Facilities of the Florida Building Code; or

b. That are not uniformly imposed or enforced by the local governing authority upon public schools within the jurisdiction of the local governing authority.

3. A local governing authority must treat charter schools equitably in comparison to similar requirements, restrictions, and site planning processes imposed upon public schools that are not charter schools, including such provisions that are established by interlocal agreement, development order, or development permit. An interlocal agreement entered into by a school district for the development of only its own schools, including provisions relating to the extension of infrastructure, may be used by charter schools. A charter school may not be subject to any land use regulation requiring a change to a local government comprehensive plan or requiring a development order or development permit, as those terms are defined in s. 163.3164, or any requirement or restriction that would not be required for a public or private school in the same location or a location on which a public or private school has previously been permitted. A local governing authority may not apply or enforce a condition against a charter school unless the condition is uniformly applied to other public schools within the jurisdiction of the local governing authority and the charter school is located on property that is the subject of a previously approved development order or development permit, and if such development order or development permit contains conditions applicable to the construction or operation of a public or private school, including, but not limited to:

- a. Limits on the number of students;
- b. Limits on the number of teachers;
- c. Limits on the number of classrooms;
- d. Limits on the hours of operation;
- e. Minimum outdoor recreation area; or
- f. Requirements to conform to a prior plan of development.

4. The agency having jurisdiction for inspection of a facility and issuance of a certificate of occupancy or use shall be the local municipality or, if in an unincorporated area, the county governing authority. A charter school that meets the requirements of state law consistent with the requirements of this subsection shall be administratively approved by the local governing authority. ~~If a an official or employee of the local governing authority refuses to comply with this subsection paragraph, the aggrieved school or entity has an immediate right to bring an action in circuit court to enforce its rights by injunction. An aggrieved party that prevails in such an action receives injunctive relief may be awarded attorney fees and court costs.~~

(c) Any facility, or portion thereof, used to house a charter school whose charter has been approved by the sponsor and the governing board, pursuant to subsection (7), is exempt from ad valorem taxes pursuant to s. 196.1983. Notwithstanding any other law, local ordinance, or regulation to the contrary, a local governing authority may not require a charter school to obtain a special exemption or conditional use approval for the charter school

to be an allowable use under the local governing authority's land development code. Any library, community service, museum, performing arts, theater, cinema, or church facility; any facility or land owned by a Florida College System institution or university; any similar public institutional facilities; and any facility recently used to house a school or child care facility licensed under s. 402.305 may provide space to charter schools within their facilities under their preexisting zoning and land use designations without obtaining a special exception, rezoning, or a land use change.

Section 16. Section 1002.351, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

Section 17. Subsection (6) of section 1002.394, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.394 The Family Empowerment Scholarship Program.—

(6) SCHOLARSHIP PROHIBITIONS.—A student is not eligible for a Family Empowerment Scholarship while he or she is:

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

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

(c) Receiving any other educational scholarship pursuant to this chapter. However, an eligible public school student receiving a scholarship under s. 1002.411 may receive a scholarship for transportation pursuant to subparagraph (4)(a)2.;

(d) Not having regular and direct contact with his or her private school teachers pursuant to s. 1002.421(1)(i), unless he or she is eligible pursuant to paragraph (3)(b) and enrolled in the participating private school's transition-to-work program pursuant to subsection (16) or a home education program pursuant to s. 1002.41;

(e) Participating in a private tutoring program pursuant to s. 1002.43 unless he or she is determined eligible pursuant to paragraph (3)(b); or

(f) Participating in virtual instruction pursuant to s. 1002.455 that receives state funding pursuant to the student's participation.

Section 18. Subsection (4) of section 1002.395, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.395 Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program.—

(4) SCHOLARSHIP PROHIBITIONS.—A student is not eligible for a scholarship while he or she is:

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

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

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

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

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

(f) Participating in a private tutoring program pursuant to s. 1002.43 unless he or she is enrolled in a personalized education program; or

(g) Participating in virtual instruction pursuant to s. 1002.455 that receives state funding pursuant to the student's participation.

Section 19. Paragraph (c) is added to subsection (19) of section 1002.42, Florida Statutes, to read:

1002.42 Private schools.—

(19) FACILITIES.—

(c) A private school located in a county with four incorporated municipalities may construct new facilities, which may be temporary or permanent, on property purchased from or owned or leased by a library, community service organization, museum, performing arts venue, theater, cinema, or church under s. 170.201, which is or was actively used as such within 5 years of any executed agreement with a private school; any land owned by a Florida College System institution or state university; and any land recently used to house a school or child care facility licensed under s. 402.305 under

its preexisting zoning and land use designations without rezoning or obtaining a special exception or a land use change and without complying with any mitigation requirements or conditions. The new facility must be located on property used solely for purposes described in this paragraph and must meet applicable state and local health, safety, and welfare laws, codes, and rules, including firesafety and building safety.

Section 20. Paragraphs (e), (m), and (p) of subsection (1) of section 1002.421, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1002.421 State school choice scholarship program accountability and oversight.—

(1) PRIVATE SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY AND OBLIGATIONS.—A private school participating in an educational scholarship program established pursuant to this chapter must be a private school as defined in s. 1002.01 in this state, be registered, and be in compliance with all requirements of this section in addition to private school requirements outlined in s. 1002.42, specific requirements identified within respective scholarship program laws, and other provisions of Florida law that apply to private schools, and must:

(e) Annually complete and submit to the department a notarized scholarship compliance statement certifying that all school employees and contracted personnel with direct student contact have undergone background screening ~~pursuant to s. 435.12~~ and have met the screening standards as provided in s. 1012.315 ~~s. 435.04~~.

(m) Require each employee and contracted personnel with direct student contact, upon employment or engagement to provide services, to undergo a ~~state and national background screening under s. 1012.315, pursuant to s. 943.0542,~~ by electronically filing with the Department of Law Enforcement a complete set of fingerprints taken by an authorized law enforcement agency or an employee of the private school, a school district, or a private company who is trained to take fingerprints and deny employment to or terminate an employee if he or she fails to meet the screening standards under s. 1012.315 ~~s. 435.04~~. ~~Results of the screening shall be provided to the participating private school.~~ For purposes of this paragraph:

1. An “employee or contracted personnel with direct student contact” means any employee or contracted personnel who has unsupervised access to a scholarship student for whom the private school is responsible.

2. The costs of fingerprinting and the background check shall not be borne by the state.

3. Continued employment of an employee or contracted personnel after notification that he or she has failed the background screening under this paragraph shall cause a private school to be ineligible for participation in a scholarship program.

4. An employee or contracted personnel holding a valid Florida teaching certificate who has been fingerprinted pursuant to s. 1012.32 is not required to comply with the provisions of this paragraph.

5. All fingerprints submitted to the Department of Law Enforcement as required by this section must shall be retained in the Care Provider Background Screening Clearinghouse as provided in s. 435.12 by the Department of Law Enforcement in a manner provided by rule and entered in the statewide automated biometric identification system authorized by s. 943.05(2)(b). Such fingerprints shall thereafter be available for all purposes and ~~uses authorized for arrest fingerprints entered in the statewide automated biometric identification system pursuant to s. 943.051.~~

6. Employees, contracted personnel, owners, and operators must be rescreened as required by s. 435.12.

7. Persons who apply for employment are governed by the laws and rules in effect at the time of application for employment, provided that the person is continually employed by the same school.

~~6. The Department of Law Enforcement shall search all arrest fingerprints received under s. 943.051 against the fingerprints retained in the statewide automated biometric identification system under subparagraph 5. Any arrest record that is identified with the retained fingerprints of a person subject to the background screening under this section shall be reported to the employing school with which the person is affiliated. Each private school participating in a scholarship program is required to participate in this search process by informing the Department of Law Enforcement of any change in the employment or contractual status of its personnel whose fingerprints are retained under subparagraph 5. The Department of Law Enforcement shall adopt a rule setting the amount of the annual fee to be imposed upon each private school for performing these searches and establishing the procedures for the retention of private school employee and contracted personnel fingerprints and the dissemination of search results. The fee may be borne by the private school or the person fingerprinted.~~

~~7. Employees and contracted personnel whose fingerprints are not retained by the Department of Law Enforcement under subparagraphs 5. and 6. are required to be refingerprinted and must meet state and national background screening requirements upon reemployment or reengagement to provide services in order to comply with the requirements of this section.~~

~~8. Every 5 years following employment or engagement to provide services with a private school, employees or contracted personnel required to be screened under this section must meet screening standards under s. 435.04, at which time the private school shall request the Department of Law Enforcement to forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for national processing. If the fingerprints of employees or contracted personnel are not retained by the Department of Law~~

~~Enforcement under subparagraph 5., employees and contracted personnel must electronically file a complete set of fingerprints with the Department of Law Enforcement. Upon submission of fingerprints for this purpose, the private school shall request that the Department of Law Enforcement forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for national processing, and the fingerprints shall be retained by the Department of Law Enforcement under subparagraph 5.~~

(p) Require each owner or operator of the private school, prior to employment or engagement to provide services, to undergo level 2 background screening as provided in s. 1012.315 ~~under chapter 435~~. For purposes of this paragraph, the term “owner or operator” means an owner, an operator, a superintendent, or a principal of, or a person with equivalent decisionmaking authority over, a private school participating in a scholarship program established pursuant to this chapter. The fingerprints for the background screening must be electronically submitted to the Department of Law Enforcement and may be taken by an authorized law enforcement agency or a private company who is trained to take fingerprints. However, the complete set of fingerprints of an owner or operator may not be taken by the owner or operator. ~~The owner or operator shall provide a copy of the results of the state and national criminal history check to the Department of Education.~~ The cost of the background screening may be borne by the owner or operator.

~~1. Every 5 years following employment or engagement to provide services, each owner or operator must meet level 2 screening standards as described in s. 435.04, at which time the owner or operator shall request the Department of Law Enforcement to forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for level 2 screening. If the fingerprints of an owner or operator are not retained by the Department of Law Enforcement under subparagraph 2., the owner or operator must electronically file a complete set of fingerprints with the Department of Law Enforcement. Upon submission of fingerprints for this purpose, the owner or operator shall request that the Department of Law Enforcement forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for level 2 screening, and the fingerprints shall be retained by the Department of Law Enforcement under subparagraph 2.~~

~~2. Fingerprints submitted to the Department of Law Enforcement as required by this paragraph must be retained by the Department of Law Enforcement in a manner approved by rule and entered in the statewide automated biometric identification system authorized by s. 943.05(2)(b). The fingerprints must thereafter be available for all purposes and uses authorized for arrest fingerprints entered in the statewide automated biometric identification system pursuant to s. 943.051.~~

~~3. The Department of Law Enforcement shall search all arrest fingerprints received under s. 943.051 against the fingerprints retained in the statewide automated biometric identification system under subparagraph 2. Any arrest record that is identified with an owner's or operator's fingerprints~~

~~must be reported to the owner or operator, who must report to the Department of Education. Any costs associated with the search shall be borne by the owner or operator.~~

~~4. An owner or operator who fails the level 2 background screening is not eligible to participate in a scholarship program under this chapter.~~

~~1.5.~~ In addition to the offenses listed in s. 435.04, a person required to undergo background screening pursuant to this part or authorizing statutes may not have an arrest awaiting final disposition for, must not have been found guilty of, or entered a plea of nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, and must not have been adjudicated delinquent for, and the record must not have been sealed or expunged for, any of the following offenses or any similar offense of another jurisdiction:

- a. Any authorizing statutes, if the offense was a felony.
- b. This chapter, if the offense was a felony.
- c. Section 409.920, relating to Medicaid provider fraud.
- d. Section 409.9201, relating to Medicaid fraud.
- e. Section 741.28, relating to domestic violence.
- f. Section 817.034, relating to fraudulent acts through mail, wire, radio, electromagnetic, photoelectronic, or photooptical systems.
- g. Section 817.234, relating to false and fraudulent insurance claims.
- h. Section 817.505, relating to patient brokering.
- i. Section 817.568, relating to criminal use of personal identification information.
- j. Section 817.60, relating to obtaining a credit card through fraudulent means.
- k. Section 817.61, relating to fraudulent use of credit cards, if the offense was a felony.
- l. Section 831.01, relating to forgery.
- m. Section 831.02, relating to uttering forged instruments.
- n. Section 831.07, relating to forging bank bills, checks, drafts, or promissory notes.
- o. Section 831.09, relating to uttering forged bank bills, checks, drafts, or promissory notes.
- p. Section 831.30, relating to fraud in obtaining medicinal drugs.

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

2.6. At least 30 calendar days before a transfer of ownership of a private school, the owner or operator shall notify the parent of each scholarship student.

3.7. The owner or operator of a private school that has been deemed ineligible to participate in a scholarship program pursuant to this chapter may not transfer ownership or management authority of the school to a relative in order to participate in a scholarship program as the same school or a new school. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term “relative” means father, mother, son, daughter, grandfather, grandmother, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half brother, or half sister.

The department shall suspend the payment of funds to a private school that knowingly fails to comply with this subsection, and shall prohibit the school from enrolling new scholarship students, for 1 fiscal year and until the school complies. If a private school fails to meet the requirements of this subsection or has consecutive years of material exceptions listed in the report required under paragraph (q), the commissioner may determine that the private school is ineligible to participate in a scholarship program.

Section 21. Subsection (4) of section 1002.71, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.71 Funding; financial and attendance reporting.—

(4) Notwithstanding s. 1002.53(3) and subsection (2):

(a) A child who, ~~for any of the prekindergarten programs listed in s. 1002.53(3),~~ has not completed any of the prekindergarten programs listed in s. 1002.53(3) ~~more than 70 percent of the hours authorized to be reported for funding under subsection (2), or has not expended more than 70 percent of the funds authorized for the child under s. 1002.66,~~ may withdraw from the program for good cause and reenroll in one of the programs. The total funding for a child who reenrolls in one of the programs for good cause may not exceed one full-time equivalent student. Funding for a child who withdraws and reenrolls in one of the programs for good cause must ~~shall~~ be issued in accordance with the department’s uniform attendance policy adopted pursuant to paragraph (6)(d).

(b) A child who has not ~~substantially~~ completed any of the prekindergarten programs listed in s. 1002.53(3) may withdraw from the program due to an extreme hardship that is beyond the child’s or parent’s control, reenroll in one of the summer programs, and be reported for funding purposes as a

full-time equivalent student in the summer program for which the child is reenrolled.

A child may reenroll only once in a prekindergarten program under this section. A child who reenrolls in a prekindergarten program under this subsection may not subsequently withdraw from the program and reenroll, unless the child is granted a good cause exemption under this subsection. The department shall establish criteria specifying whether a good cause exists for a child to withdraw from a program under paragraph (a), ~~whether a child has substantially completed a program under paragraph (b), and whether an extreme hardship exists which is beyond the child's or parent's control under paragraph (b).~~

Section 22. Effective October 1, 2025, subsections (6) and (13) of section 1002.81, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph (g) is added to subsection (1) of that section, to read:

1002.81 Definitions.—Consistent with the requirements of 45 C.F.R. parts 98 and 99 and as used in this part, the term:

(1) “At-risk child” means:

(g) A child in the custody of and in residence with a parent who is receiving comprehensive services with a licensed residential behavioral health treatment center with an onsite child care facility.

(6) “Economically disadvantaged” means having a family income that does not exceed 55 percent of the state median income ~~150 percent of the federal poverty level~~ and includes being a child of a working migratory family as defined by 34 C.F.R. s. 200.81(d) or (f) or an agricultural worker who is employed by more than one agricultural employer during the course of a year, and whose income varies according to weather conditions and market stability.

(13) “Single point of entry” means an integrated information system that allows a parent to enroll his or her child in the school readiness program or the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program at various locations throughout a county, that may allow a parent to enroll his or her child by telephone or through a website, and that uses a uniform waiting list to track eligible children waiting for enrollment in the school readiness program based on family household income and the priorities established under s. 1002.87.

Section 23. Effective October 1, 2025, paragraph (f) of subsection (2) of section 1002.82, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.82 Department of Education; powers and duties.—

(2) The department shall:

(f) Establish a unified approach to the state's efforts to coordinate a comprehensive early learning program. In support of this effort, the department:

1. Shall adopt specific program support services that address the state's school readiness program, including:

a. Statewide data information program requirements that include:

(I) Eligibility requirements.

(II) Financial reports.

(III) Program accountability measures.

(IV) Child progress reports.

b. Child care resource and referral services.

c. A single point of entry and uniform waiting list that tracks children waiting for school readiness program services based on family household income and the priorities established under s. 1002.87.

2. May provide technical assistance and guidance on additional support services to complement the school readiness program, including:

a. Warm-Line services.

b. Anti-fraud plans.

c. Training and support for parental involvement in children's early education.

d. Family literacy activities and services.

Section 24. Effective October 1, 2025, subsection (2) of section 1002.84, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.84 Early learning coalitions; school readiness powers and duties. Each early learning coalition shall:

(2) Establish a uniform waiting list to track ~~eligible~~ children waiting for enrollment in the school readiness program based on family household income and the priorities established under s. 1002.87 and in accordance with rules adopted by the State Board of Education.

Section 25. Effective October 1, 2025, paragraph (b) of subsection (2) and subsection (5) of section 1002.85, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1002.85 Early learning coalition plans.—

(2) Each early learning coalition must submit a school readiness program plan every 3 years to the department before the expenditure of funds. A coalition may not implement its school readiness program plan until it receives approval from the department. A coalition may not implement any revision to its school readiness program plan until the coalition submits the revised plan to and receives approval from the department. If the department rejects a plan or revision, the coalition must continue to operate under its previously approved plan. The plan must include, but is not limited to:

(b) The coalition's procedures for implementing the requirements of this part, including:

1. Single point of entry.
2. Uniform waiting list that tracks children waiting for school readiness program services based on family household income and the priorities established under s. 1002.87.
3. Eligibility and enrollment processes and local eligibility priorities for children pursuant to s. 1002.87.
4. Parent access and choice.
5. Sliding fee scale and policies on applying the waiver or reduction of fees in accordance with s. 1002.84(9).
6. Use of preassessments and postassessments, as applicable.
7. Use of contracted slots, as applicable, based on the results of the assessment required under paragraph (i).

(5) The department shall collect and report data on coalition delivery of early learning programs. Elements shall include, but are not limited to, measures related to progress towards reducing the number of children on the waiting list, the percentage of children served by the program as compared to the number of administrative staff and overhead, the percentage of children served compared to total number of children under the age of 5 years below 55 percent of the state median income ~~150 percent of the federal poverty level~~, provider payment processes, fraud intervention, child attendance and stability, use of child care resource and referral, and kindergarten readiness outcomes for children in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program or the school readiness program upon entry into kindergarten. The department shall request input from the coalitions and school readiness program providers before finalizing the format and data to be used. The report shall be implemented beginning July 1, 2014, and results of the report must be included in the annual report under s. 1002.82.

Section 26. Effective October 1, 2025, paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 1002.89, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.89 School readiness program; funding.—

(1) DETERMINATION OF EARLY LEARNING COALITION SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM FUNDING.—Funding for the school readiness program shall be used by the early learning coalitions in accordance with this part and the General Appropriations Act.

(a) School readiness program allocation.—If the annual allocation for the school readiness program is not determined in the General Appropriations Act or the substantive bill implementing the General Appropriations Act, it shall be determined as follows:

1. For each county in the early learning coalition, the total number of unweighted full-time equivalent school readiness children, as adopted by the Early Learning Programs Estimating Conference pursuant to s. 216.136(8), which shall consider the historical trend of children served and population changes for each county, shall be multiplied by the appropriate care level factor to calculate the weighted full-time equivalent school readiness children. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term “care level factor” means the adjustment made based on the relative differences in reimbursement rates associated with the eligible school readiness children pursuant to s. 1002.87.

2. The total weighted full-time equivalent school readiness children shall be multiplied by the rate index to calculate the adjusted weighted full-time equivalent school readiness children. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term “rate index” means the adjustment made based on the impact of geographic location on reimbursement rates.

3. The school readiness program funds shall be distributed based on each county’s proportionate share of the total adjusted weighted full-time equivalent school readiness children.

Section 27. Subsection (2) of section 1003.05, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.05 Assistance to transitioning students from military families.—

(2) The Department of Education shall facilitate the development and implementation of memoranda of agreement between school districts and military installations which address strategies for assisting students who are the children of active duty military personnel in the transition to Florida schools.

(a) The strategies developed by the department must include the development and implementation of a training module relating to facilitating and expediting the transfer of a K-12 student’s education records from an out-of-state school.

(b) The department shall provide the training module required under paragraph (a) to each district school board to provide to each public and

charter K-12 school within its district. The district school board shall make the training available to employees who work directly with military students and families.

Section 28. Subsection (3) of section 1003.41, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.41 State academic standards.—

(3) The Commissioner of Education shall, as deemed necessary, develop and submit proposed revisions to the standards for review and comment by Florida educators, school administrators, representatives of the Florida College System institutions and state universities who have expertise in the content knowledge and skills necessary to prepare a student for postsecondary education and careers, a representative from the Department of Commerce, business and industry leaders for in-demand careers, and the public. The commissioner, after considering reviews and comments, shall submit the proposed revisions to the State Board of Education for adoption. New and revised standards documents submitted for approval to the state board must consist only of academic standards and benchmarks. The commissioner shall revise all currently approved standards documents based on the requirements of this subsection and submit all revised standards documents to the state board for approval no later than July 1, 2026.

Section 29. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 1003.4201, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.4201 Comprehensive system of reading instruction.—Each school district must implement a system of comprehensive reading instruction for students enrolled in prekindergarten through grade 12 and certain students who exhibit a substantial deficiency in early literacy.

(2)(a) Components of the reading instruction plan may include the following:

1. Additional time per day of evidence-based intensive reading instruction for kindergarten through grade 12 students, which may be delivered during or outside of the regular school day.

2. Highly qualified reading coaches, who must be endorsed in reading, to specifically support classroom teachers in making instructional decisions based on progress monitoring data collected pursuant to s. 1008.25(9) and improve classroom teacher delivery of effective reading instruction, reading intervention, and reading in the content areas based on student need.

3. Professional learning to help instructional personnel and certified prekindergarten teachers funded in the Florida Education Finance Program earn a certification, a credential, an endorsement, or an advanced degree in scientifically researched and evidence-based reading instruction.

4. Summer reading camps, using only classroom teachers or other district personnel who possess a micro-credential as specified in s. 1003.485 or are certified or endorsed in reading consistent with s. 1008.25(8)(b)3., for all students in kindergarten through grade 5 exhibiting a reading deficiency as determined by district and state assessments.

5. Intensive reading interventions, which must be delivered by instructional personnel who possess a micro-credential as defined in s. 1003.485(1) or are certified or endorsed in reading as provided in s. 1012.586 and must incorporate evidence-based strategies identified by the Just Read, Florida! office pursuant to s. 1001.215(7). Instructional personnel who possess a micro-credential as defined in s. 1003.485(1) and are delivering intensive reading interventions must be supervised by an individual certified or endorsed in reading. For the purposes of this subparagraph, the term “supervised” means that instructional personnel with a micro-credential are able, through telecommunication or in person, to communicate and consult with, and receive direction from, certified or endorsed personnel. Incentives for instructional personnel and certified prekindergarten teachers funded in the Florida Education Finance Program who possess a reading certification or endorsement as specified in s. 1012.586 or micro-credential as specified in s. 1003.485 and provide educational support to improve student literacy.

6. Tutoring in reading.

7. A description of how the district prioritizes the assignment of highly effective teachers, as identified in s. 1012.34(2)(e), from kindergarten to grade 2.

Section 30. Paragraph (h) of subsection (3) of section 1003.4282, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.4282 Requirements for a standard high school diploma.—

(3) STANDARD HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA; COURSE AND ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS.—

(h) *One-half credit in personal financial literacy.*—Beginning with students entering grade 9 in the 2023-2024 school year, each student must earn one-half credit in personal financial literacy and money management. This instruction must include discussion of or instruction in all of the following:

1. Types of bank accounts offered, opening and managing a bank account, and assessing the quality of a depository institution’s services.
2. Balancing a checkbook.
3. Basic principles of money management, such as spending, credit, credit scores, and managing debt, including retail and credit card debt.
4. Completing a loan application.

5. Receiving an inheritance and related implications.
6. Basic principles of personal insurance policies.
7. Computing federal income taxes.
8. Local tax assessments.
9. Computing interest rates by various mechanisms.
10. Simple contracts.
11. Contesting an incorrect billing statement.
12. Types of savings and investments.
13. State and federal laws concerning finance.
14. Costs of postsecondary education, including cost of attendance, completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, scholarships and grants, and student loans.

Section 31. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section 1004.04, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1004.04 Public accountability and state approval for teacher preparation programs.—

(4) CONTINUED PROGRAM APPROVAL.—Continued approval of a teacher preparation program shall be based upon evidence that the program continues to implement the requirements for initial approval and upon significant, objective, and quantifiable measures of the program and the performance of the program completers.

(a) The criteria for continued approval must include each of the following:

1. Candidate readiness based on passage rates on educator certification examinations under s. 1012.56, as applicable.
2. Evidence of performance in each of the following areas:
 - a. Performance of students in prekindergarten through grade 12 who are assigned to in-field program completers on statewide assessments using the results of the student learning growth formula adopted under s. 1012.34.
 - b. Results of program completers' annual evaluations in accordance with the timeline as set forth in s. 1012.34.
 - c. Workforce contributions, including placement of program completers in instructional positions in Florida public and private schools, with additional weight given to production of program completers in statewide

high-demand critical teacher needs shortage areas as identified in s. 1012.07.

3. Results of the program completers' survey measuring their satisfaction with preparation for the realities of the classroom.

4. Results of the employers' survey measuring satisfaction with the program and the program's responsiveness to local school districts.

Section 32. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 1004.0971, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1004.0971 Emergency opioid antagonists in Florida College System institution and state university housing.—

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(b) "Emergency opioid antagonist" means a ~~naloxone hydrochloride or any similarly acting~~ drug that blocks the effects of opioids administered from outside the body and that is approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of an opioid overdose.

Section 33. Paragraphs (c) and (f) of subsection (1) of section 1005.06, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1005.06 Institutions not under the jurisdiction or purview of the commission.—

(1) Except as otherwise provided in law, the following institutions are not under the jurisdiction or purview of the commission and are not required to obtain licensure:

(c) Any institution that is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Education, eligible to participate in the William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student Education Grant Program and that is a nonprofit independent college or university located and chartered in this state and accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to grant baccalaureate degrees, or an institution authorized under s. 1009.521.

(f)1. A nonpublic religious postsecondary educational institution religious college may operate without licensure governmental oversight if the institution college annually verifies by sworn affidavit to the commission each of the following affirmations that:

a.1. The name of the institution includes a religious modifier or the name of a religious patriarch, saint, person, or symbol of the church.

b. An explanation of the religious modifier, religious name, or religious symbol used in the institution's name.

c.2. The institution offers only educational programs that prepare students for religious vocations as ministers, professionals, or laypersons in the categories of ministry, counseling, theology, education, administration, music, fine arts, media communications, or social work.

d.3. The titles of degrees issued by the institution cannot be confused with secular degree titles. For this purpose, each degree title must include a religious modifier that immediately precedes, or is included within, any of the following degrees: Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Master of Arts, Master of Science, Doctor of Philosophy, and Doctor of Education. The religious modifier must be placed on the title line of the degree, on the transcript, and whenever the title of the degree appears in official school documents or publications.

e. The titles and majors of every degree program offered by the institution as they appear on degrees and transcripts issued by the institution.

f.4. The duration of all degree programs offered by the institution is consistent with the standards of the commission.

g.5. The institution's consumer practices are consistent with those required by s. 1005.04.

2. If requested by the commission, the institution must submit documentation demonstrating compliance with the requirements of this paragraph and with s. 1005.04. The institution shall submit such documentation within 30 days after the request.

3. The commission shall review for approval or denial, in a public meeting, affidavits submitted pursuant to this paragraph. The commission shall approve an affidavit unless the affidavit is facially invalid, the affidavit is contradicted by the institution's public advertisements or by other evidence, or the institution has failed to comply with the requirements of subparagraph 2. The commission may provide such a religious institution a letter stating that the institution has met the requirements of state law and is not subject to licensure by the commission governmental oversight.

a. If a nonpublic religious postsecondary educational institution that has been issued a written notice of exemption from licensure by the commission subsequently fails to comply with the requirements of this paragraph, the commission must revoke its approval of the institution's affidavit in a public meeting.

b. If an affidavit is denied by the commission, the commission may take any of the actions specified in s. 1005.38 unless the institution applies for a license pursuant to s. 1005.31(1)(a), ceases operating in this state, or submits documentation indicating compliance with this paragraph.

c. The commission may adopt rules to administer this paragraph.

Section 34. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 1006.09, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1006.09 Duties of school principal relating to student discipline and school safety.—

(1)(a)1. Subject to law and to the rules of the State Board of Education and the district school board, the principal in charge of the school or the principal's designee shall develop policies for delegating to any teacher or other member of the instructional staff or to any bus driver transporting students of the school responsibility for the control and direction of students. Each school principal shall fully support the authority of his or her teachers and school bus drivers to remove disobedient, disrespectful, violent, abusive, uncontrollable, or disruptive students from the classroom and the school bus and, when appropriate and available, place such students in an alternative educational setting. The principal or the principal's designee must give full consideration to the recommendation for discipline made by a teacher, other member of the instructional staff, or a bus driver when making a decision regarding student referral for discipline.

2. If the disobedient, disrespectful, violent, abusive, uncontrollable, or disruptive behavior continues, the school principal must refer the case to the school's child study team to schedule a meeting with the parent to identify potential remedies.

3. If an initial meeting with the student's parent does not resolve the behavioral issues, the child study team must implement the following:

a. Frequent attempts by the school, including the student's teacher and a school administrator, at communicating with the student's family. The attempts may be made in writing or by telephone, but must be documented.

b. A student evaluation for alternative education programs.

c. Behavior contracts.

The child study team may, but is not required to, implement other interventions, including referral to other agencies for family services or a recommendation for filing a petition for a child in need of services pursuant to s. 984.15.

Section 35. Subsection (3) of section 1006.13, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1006.13 Policy of zero tolerance for crime and victimization.—

(3)(a) Zero-tolerance policies must require students found to have committed one of the following offenses to be expelled, with or without continuing educational services, from the student's regular school for a period of not less than 1 full year, and to be referred to the criminal justice or juvenile justice system.

1.(a) Bringing a firearm or weapon, as defined in chapter 790, to school, to any school function, or onto any school-sponsored transportation or possessing a firearm at school.

2.(b) Making a threat or false report, as defined by ss. 790.162 and 790.163, respectively, involving school or school personnel's property, school transportation, or a school-sponsored activity.

(b) District school boards may assign the student to a disciplinary program for the purpose of continuing educational services during the period of expulsion. District school superintendents may consider the 1-year expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis and request the district school board to modify the requirement by assigning the student to a disciplinary program or second chance school if the request for modification is in writing and it is determined to be in the best interest of the student and the school system. If a student committing any of the offenses in this subsection is a student who has a disability, the district school board shall comply with applicable State Board of Education rules.

(c) Before the expiration of an expulsion period, the district school superintendent shall determine, based upon the determination of the threat management team, whether the expulsion period should be extended and, if the expulsion period is extended, what educational services will be provided. A recommendation to extend the expulsion period must be provided to the student and his or her parents in accordance with s. 1006.08(1).

Section 36. Effective upon becoming a law, paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 1007.27, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (d) is added to subsection (2) of that section, to read:

1007.27 Articulated acceleration mechanisms.—

(1)

(b) The State Board of Education and the Board of Governors shall identify Florida College System institutions, ~~and~~ state universities, and national consortia to develop courses that align with s. 1007.25 for students in secondary education and provide the training required under s. 1007.35(6).

(2)

(d) The department may join or establish a national consortium as an alternative method to develop and implement advanced placement courses that align with s. 1007.25.

Section 37. Subsection (5), paragraph (j) of subsection (6), and subsection (8) of section 1007.35, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1007.35 Florida Partnership for Minority and Underrepresented Student Achievement.—

(5) Each public high school, including, but not limited to, schools and alternative sites and centers of the Department of Juvenile Justice, shall provide for the administration of the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), Classic Learning Test 10 (CLT10), or the PreACT to all enrolled 10th grade students. However, a written notice ~~must~~ shall be provided to each parent which must include the opportunity to exempt his or her child from taking the PSAT/NMSQT, CLT10, or the PreACT.

(a) Test results will provide each high school with a database of student assessment data which certified school counselors will use to identify students who are prepared or who need additional work to be prepared to enroll and be successful in advanced high school courses.

(b) Funding for the PSAT/NMSQT, CLT10, or the PreACT for all 10th grade students is ~~shall be~~ contingent upon annual funding in the General Appropriations Act.

(c) Public school districts shall ~~must~~ choose either the PSAT/NMSQT, CLT10, or the PreACT for districtwide administration.

(6) The partnership shall:

(j) Provide information to students, parents, teachers, counselors, administrators, districts, Florida College System institutions, and state universities regarding the PSAT/NMSQT, CLT10, or the PreACT administration, including, but not limited to:

1. Test administration dates and times.
2. That participation in the PSAT/NMSQT, CLT10, or the PreACT is open to all 10th grade students.
3. The value of such tests in providing diagnostic feedback on student skills.
4. The value of student scores in predicting the probability of success on advanced course examinations.

(8)(a) By September 30 of each year, the partnership shall submit to the department a report that contains an evaluation of the effectiveness of the delivered services and activities. Activities and services must be evaluated on their effectiveness at raising student achievement and increasing the number of AP or other advanced course examinations in low-performing middle and high schools. Other indicators that must be addressed in the evaluation report include the number of middle and high school teachers trained; the effectiveness of the training; measures of postsecondary readiness of the students affected by the program; levels of participation in the 10th grade PSAT/NMSQT, CLT10, or the PreACT testing; and measures of student, parent, and teacher awareness of and satisfaction with the services of the partnership.

(b) The department shall contribute to the evaluation process by providing access, consistent with s. 119.071(5)(a), to student and teacher information necessary to match against databases containing teacher professional learning data and databases containing assessment data for the PSAT/NMSQT, SAT, ACT, PreACT, CLT, CLT10, AP, and other appropriate measures. The department shall also provide student-level data on student progress from middle school through high school and into college and the workforce, if available, in order to support longitudinal studies. The partnership shall analyze and report student performance data in a manner that protects the rights of students and parents as required in 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g and s. 1002.22.

Section 38. Paragraph (c) of subsection (6) of section 1008.25, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1008.25 Public school student progression; student support; coordinated screening and progress monitoring; reporting requirements.—

(6) MATHEMATICS DEFICIENCY AND PARENTAL NOTIFICATION.—

(c) The parent of a student who exhibits a substantial deficiency in mathematics, as described in paragraph (a), must be immediately notified in writing of the following:

1. That his or her child has been identified as having a substantial deficiency in mathematics, including a description and explanation, in terms understandable to the parent, of the exact nature of the student's difficulty in learning and lack of achievement in mathematics.

2. A description of the current services that are provided to the child.

3. A description of the proposed intensive interventions and supports that will be provided to the child that are designed to remediate the identified area of mathematics deficiency.

4. Strategies, including multisensory strategies and programming, through a home-based plan the parent can use in helping his or her child succeed in mathematics. The home-based plan must provide access to the resources identified in paragraph (d).

5. Information about the student's eligibility for the New Worlds Scholarship Accounts under s. 1002.411 and the school district's tutoring services provided by the New Worlds Tutoring Program under s. 1008.366.

After the initial notification, the school shall apprise the parent at least monthly of the student's progress in response to the intensive interventions and supports. Such communications must be in writing and must explain any additional interventions or supports that will be implemented to accelerate the student's progress if the interventions and supports already being implemented have not resulted in improvement. Upon the request of

the parent, the teacher or school administrator shall meet to discuss the student's progress. The parent may request more frequent notification of the student's progress, more frequent interventions or supports, and earlier implementation of the additional interventions or supports described in the initial notification.

Section 39. Paragraph (c) of subsection (8) of section 1008.365, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1008.365 Reading Achievement Initiative for Scholastic Excellence Act.

(8) As part of the RAISE Program, the department shall establish a tutoring program and develop training in effective reading tutoring practices and content, based on evidence-based practices grounded in the science of reading and aligned to the English Language Arts standards under s. 1003.41, which prepares eligible high school students to tutor students in kindergarten through grade 3 in schools identified under this section, instilling in those students a love of reading and improving their literacy skills.

(c) Tutoring may be part of a service-learning course adopted pursuant to s. 1003.497. Students may earn up to three elective credits for high school graduation based on the verified number of hours the student spends tutoring under the program. The hours of volunteer service must be documented in writing, and the document must be signed by the student, the student's parent or guardian, and an administrator or designee of the school in which the tutoring occurred. ~~The Unpaid~~ hours that a high school student devotes to tutoring may be counted toward meeting community service requirements for high school graduation and community service requirements for participation in the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program as provided in s. 1003.497(3)(b). The department shall designate a high school student who provides at least 75 verified hours of tutoring under the program as a New Worlds Scholar and award the student with a pin indicating such designation.

Section 40. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and subsection (2) of section 1008.366, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1008.366 The New Worlds Tutoring Program.—

(1) The New Worlds Tutoring Program is created to support school districts and schools in improving student achievement in reading and mathematics by:

(b) Providing best practice guidelines for mathematics tutoring in alignment with Florida's Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards for mathematics in consultation with the Office of Mathematics and Sciences.

(2) Annually, by August 31 ~~July 1~~, the administrator of the New Worlds Tutoring Program shall provide to the President of the Senate, the Speaker

of the House of Representatives, and the Commissioner of Education a report summarizing school district use of program funds and student academic outcomes as a result of the additional literacy or mathematics support provided under this section.

Section 41. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section 1009.8962, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1009.8962 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund.—

(3) As used in this section, the term:

(b) “Institution” means a school district career center under s. 1001.44; a charter technical career center under s. 1002.34; a Florida College System institution; a state university; an independent nonprofit college or university located and chartered in this state and accredited by an agency or association that is recognized by the database created and maintained by the United States Department of Education to grant baccalaureate degrees; or an independent school, college, or university with an accredited program as defined in s. 464.003 which is located in this state and licensed by the Commission for Independent Education pursuant to s. 1005.31, or an institution authorized under s. 1009.521, which has a nursing education program that meets or exceeds the following:

1. For a certified nursing assistant program, a completion rate of at least 70 percent for the prior year.

2. For a licensed practical nurse, associate of science in nursing, and bachelor of science in nursing program, a first-time passage rate on the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensing Examination of at least 75 percent for the prior year based on a minimum of 10 testing participants.

Section 42. Section 1011.58, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

Section 43. Section 1011.59, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

Section 44. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section 1011.71, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1011.71 District school tax.—

(5) A school district may expend, subject to s. 200.065, up to \$200 per unweighted full-time equivalent student from the revenue generated by the millage levy authorized by subsection (2) to fund, in addition to expenditures authorized in paragraphs (2)(a)-(j), expenses for the following:

(b) Payment of the cost of premiums, as defined in s. 627.403, for property and casualty insurance necessary to insure school district educational and ancillary plants. As used in this paragraph, casualty insurance has the same meaning as in s. 624.605(1)(b), (d), (f), (g), (h), and (m) s.

~~624.605(1)(d), (f), (g), (h), and (m).~~ Operating revenues that are made available through the payment of property and casualty insurance premiums from revenues generated under this subsection may be expended only for nonrecurring operational expenditures of the school district.

Section 45. Section 1012.07, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1012.07 Identification of high-demand critical teacher needs shortage areas.—The term “high-demand critical teacher needs shortage area” means high-need content areas and high-priority location areas identified by the State Board of Education. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 necessary to annually identify high-demand critical teacher needs shortage areas. The state board must consider current and emerging educational requirements and workforce demands in determining high-demand critical teacher needs shortage areas. School grade levels may also be designated critical teacher shortage areas. Individual district school boards may identify and submit other high-demand critical teacher needs shortage areas. Such submissions must be aligned to current and emerging educational requirements and workforce demands in order to be approved by the State Board of Education. High-priority location areas must be in high-density, low-economic urban schools; low-density, low-economic rural schools; and schools that earned a grade of “F” or three consecutive grades of “D” pursuant to s. 1008.34. The State Board of Education shall develop strategies to address high-demand critical teacher needs shortage areas.

Section 46. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section 1012.22, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1012.22 Public school personnel; powers and duties of the district school board.—The district school board shall:

(1) Designate positions to be filled, prescribe qualifications for those positions, and provide for the appointment, compensation, promotion, suspension, and dismissal of employees as follows, subject to the requirements of this chapter:

(c) *Compensation and salary schedules.*—

1. Definitions.—As used in this paragraph:

a. “Adjustment” means an addition to the base salary schedule that is not a bonus and becomes part of the employee’s permanent base salary and shall be considered compensation under s. 121.021(22).

b. “Grandfathered salary schedule” means the salary schedule or schedules adopted by a district school board before July 1, 2014, pursuant to subparagraph 4.

c. “Instructional personnel” means instructional personnel as defined in s. 1012.01(2)(a)-(d), excluding substitute teachers.

d. “Performance salary schedule” means the salary schedule or schedules adopted by a district school board pursuant to subparagraph 5.

e. “Salary schedule” means the schedule or schedules used to provide the base salary for district school board personnel.

f. “School administrator” means a school administrator as defined in s. 1012.01(3)(c).

g. “Supplement” means an annual addition to the base salary for the term of the negotiated supplement as long as the employee continues his or her employment for the purpose of the supplement. A supplement does not become part of the employee’s continuing base salary but shall be considered compensation under s. 121.021(22).

2. Cost-of-living adjustment.—A district school board may provide a cost-of-living salary adjustment if the adjustment:

a. Does not discriminate among comparable classes of employees based upon the salary schedule under which they are compensated.

b. Does not exceed 50 percent of the annual adjustment provided to instructional personnel rated as effective.

3. Advanced degrees.—A district school board may use advanced degrees in setting a salary schedule for instructional personnel or school administrators if the advanced degree is held in the individual’s area of certification.

4. Grandfathered salary schedule.—

a. The district school board shall adopt a salary schedule or salary schedules to be used as the basis for paying all school employees hired before July 1, 2014. Instructional personnel on annual contract as of July 1, 2014, shall be placed on the performance salary schedule adopted under subparagraph 5. Instructional personnel on continuing contract or professional service contract may opt into the performance salary schedule if the employee relinquishes such contract and agrees to be employed on an annual contract under s. 1012.335. Such an employee shall be placed on the performance salary schedule and may not return to continuing contract or professional service contract status. Any employee who opts into the performance salary schedule may not return to the grandfathered salary schedule.

b. In determining the grandfathered salary schedule for instructional personnel, a district school board must base a portion of each employee’s compensation upon performance demonstrated under s. 1012.34 and shall provide differentiated pay for both instructional personnel and school administrators based upon district-determined factors, including, but not limited to, additional responsibilities, school demographics, high-demand teacher needs ~~critical-shortage~~ areas, and level of job performance difficulties.

5. Performance salary schedule.—By July 1, 2014, the district school board shall adopt a performance salary schedule that provides annual salary adjustments for instructional personnel and school administrators based upon performance determined under s. 1012.34. Employees hired on or after July 1, 2014, or employees who choose to move from the grandfathered salary schedule to the performance salary schedule shall be compensated pursuant to the performance salary schedule once they have received the appropriate performance evaluation for this purpose.

a. Base salary.—The base salary shall be established as follows:

(I) The base salary for instructional personnel or school administrators who opt into the performance salary schedule shall be the salary paid in the prior year, including adjustments only.

(II) Instructional personnel or school administrators new to the district, returning to the district after a break in service without an authorized leave of absence, or appointed for the first time to a position in the district in the capacity of instructional personnel or school administrator shall be placed on the performance salary schedule.

b. Salary adjustments.—Salary adjustments for highly effective or effective performance shall be established as follows:

(I) The annual salary adjustment under the performance salary schedule for an employee rated as highly effective must be at least 25 percent greater than the highest annual salary adjustment available to an employee of the same classification through any other salary schedule adopted by the district.

(II) The annual salary adjustment under the performance salary schedule for an employee rated as effective must be equal to at least 50 percent and no more than 75 percent of the annual adjustment provided for a highly effective employee of the same classification.

(III) A salary schedule shall not provide an annual salary adjustment for an employee who receives a rating other than highly effective or effective for the year.

c. Salary supplements.—In addition to the salary adjustments, each district school board shall provide for salary supplements for activities that must include, but are not limited to:

(I) Assignment to a Title I eligible school.

(II) Assignment to a school that earned a grade of “F” or three consecutive grades of “D” pursuant to s. 1008.34 such that the supplement remains in force for at least 1 year following improved performance in that school.

(III) Certification and teaching in high-demand critical teacher needs shortage areas. Statewide high-demand critical teacher needs shortage areas shall be identified by the State Board of Education under s. 1012.07. However, the district school board may identify other areas of high-demand needs critical shortage within the school district for purposes of this sub-sub-subparagraph and may remove areas identified by the state board which do not apply within the school district.

(IV) Assignment of additional academic responsibilities.

If budget constraints in any given year limit a district school board's ability to fully fund all adopted salary schedules, the performance salary schedule shall not be reduced on the basis of total cost or the value of individual awards in a manner that is proportionally greater than reductions to any other salary schedules adopted by the district. Any compensation for longevity of service awarded to instructional personnel who are on any other salary schedule must be included in calculating the salary adjustments required by sub-subparagraph b.

Section 47. Section 1012.315, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1012.315 Screening standards.—

(1) A person is ineligible for educator certification or employment in any position that requires direct contact with students in a district school system, a charter school, or a private school that participates in a state scholarship program under chapter 1002, which includes being an owner or operator of a private school that participates in a scholarship program under chapter 1002, if the person:

(a)(1) Is on the disqualification list maintained by the department under s. 1001.10(4)(b);

(b)(2) Is registered as a sex offender as described in 42 U.S.C. s. 9858f(c)(1)(C);

(c)(3) Is ineligible based on a security background investigation under s. 435.04(2). ~~Beginning January 1, 2025, or a later date as determined by the Agency for Health Care Administration, The Agency for Health Care Administration shall determine the eligibility of employees in any position that requires direct contact with students in a district school system, a charter school, or a private school that participates in a state scholarship program under chapter 1002;~~

(d)(4) Would be ineligible for an exemption under s. 435.07(4)(c); or

(e)(5) Has been convicted or found guilty of, has had adjudication withheld for, or has pled guilty or nolo contendere to:

1.(a) Any criminal act committed in another state or under federal law which, if committed in this state, constitutes a disqualifying offense under s. 435.04(2).

2.(b) Any delinquent act committed in this state or any delinquent or criminal act committed in another state or under federal law which, if committed in this state, qualifies an individual for inclusion on the Registered Juvenile Sex Offender List under s. 943.0435(1)(h)1.d.

(2) Persons who apply for certification or employment are governed by the law and rules in effect at the time of application for issuance of the initial certificate or employment, provided that continuity of certificates or employment is maintained.

Section 48. Section 1012.77, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1012.77 Christa McAuliffe Ambassador for Education Program.—

(1) ~~The Legislature recognizes that Florida continues to face teacher shortages and that fewer young people consider teaching as a career.~~ It is the intent of the Legislature to promote the positive and rewarding aspects of being a teacher, to encourage more individuals to become teachers, and to provide annual sabbatical support for outstanding Florida teachers to serve as goodwill ambassadors for education. The Legislature further wishes to honor the memory of Christa McAuliffe, who epitomized the challenge and inspiration that teaching can be.

(2) The Christa McAuliffe Ambassador for Education Program is established to provide salary, travel, and other related expenses annually for an outstanding Florida teacher to promote the positive aspects of teaching as a career. The goals of the program are to:

- (a) Enhance the stature of teachers and the teaching profession.
- (b) Promote the importance of quality education and teaching for our future.
- (c) Inspire and attract talented people to become teachers.
- (d) Provide information regarding Florida's scholarship and loan programs related to teaching.
- (e) Promote the teaching profession within community and business groups.
- (f) Provide information to retired military personnel and other individuals who might consider teaching as a second career.
- (g) Work with and represent the Department of Education, as needed.
- (h) Work with and encourage the efforts of school and district teachers of the year.

(i) Support the activities of the Florida Future Educator of America Program.

(j) Represent Florida teachers at business, trade, education, and other conferences and meetings.

(k) Promote the teaching profession in other ways related to the teaching responsibilities, background experiences, and aspirations of the Ambassador for Education.

(3) The Teacher of the Year shall serve as the Ambassador for Education. If the Teacher of the Year is unable to serve as the Ambassador for Education, the first runner-up shall serve in his or her place. The Department of Education shall establish application and selection procedures for determining an annual teacher of the year. Applications and selection criteria shall be developed and distributed annually by the Department of Education to all eligible entities identified in subsection (4) school districts. The Commissioner of Education shall establish a selection committee which assures representation from teacher organizations, administrators, and parents to select the Teacher of the Year and Ambassador for Education from among the district teachers of the year.

(4) Eligible entities to submit to the Department of Education a nominee for the Teacher of the Year and Ambassador for Education are:

(a) Florida school districts, including lab schools as defined in s. 1002.32.

(b) Charter school consortia with at least 30 member schools and an approved professional learning system on file with the department.

~~(5)(a)~~~~(4)(a)~~ The Commissioner of Education shall pay an annual salary, fringe benefits, travel costs, and other costs associated with administering the program.

(b) The Ambassador for Education shall serve for 1 year, from July 1 to June 30, and shall be assured of returning to his or her teaching position upon completion of the program. The ambassador will not have a break in creditable or continuous service or employment for the period of time in which he or she participates in the program.

Section 49. Subsection (3) of section 1013.30, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1013.30 University campus master plans and campus development agreements.—

(3) Each university board of trustees shall prepare and adopt a campus master plan for the university and maintain a copy of the plan on the university's website. The master plan must identify general land uses and address the need for and plans for provision of roads, parking, public transportation, solid waste, drainage, sewer, potable water, and recreation

and open space during the coming 10 to 20 years. The plans must contain elements relating to future land use, intergovernmental coordination, capital improvements, recreation and open space, general infrastructure, housing, and conservation. Each element must address compatibility with the surrounding community. The master plan must identify specific land uses, general location of structures, densities and intensities of use, and contain standards for onsite development, site design, environmental management, and the preservation of historic and archaeological resources. The transportation element must address reasonable transportation demand management techniques to minimize offsite impacts where possible. Data and analyses on which the elements are based must include, at a minimum: the characteristics of vacant lands; projected impacts of development on onsite and offsite infrastructure, public services, and natural resources; student enrollment projections; student housing needs; and the need for academic and support facilities. Master plans must be updated at least every 10 5 years.

Section 50. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 1009.531, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1009.531 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program; student eligibility requirements for initial awards.—

(1) In order to be eligible for an initial award from any of the scholarships under the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, a student must:

(b) Earn a standard Florida high school diploma pursuant to s. 1002.3105(5), s. 1003.4281, or s. 1003.4282 or a high school equivalency diploma pursuant to s. 1003.435 unless:

1. The student completes a home education program according to s. 1002.41;

2. The student earns a high school diploma from a non-Florida school while living with a parent or guardian who is on, or, within 12 months before the student's high school graduation, has retired from, military or public service assignment away from Florida; or

3. The student earns a high school diploma from a Florida private school operating pursuant to s. 1002.42.

Section 51. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor May 30, 2025.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 30, 2025.