

## CHAPTER 2025-109

### Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1105

An act relating to education; transferring, renumbering, and amending s. 16.615, F.S.; establishing the Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys within Florida Memorial University, rather than the Department of Legal Affairs; requiring Florida Memorial University, rather than the Office of the Attorney General, to provide staff and administrative support to the council; providing that the council's meeting times are approved by the president of Florida Memorial University, rather than the Attorney General; revising the number of members required for a quorum; authorizing members to appear by communications media technology; providing that members who appear by such technology are considered present and may be counted toward the quorum requirement; providing notice requirements for public meetings or workshops conducted by means of communications media technology; providing that members of the council may be reimbursed for certain expenses by Florida Memorial University, rather than the Department of Legal Affairs; amending s. 212.055, F.S.; requiring that certain surtax revenues that are shared with school districts must also be shared with eligible charter schools on a proportionate basis in accordance with certain provisions; requiring that such surtax revenues be expended by charter schools for specified uses; requiring that such revenues and expenditures be accounted for in certain financial statements; providing that unencumbered funds revert to the sponsor under certain circumstances; providing applicability; amending s. 810.097, F.S.; defining the term "school bus"; specifying sufficient notice and prior warning for immediate arrest and prosecution for school bus trespassing; amending s. 901.15, F.S.; authorizing a law enforcement officer to arrest a person without a warrant when there is probable cause to believe that the person has trespassed upon school grounds or facilities; amending s. 1002.33, F.S.; revising which persons or entities may apply for a conversion charter school; requiring a college or state university to provide a written notice of denial for denying an application for a conversion charter school; requiring a charter school sponsor to use a standard monitoring tool to monitor and review a charter school; revising eligible students who may receive an enrollment preference; authorizing a municipality to apply for a charter that it may designate as a job engine charter under certain conditions; providing the purpose of a job engine charter school; providing requirements for a job engine charter; requiring school districts to provide charter schools with specified information relating to public school funding by a specified date annually; requiring school districts to provide a summary report of specified revenues to the Department of Education and post such report on their websites by a specified date annually; prohibiting a district school board from charging a rental or leasing fee for a conversion school; requiring a municipality to negotiate certain rental or leasing fees with the district school board;

prohibiting certain property from being removed; amending s. 1002.394, F.S.; revising the transition-to-work program under the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program; amending s. 1002.42, F.S.; authorizing a private school in a county that meets certain criteria to construct new facilities on certain property; specifying that such construction is not subject to certain zoning or land use conditions; requiring such construction to meet certain health and safety requirements; amending s. 1003.32, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 1003.4282, F.S.; requiring certain internships to be included in counseling materials and presented with certain courses; specifying that certain participation in marching band satisfies the physical education or performing arts credit requirement for a standard high school diploma; revising provisions providing for the award of a certificate of completion to certain students; requiring the department to develop a document for certain students who fail to earn a standard high school diploma; requiring certain information to be included in the document; requiring a school district to revise an Individual Education Plan under certain circumstances; requiring the Department of Education to develop certain courses; removing obsolete language; amending s. 1003.4321, F.S.; revising the eligibility criteria for a student to earn the Seal of Fine Arts; amending s. 1003.433, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 1003.491, F.S.; revising the requirements of a certain strategic 3-year plan to include the promotion of specified Florida Bright Futures Scholarship awards; amending s. 1003.493, F.S.; requiring certain career and professional academies and secondary schools to promote the Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars award; creating s. 1003.5717, F.S.; requiring the department to develop and implement, by a specified date, a workforce credential program for students with an autism spectrum disorder or students on a modified curriculum; providing the purpose of the program; providing requirements for the program; requiring the department to produce an annual report during a specified timeframe; providing requirements for the report; amending s. 1006.07, F.S.; prohibiting students in specified grades from using wireless communications devices during the school day, rather than during instructional time; requiring district school boards to adopt rules for the use of such devices in certain locations or by certain students; amending s. 1007.263, F.S.; revising the student eligibility criteria for enrollment in certificate career education programs; amending ss. 1009.22 and 1009.23, F.S.; prohibiting the transportation access fee from being included in the calculation of Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars awards; amending s. 1009.26, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; amending s. 1009.531, F.S.; revising eligibility requirements for a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship award for certain students who earn a high school diploma from a non-Florida school; amending s. 1009.534, F.S.; removing obsolete language; revising student eligibility requirements for the Florida Academic Scholars award; providing requirements for the Advanced Placement Capstone designation as an eligibility requirement for the Florida Academic Scholars award; amending s. 1009.535, F.S.; removing obsolete language; amending s. 1009.536, F.S.; removing obsolete language;

revising student eligibility requirements for the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars and the Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars awards; amending s. 1007.271, F.S.; removing obsolete language; revising the requirements for certain career dual enrollment agreements; revising the requirements for certain dual enrollment articulation agreements; amending s. 1009.986, F.S.; revising membership of the board of directors of Florida ABLE, Inc.; requiring the board of directors to annually elect a chair; amending s. 1011.71, F.S.; authorizing the use of certain school district tax revenue for liability insurance; amending s. 1011.801, F.S.; revising entities that are included in the Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program to include charter schools; requiring the State Board of Education to consider applications from a job engine charter school for rulemaking purposes; requiring the department, by a specified date, to establish competencies for a mathematics endorsement aligned with certain strategies; providing requirements for the competencies; requiring the Commissioner of Education to coordinate with specified school districts to implement specified policies relating to the prohibition of the use of specified devices during the school day and in certain other situations; requiring the department to provide a report and model policy to the Legislature by a specified date; providing requirements for the report and model policy; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 16.615, Florida Statutes, is transferred, redesignated as section 1001.216, Florida Statutes, and amended to read:

1001.216 ~~16.615~~ Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys.

(1) The Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys is established within Florida Memorial University ~~the Department of Legal Affairs~~ and shall be composed ~~consist~~ of 19 members appointed as follows:

(a) Two members of the Senate who are not members of the same political party, appointed by the President of the Senate with the advice of the Minority Leader of the Senate.

(b) Two members of the House of Representatives who are not members of the same political party, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives with the advice of the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

(c) The Secretary of Children and Families, or his or her designee.

(d) The director of the Mental Health Program Office within the Department of Children and Families, or his or her designee.

(e) The State Surgeon General, or his or her designee.

(f) The Commissioner of Education, or his or her designee.

- (g) The Secretary of Corrections, or his or her designee.
- (h) The Attorney General, or his or her designee.
- (i) The Secretary of Management Services, or his or her designee.
- (j) The Secretary of Commerce, or his or her designee.

(k) A businessperson who is an African American, as defined in s. 760.80(2)(a), appointed by the Governor.

(l) Two persons appointed by the President of the Senate who are not members of the Legislature or employed by state government. One of the appointees must be a clinical psychologist.

(m) Two persons appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives who are not members of the Legislature or employed by state government. One of the appointees must be an Africana studies professional.

(n) The deputy secretary for Medicaid in the Agency for Health Care Administration, or his or her designee.

- (o) The Secretary of Juvenile Justice, or his or her designee.

(2) Each member of the council shall be appointed to a 4-year term; however, for the purpose of providing staggered terms, of the initial appointments, 9 members shall be appointed to 2-year terms and 10 members shall be appointed to 4-year terms. A member of the council may be removed at any time by the member's appointing authority who shall fill the vacancy on the council.

(3)(a) At the first meeting of the council each year, the members shall elect a chair and a vice chair.

(b) A vacancy in the office of chair or vice chair must ~~shall~~ be filled by vote of the remaining members.

(4)(a) The council shall make a systematic study of the conditions affecting black men and boys, including, but not limited to, homicide rates, arrest and incarceration rates, poverty, violence, drug abuse, death rates, disparate annual income levels, school performance in all grade levels including postsecondary levels, and health issues.

(b) The council shall propose measures to alleviate and correct the underlying causes of the conditions described in paragraph (a). These measures may consist of changes to the law or systematic changes that can be implemented without legislative action.

(c) The council may study other topics suggested by the Legislature or as directed by the chair of the council.

(d) The council shall receive suggestions or comments pertinent to the applicable issues from members of the Legislature, governmental agencies, public and private organizations, and private citizens.

(e) The council shall develop a strategic program and funding initiative to establish local Councils on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys.

(5) The council may:

(a) Access data held by any state departments or agencies, which data is otherwise a public record.

(b) Make requests directly to the Joint Legislative Auditing Committee for assistance with research and monitoring of outcomes by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability.

(c) Request, through council members who are also legislators, research assistance from the Office of Economic and Demographic Research within the Florida Legislature.

(d) Request information and assistance from the state or any political subdivision, municipal corporation, public officer, or governmental department thereof.

(e) Apply for and accept funds, grants, gifts, and services from the state, the Federal Government or any of its agencies, or any other public or private source for the purpose of defraying clerical and administrative costs as may be necessary for carrying out its duties under this section.

(f) Work directly with, or request information and assistance on issues pertaining to education from, Florida's historically black colleges and universities.

(6) ~~Florida Memorial University~~ The Office of the Attorney General shall provide staff and administrative support to the council.

(7) The council shall meet quarterly and at other times at the call of the chair or as determined by a majority of council members and approved by the president of ~~Florida Memorial University~~ Attorney General.

(8) ~~Nine~~ Eleven of the members of the council constitute a quorum, and an affirmative vote of a majority of the members present is required for final action. Members may appear by communications media technology as defined in s. 120.54(5)(b)2. Members who appear by communications media technology are considered present and may be counted toward the quorum requirement. A notice for a public meeting or workshop must state whether the meeting or workshop will be conducted using communications media technology, how an interested person may participate, and the location of facilities where communications media technology will be available during the meeting or workshop.

(9) The council shall issue its annual report by December 15 each year, stating the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the council. The council shall submit the report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the chairpersons of the standing committees of jurisdiction in each chamber.

(10) Members of the council shall serve without compensation. Members are entitled to reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses as provided in s. 112.061. State officers and employees shall be reimbursed from the budget of the agency through which they serve. Other members may be reimbursed by Florida Memorial University ~~the Department of Legal Affairs~~.

(11) The council and any subcommittees it forms are subject to the provisions of chapter 119, related to public records, and the provisions of chapter 286, related to public meetings.

(12) Each member of the council who is not otherwise required to file a financial disclosure statement pursuant to s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution or s. 112.3144, must file a disclosure of financial interests pursuant to s. 112.3145.

Section 2. Paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection (2) of section 212.055, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

212.055 Discretionary sales surtaxes; legislative intent; authorization and use of proceeds.—It is the legislative intent that any authorization for imposition of a discretionary sales surtax shall be published in the Florida Statutes as a subsection of this section, irrespective of the duration of the levy. Each enactment shall specify the types of counties authorized to levy; the rate or rates which may be imposed; the maximum length of time the surtax may be imposed, if any; the procedure which must be followed to secure voter approval, if required; the purpose for which the proceeds may be expended; and such other requirements as the Legislature may provide. Taxable transactions and administrative procedures shall be as provided in s. 212.054.

(2) LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE SURTAX.—

(c) Pursuant to s. 212.054(4), the proceeds of the surtax levied under this subsection shall be distributed to the county and the municipalities within such county in which the surtax was collected, according to:

1. An interlocal agreement between the county governing authority and the governing bodies of the municipalities representing a majority of the county's municipal population, which agreement may include a school district with the consent of the county governing authority and the governing bodies of the municipalities representing a majority of the county's municipal population; or

2. If there is no interlocal agreement, according to the formula provided in s. 218.62.

Any change in the distribution formula must take effect on the first day of any month that begins at least 60 days after written notification of that change has been made to the department. Any interlocal agreement that includes a school district must require the surtax revenues allocated to the school district to be shared with eligible charter schools, as determined pursuant to s. 1013.62(1), based on the charter school's proportionate share of the total school district enrollment, subject to the requirements of, and for purposes provided in, subparagraph (d)4.

(d) The proceeds of the surtax authorized by this subsection and any accrued interest shall be expended by the school district, within the county and municipalities within the county, or, in the case of a negotiated joint county agreement, within another county, to finance, plan, and construct infrastructure; to acquire any interest in land for public recreation, conservation, or protection of natural resources or to prevent or satisfy private property rights claims resulting from limitations imposed by the designation of an area of critical state concern; to provide loans, grants, or rebates to residential or commercial property owners who make energy efficiency improvements to their residential or commercial property, if a local government ordinance authorizing such use is approved by referendum; or to finance the closure of county-owned or municipally owned solid waste landfills that have been closed or are required to be closed by order of the Department of Environmental Protection. Any use of the proceeds or interest for purposes of landfill closure before July 1, 1993, is ratified. The proceeds and any interest may not be used for the operational expenses of infrastructure, except that a county that has a population of fewer than 75,000 and that is required to close a landfill may use the proceeds or interest for long-term maintenance costs associated with landfill closure. Counties, as defined in s. 125.011, and charter counties may, in addition, use the proceeds or interest to retire or service indebtedness incurred for bonds issued before July 1, 1987, for infrastructure purposes, and for bonds subsequently issued to refund such bonds. Any use of the proceeds or interest for purposes of retiring or servicing indebtedness incurred for refunding bonds before July 1, 1999, is ratified.

1. For the purposes of this paragraph, the term “infrastructure” means:

a. Any fixed capital expenditure or fixed capital outlay associated with the construction, reconstruction, or improvement of public facilities that have a life expectancy of 5 or more years, any related land acquisition, land improvement, design, and engineering costs, and all other professional and related costs required to bring the public facilities into service. For purposes of this sub-subparagraph, the term “public facilities” means facilities as defined in s. 163.3164(41), s. 163.3221(13), or s. 189.012(5), and includes facilities that are necessary to carry out governmental purposes, including, but not limited to, fire stations, general governmental office buildings, and

animal shelters, regardless of whether the facilities are owned by the local taxing authority or another governmental entity.

b. A fire department vehicle, an emergency medical service vehicle, a sheriff's office vehicle, a police department vehicle, or any other vehicle, and the equipment necessary to outfit the vehicle for its official use or equipment that has a life expectancy of at least 5 years.

c. Any expenditure for the construction, lease, or maintenance of, or provision of utilities or security for, facilities, as defined in s. 29.008.

d. Any fixed capital expenditure or fixed capital outlay associated with the improvement of private facilities that have a life expectancy of 5 or more years and that the owner agrees to make available for use on a temporary basis as needed by a local government as a public emergency shelter or a staging area for emergency response equipment during an emergency officially declared by the state or by the local government under s. 252.38. Such improvements are limited to those necessary to comply with current standards for public emergency evacuation shelters. The owner must enter into a written contract with the local government providing the improvement funding to make the private facility available to the public for purposes of emergency shelter at no cost to the local government for a minimum of 10 years after completion of the improvement, with the provision that the obligation will transfer to any subsequent owner until the end of the minimum period.

e. Any land acquisition expenditure for a residential housing project in which at least 30 percent of the units are affordable to individuals or families whose total annual household income does not exceed 120 percent of the area median income adjusted for household size, if the land is owned by a local government or by a special district that enters into a written agreement with the local government to provide such housing. The local government or special district may enter into a ground lease with a public or private person or entity for nominal or other consideration for the construction of the residential housing project on land acquired pursuant to this sub-subparagraph.

f. Instructional technology used solely in a school district's classrooms. As used in this sub-subparagraph, the term "instructional technology" means an interactive device that assists a teacher in instructing a class or a group of students and includes the necessary hardware and software to operate the interactive device. The term also includes support systems in which an interactive device may mount and is not required to be affixed to the facilities.

2. For the purposes of this paragraph, the term "energy efficiency improvement" means any energy conservation and efficiency improvement that reduces consumption through conservation or a more efficient use of electricity, natural gas, propane, or other forms of energy on the property, including, but not limited to, air sealing; installation of insulation;



installation of energy-efficient heating, cooling, or ventilation systems; installation of solar panels; building modifications to increase the use of daylight or shade; replacement of windows; installation of energy controls or energy recovery systems; installation of electric vehicle charging equipment; installation of systems for natural gas fuel as defined in s. 206.9951; and installation of efficient lighting equipment.

3. Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection, a local government infrastructure surtax imposed or extended after July 1, 1998, may allocate up to 15 percent of the surtax proceeds for deposit into a trust fund within the county's accounts created for the purpose of funding economic development projects having a general public purpose of improving local economies, including the funding of operational costs and incentives related to economic development. The ballot statement must indicate the intention to make an allocation under the authority of this subparagraph.

4. Surtax revenues that are shared with eligible charter schools pursuant to paragraph (c) shall be allocated among such schools based on each school's proportionate share of total school district capital outlay full-time equivalent enrollment as adopted by the education estimating conference established in s. 216.136. Surtax revenues must be expended by the charter school in a manner consistent with the allowable uses provided in s. 1013.62(4). All revenues and expenditures shall be accounted for in a charter school's monthly or quarterly financial statement pursuant to s. 1002.33(9). If a school's charter is not renewed or is terminated and the school is dissolved under the provisions of law under which the school was organized, any unencumbered funds received under this paragraph shall revert to the sponsor.

Section 3. The amendment made by this act to s. 212.055(2), Florida Statutes, which amends the allowable uses of the local government infrastructure surtax, applies to levies authorized by vote of the electors on or after July 1, 2025.

Section 4. Subsection (5) of section 810.097, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (6) is added to that section, to read:

810.097 Trespass upon grounds or facilities of a school; penalties; arrest.

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

(a) "School" means the grounds or any facility, including school buses, of any kindergarten, elementary school, middle school, junior high school, or secondary school, whether public or nonpublic.

(b) "School bus" means any vehicle operated, owned, or contracted by a school district for student transportation.

(6) For purposes of this section, a clearly posted sign or a verbal warning provided by the school bus operator, the principal, a school district employee, or law enforcement personnel, indicating that unauthorized boarding or

remaining on a school bus is prohibited and violators will be prosecuted, constitutes sufficient notice and satisfies the prior warning requirement necessary for immediate arrest and prosecution of any person who boards, enters, or remains upon a school bus without authorization.

Section 5. Paragraph (g) is added to subsection (9) of section 901.15, Florida Statutes, to read:

901.15 When arrest by officer without warrant is lawful.—A law enforcement officer may arrest a person without a warrant when:

(9) There is probable cause to believe that the person has committed:

(g) Trespass upon school grounds or facilities, including school buses as defined in s. 810.097(5)(b), in violation of that section.

Section 6. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3), paragraph (b) of subsection (5), paragraph (d) of subsection (10), paragraph (c) of subsection (15), and paragraph (e) of subsection (18) of section 1002.33, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph (i) is added to subsection (17) of that section, to read:

1002.33 Charter schools.—

(3) APPLICATION FOR CHARTER STATUS.—

(b) An application for a conversion charter school must ~~shall~~ be made by the district school board, the principal, teachers, parents whose children are enrolled at the school, or ~~and/or~~ the school advisory council at an existing public school that has been in operation for at least 2 years before ~~prior to~~ the application to convert. A public school-within-a-school ~~that is~~ designated as a school by the district school board may also apply ~~submit an application to~~ convert to charter status. A municipality seeking to attract job-producing entities by establishing a job engine charter school pursuant to paragraph (15)(c) may apply to the district school board to convert an existing public school to a charter school. An application submitted proposing to convert an existing public school to a charter school must ~~shall~~ demonstrate the support of at least 50 percent of the teachers employed at the school and 50 percent of the parents voting whose children are enrolled at the school, provided that a majority of the parents eligible to vote participate in the ballot process, according to rules adopted by the State Board of Education. A district school board, college, or state university that denies ~~denying~~ an application for a conversion charter school shall provide notice of denial to the applicants in writing within 10 days after the meeting at which the district school board denied the application. The notice must articulate in writing the specific reasons for denial and must provide documentation supporting those reasons. A private school, parochial school, or home education program is ~~shall not be~~ eligible for charter school status.

(5) SPONSOR; DUTIES.—

(b) *Sponsor duties.*—

1.a. The sponsor shall monitor and review the charter school, using the standard monitoring tool, in its progress toward the goals established in the charter.

b. The sponsor shall monitor the revenues and expenditures of the charter school and perform the duties provided in s. 1002.345.

c. The sponsor may approve a charter for a charter school before the applicant has identified space, equipment, or personnel, if the applicant indicates approval is necessary for it to raise working funds.

d. The sponsor may not apply its policies to a charter school unless mutually agreed to by both the sponsor and the charter school. If the sponsor subsequently amends any agreed-upon sponsor policy, the version of the policy in effect at the time of the execution of the charter, or any subsequent modification thereof, shall remain in effect and the sponsor may not hold the charter school responsible for any provision of a newly revised policy until the revised policy is mutually agreed upon.

e. The sponsor shall ensure that the charter is innovative and consistent with the state education goals established by s. 1000.03(5).

f. The sponsor shall ensure that the charter school participates in the state's education accountability system. If a charter school falls short of performance measures included in the approved charter, the sponsor shall report such shortcomings to the Department of Education.

g. The sponsor is not liable for civil damages under state law for personal injury, property damage, or death resulting from an act or omission of an officer, employee, agent, or governing body of the charter school.

h. The sponsor is not liable for civil damages under state law for any employment actions taken by an officer, employee, agent, or governing body of the charter school.

i. The sponsor's duties to monitor the charter school do not constitute the basis for a private cause of action.

j. The sponsor may not impose additional reporting requirements on a charter school as long as the charter school has not been identified as having a deteriorating financial condition or financial emergency pursuant to s. 1002.345.

k. The sponsor shall submit an annual report to the Department of Education in a web-based format to be determined by the department.

(I) The report shall include the following information:

(A) The number of applications received during the school year and up to August 1 and each applicant's contact information.

(B) The date each application was approved, denied, or withdrawn.

(C) The date each final contract was executed.

(II) Annually, by November 1, the sponsor shall submit to the department the information for the applications submitted the previous year.

(III) The department shall compile an annual report, by sponsor, and post the report on its website by January 15 of each year.

2. Immunity for the sponsor of a charter school under subparagraph 1. applies only with respect to acts or omissions not under the sponsor's direct authority as described in this section.

3. This paragraph does not waive a sponsor's sovereign immunity.

4. A Florida College System institution may work with the school district or school districts in its designated service area to develop charter schools that offer secondary education. These charter schools must include an option for students to receive an associate degree upon high school graduation. If a Florida College System institution operates an approved teacher preparation program under s. 1004.04 or s. 1004.85, the institution may operate charter schools that serve students in kindergarten through grade 12 in any school district within the service area of the institution. District school boards shall cooperate with and assist the Florida College System institution on the charter application. Florida College System institution applications for charter schools are not subject to the time deadlines outlined in subsection (6) and may be approved by the district school board at any time during the year. Florida College System institutions may not report FTE for any students participating under this subparagraph who receive FTE funding through the Florida Education Finance Program.

5. For purposes of assisting the development of a charter school, a school district may enter into nonexclusive interlocal agreements with federal and state agencies, counties, municipalities, and other governmental entities that operate within the geographical borders of the school district to act on behalf of such governmental entities in the inspection, issuance, and other necessary activities for all necessary permits, licenses, and other permissions that a charter school needs in order for development, construction, or operation. A charter school may use, but may not be required to use, a school district for these services. The interlocal agreement must include, but need not be limited to, the identification of fees that charter schools will be charged for such services. The fees must consist of the governmental entity's fees plus a fee for the school district to recover no more than actual costs for providing such services. These services and fees are not included within the services to be provided pursuant to subsection (20). Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an interlocal agreement or ordinance that imposes a

greater regulatory burden on charter schools than school districts or that prohibits or limits the creation of a charter school is void and unenforceable. 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.

6. The board of trustees of a sponsoring state university or Florida College System institution under paragraph (a) is the local educational agency for all charter schools it sponsors for purposes of receiving federal funds and accepts full responsibility for all local educational agency requirements and the schools for which it will perform local educational agency responsibilities. A student enrolled in a charter school that is sponsored by a state university or Florida College System institution may not be included in the calculation of the school district's grade under s. 1008.34(5) for the school district in which he or she resides.

(10) ELIGIBLE STUDENTS.—

(d) A charter school may give enrollment preference to the following student populations:

1. Students who are siblings of a student enrolled in the charter school.
2. Students who are the children of a member of the governing board of the charter school.
3. Students who are the children of an employee of the charter school.
4. Students who are the children of:
  - a. An employee of the business partner of a charter school-in-the-workplace established under paragraph (15)(b) or a resident of the municipality in which such charter school is located; or
  - b. A resident or employee of a municipality that operates a charter school-in-a-municipality pursuant to paragraph (15)(c) or allows a charter school to use a school facility or portion of land provided by the municipality for the operation of the charter school.
5. Students who have successfully completed, during the previous year, a voluntary prekindergarten education program under ss. 1002.51-1002.79 provided by the charter school, the charter school's governing board, or a voluntary prekindergarten provider that has a written agreement with the governing board.
6. Students who are the children of an active duty member of any branch of the United States Armed Forces.
7. Students who attended or are assigned to failing schools pursuant to s. 1002.38(2).

8. Students who are the children of a safe-school officer, as defined in s. 1006.12, at the school.

9. Students who transfer from a classical school in this state to a charter classical school in this state. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term “classical school” means a traditional public school or charter school that implements a classical education model that emphasizes the development of students in the principles of moral character and civic virtue through a well-rounded education in the liberal arts and sciences which is based on the classical trivium stages of grammar, logic, and rhetoric.

10. Students who attend a job engine charter school under paragraph (15)(c) who are the children of an employee of a job-producing entity identified by the municipality in the annual job engine charter report.

(15) CHARTER SCHOOLS-IN-THE-WORKPLACE; CHARTER SCHOOLS-IN-A-MUNICIPALITY.—

(c)1. A charter school-in-a-municipality designation may be granted to a municipality that possesses a charter; enrolls students based upon a random lottery that involves all of the children of the residents of that municipality who are seeking enrollment, as provided for in subsection (10); and enrolls students according to the ~~racial and ethnic~~ racial/ethnic balance provisions described in subparagraph (7)(a)8. When a municipality has submitted charter applications for the establishment of a charter school feeder pattern, consisting of elementary, middle, and senior high schools, and each individual charter application is approved by the sponsor, such schools shall then be designated as one charter school for all purposes listed pursuant to this section. Any portion of the land and facility used for a public charter school shall be exempt from ad valorem taxes, as provided for in s. 1013.54, for the duration of its use as a public school.

2. A municipality may seek a charter under subparagraph 1. from a sponsor in subsection (5). If granted, such a charter may be designated a job engine charter. The purpose of a job engine charter school is to attract job-producing entities to the municipality. The charter must require the municipality to:

a. Provide an annual report to the sponsor which will be made publicly available and include investments made to attract and maintain job-producing entities, such as private sector industries, in the municipality.

b. Include career education opportunities.

c. Include the provision of exceptional student education administration services, pursuant to subparagraph (20)(a)1.

d. Require the use of sufficient security technology to ensure a secure facility.

e. Notwithstanding paragraph (8)(e), accept responsibility for all debts incurred by the job engine charter school.

3. A job engine charter school may give enrollment preferences pursuant to subparagraph (10)(d)10.

(17) FUNDING.—Students enrolled in a charter school, regardless of the sponsorship, shall be funded based upon the applicable program pursuant to s. 1011.62(1)(c), the same as students enrolled in other public schools in a school district. Funding for a charter lab school shall be as provided in s. 1002.32.

(i)1. By July 1 of each year, school districts shall provide charter schools the following information pertaining to shared revenues generated by a discretionary half-cent sales surtax, voted district school operating millage, and nonvoted district school capital improvement millage:

a. The estimated total revenue to be received from each tax.

b. The estimated per-student allocation to charter schools from each tax and the methodology used to determine the estimate.

c. The estimated timeframe within which the charter school will receive funds from each tax.

d. A detailed explanation for each revenue transmission at the time funds are transferred.

2. By March 31 of each year, each school district shall provide to the department a summary report, by charter school, of distributed revenues, by revenue source, and shall post the report on its website.

(18) FACILITIES.—

(e) If a district school board facility or property is available because it is surplus, marked for disposal, or otherwise unused, it shall be provided for a charter school's use on the same basis as it is made available to other public schools in the district. A charter school receiving property from the sponsor may not sell or dispose of such property without written permission of the sponsor. Similarly, for an existing public school converting to charter status, a district school board may not charge no rental or leasing fees fee for the existing facility or for the property normally inventoried to the conversion school may be charged by the district school board to the parents, principal, school advisory council, or and teachers organizing the charter school. The municipality must negotiate rental or leasing fees with the district school board. Property normally inventoried to the school may not be removed. The charter school shall agree to reasonable maintenance provisions in order to maintain the facility in a manner similar to district school board standards. The Public Education Capital Outlay maintenance funds or any other maintenance funds generated by the facility operated as a conversion school shall remain with the conversion school.

Section 7. Subsection (16) of section 1002.394, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.394 The Family Empowerment Scholarship Program.—

(16) **TRANSITION-TO-WORK PROGRAM.**—A student with a disability who is determined eligible pursuant to paragraph (3)(b) who is at least 17 years, but not older than 22 years of age and who has not received a high school diploma ~~or certificate of completion~~ is eligible for enrollment in his or her participating private school's transition-to-work program. A transition-to-work program shall consist of academic instruction, work skills training, and a volunteer or paid work experience.

(a) To offer a transition-to-work program, a participating private school must:

1. Develop a transition-to-work program plan, which must include a written description of the academic instruction and work skills training students will receive and the goals for students in the program.

2. Submit the transition-to-work program plan to the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice and consider any guidance provided by the department pursuant to paragraph (8)(d) relating to the plan.

3. Develop a personalized transition-to-work program plan for each student enrolled in the program. The student's parent, the student, and the school principal must sign the personalized plan. The personalized plan must be submitted to the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice upon request by the office.

4. Provide a release of liability form that must be signed by the student's parent, the student, and a representative of the business offering the volunteer or paid work experience.

5. Assign a case manager or job coach to visit the student's job site on a weekly basis to observe the student and, if necessary, provide support and guidance to the student.

6. Provide to the parent and student a quarterly report that documents and explains the student's progress and performance in the program.

7. Maintain accurate attendance and performance records for the student.

(b) A student enrolled in a transition-to-work program must, at a minimum:

1. Receive 15 instructional hours at the participating private school's physical facility, which must include academic instruction and work skills training.



2. Participate in 10 hours of work at the student's volunteer or paid work experience.

(c) To participate in a transition-to-work program, a business must:

1. Maintain an accurate record of the student's performance and hours worked and provide the information to the participating private school.

2. Comply with all state and federal child labor laws.

Section 8. 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 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. Any 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 9. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 1003.32, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.32 Authority of teacher; responsibility for control of students; district school board and principal duties.—Subject to law and to the rules of the district school board, each teacher or other member of the staff of any school shall have such authority for the control and discipline of students as may be assigned to him or her by the principal or the principal's designated representative and shall keep good order in the classroom and in other places in which he or she is assigned to be in charge of students.

(1) In accordance with this section and within the framework of the district school board's code of student conduct, teachers and other instructional personnel shall have the authority to undertake any of the following actions in managing student behavior and ensuring the safety of all students in their classes and school and their opportunity to learn in an orderly and disciplined classroom:

(a) Establish classroom rules of conduct, including designating an area for wireless communications devices during instructional time for students in grades 9 through 12.

Section 10. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1), paragraph (f) of subsection (3), paragraph (c) of subsection (5), paragraph (a) of subsection (7), and paragraphs (a) and (d) of subsection (8) of section 1003.4282, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1003.4282 Requirements for a standard high school diploma.—

(1) TWENTY-FOUR CREDITS REQUIRED.—

(b) The required credits may be earned through equivalent, applied, or integrated courses or career education courses as defined in s. 1003.01(2), including work-related internships approved by the State Board of Education and identified in the course code directory. Such internships must be included in counseling materials and presented with courses required for graduation. However, any must-pass assessment requirements must be met. An equivalent course is one or more courses identified by content-area experts as being a match to the core curricular content of another course, based upon review of the state academic standards for that subject. An applied course aligns with state academic standards and includes real-world applications of a career and technical education standard used in business or industry. An integrated course includes content from several courses within a content area or across content areas.

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

(f) *One credit in physical education.*—Physical education must include the integration of health. Participation in an interscholastic sport at the junior varsity or varsity level for two full seasons shall satisfy the one-credit requirement in physical education. A district school board may not require that the one credit in physical education be taken during the 9th grade year. Completion of 2 years of marching band shall satisfy the one-credit requirement in physical education or the one-credit requirement in performing arts. This credit may not be used to satisfy the personal fitness requirement or the requirement for adaptive physical education under an individual education plan (IEP) or 504 plan. Completion of one semester with a grade of “C” or better in a marching band class, in a physical activity class that requires participation in marching band activities as an extra-curricular activity, or in a dance class shall satisfy one-half credit in physical education or one-half credit in performing arts. This credit may not be used to satisfy the personal fitness requirement or the requirement for adaptive physical education under an ~~IEP individual education plan (IEP)~~ or 504 plan. Completion of 2 years in a Reserve Officer Training Corps (R.O.T.C.) class, a significant component of which is drills, shall satisfy the one-credit requirement in physical education and the one-credit requirement in performing arts. This credit may not be used to satisfy the personal fitness

requirement or the requirement for adaptive physical education under an IEP or 504 plan.

(5) AWARD OF A STANDARD HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA.—

(c)1. A student who earns the required 24 credits, or the required 18 credits under s. 1002.3105(5), but fails to pass the assessments required under s. 1008.22(3) or achieve a 2.0 GPA ~~shall be awarded a certificate of completion in a form prescribed by the State Board of Education. However, a student who is otherwise entitled to a certificate of completion may elect to remain in high school either as a full-time student or a part-time student for up to 1 additional year and receive special instruction designed to remedy his or her identified deficiencies.~~

2. No later than January 1, 2026, the department shall develop a document detailing options available to a student who fails to earn a standard diploma under this paragraph. The document must include, but is not limited to, career education or credit programs at a career center or Florida College System institution, adult education to earn a standard diploma or high school equivalency diploma, apprenticeship programs, and the Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) Program. A school district shall provide this document to each such student along with his or her official transcript. The school district may add to the document information related to district-specific graduation and postsecondary options.

(7) CAREER EDUCATION COURSES THAT SATISFY HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT REQUIREMENTS.—

(a) Participation in equivalent, applied, or integrated courses or career education courses engages students in their high school education, increases academic achievement, enhances employability, and increases postsecondary success. The department shall develop, for approval by the State Board of Education, multiple, additional equivalent, applied, or integrated courses or career education courses or a series of courses that meet the requirements set forth in s. 1003.493(2), (4), and (5) and this subsection and allow students to earn credit in ~~both the equivalent, applied, or integrated courses~~ or career education course and courses required for high school graduation under this section and s. 1003.4281.

1. The state board must determine at least biennially whether sufficient academic standards are covered to warrant the award of academic credit, including satisfaction of graduation, assessment, and state university admissions requirements under this section.

2. Career education courses must:

a. Include workforce and digital literacy skills.

b. Integrate required course content with practical applications and designated rigorous coursework that results in one or more industry

certifications or clearly articulated credit or advanced standing in a 2-year or 4-year certificate or degree program, which may include high school junior and senior year work-related internships or apprenticeships. The department shall negotiate state licenses for material and testing for industry certifications.

The instructional methodology used in these courses must comprise authentic projects, problems, and activities for contextual academic learning and emphasize workplace skills identified under s. 445.06.

3. A student who earns credit upon completion of 1 year of related technical instruction for an apprenticeship program registered with the Department of Education under chapter 446 or preapprenticeship program registered with the Department of Education under chapter 446 may use such credit to satisfy the high school graduation credit requirements in paragraph (3)(e) or paragraph (3)(g). The state board shall approve and identify in the Course Code Directory the apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs from which earned credit may be used pursuant to this subparagraph.

4. The State Board of Education shall, by rule, establish a process that enables a student to receive work-based learning credit or credit in electives for completing a threshold level of demonstrable participation in extracurricular activities associated with career and technical student organizations. Work-based learning credit or credit in electives for extracurricular activities or supervised agricultural experiences may not be limited by grade level.

(8) STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.—Beginning with students entering grade 9 in the 2014-2015 school year, this subsection applies to a student with a disability.

(a) A parent of the student with a disability shall, in collaboration with the individual education plan (IEP) team during the transition planning process pursuant to s. 1003.5716, declare an intent for the student to graduate from high school with either a standard high school diploma. If a student with a disability has declared an intent to earn a certificate of completion in the IEP, a school district must revise the student's declared intent at the annual review of the IEP. A school district must provide the form referenced in subparagraph (5)(c)2. to a student with a disability who has not earned a standard high school diploma or a certificate of completion. ~~A student with a disability who does not satisfy the standard high school diploma requirements pursuant to this section shall be awarded a certificate of completion.~~

(d) A student with a disability who ~~receives a certificate of completion~~ and has an individual education plan that prescribes special education, transition planning, transition services, or related services through 21 years of age may continue to receive the specified instruction and services.

The State Board of Education shall adopt rules under ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement this subsection, including rules that establish the minimum requirements for students described in this subsection to earn a standard high school diploma. The State Board of Education shall adopt emergency rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54.

Section 11. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section 1003.4321, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.4321 Florida Seal of Fine Arts Program for high school graduates.

(3)(a) Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, the Seal of Fine Arts shall be awarded to a high school student who has earned a standard high school diploma; successfully completed at least three year-long courses in dance, music, theater, or the visual arts with a grade of “A” or higher in each course or earned three sequential course credits in such courses with a grade of “A” or higher in each course; and meets a minimum of two of the following requirements:

1. Successfully completes a fine arts International Baccalaureate, an Advanced International Certificate of Education, advanced placement, dual enrollment, or honors course in the subjects listed in this paragraph with a grade of “B” or higher.

2. Participates in a district or statewide organization’s juried event as a selected student participant for 2 or more years.

3. Records at least 25 volunteer hours of arts-related community service in his or her community and presents a comprehensive presentation on his or her experiences.

4. Meets the requirements of a portfolio-based program identifying the student as an exemplary practitioner of the fine arts.

5. Receives district, state, or national recognition for the creation and submission of an original work of art. For purposes of this paragraph, the term “work of art” means a musical or theatrical composition, visual artwork, or choreographed routine or performance.

Section 12. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 1003.433, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.433 Learning opportunities for out-of-state and out-of-country transfer students and students needing additional instruction to meet high school graduation requirements.—

(2) Students who earn the required 24 credits for the standard high school diploma except for passage of any must-pass assessment under s. 1003.4282 or s. 1008.22 or an alternate assessment by the end of grade 12 must be provided the following learning opportunities:

(b) ~~Upon receipt of a certificate of completion,~~ Be allowed to take the College Placement Test and be admitted to developmental education or credit courses at a Florida College System institution, as appropriate.

Section 13. Paragraph (n) of subsection (3) of section 1003.491, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.491 Florida Career and Professional Education Act.—The Florida Career and Professional Education Act is created to provide a statewide planning partnership between the business and education communities in order to attract, expand, and retain targeted, high-value industry and to sustain a strong, knowledge-based economy.

(3) The strategic 3-year plan developed jointly by the local school district, local workforce development boards, economic development agencies, and state-approved postsecondary institutions must be constructed and based on:

(n) Promotion of the benefits of the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars and Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars awards within the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;

Section 14. Paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of section 1003.493, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.493 Career and professional academies and career-themed courses.

(4) Each career and professional academy and secondary school providing a career-themed course must:

(c) Promote and provide opportunities for students enrolled in a career and professional academy or a career-themed course to attain, at minimum, the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award or the Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars award pursuant to s. 1009.536.

Section 15. Section 1003.5717, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1003.5717 Workforce credential program for students with autism spectrum disorder or students on a modified curriculum.—The Department of Education shall develop and implement by January 31, 2026, a workforce credential program for students with an autism spectrum disorder or students on a modified curriculum. The department shall work with the Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities established under s. 1004.6495 for the development and implementation of the program. The purpose of the program is to assist such students in securing employment upon graduation. The program must allow for such students to earn badges that designate that the students have acquired specific skills that meet employer needs.

(1)(a) Each badge must require the student to demonstrate five discrete skills or behaviors, including, but not limited to, workplace safety.

(b) The department shall collaborate with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to develop a workplace safety badge.

(2) The badge must be validated by two members of instructional staff who specialize in exceptional student education.

(3) Beginning with the 2026 calendar year through the 2030 calendar year, the department shall prepare an annual report by January 31 of the following year detailing the operations of the program. At a minimum, the report must include the badges offered by the program, data on postgraduation student employment, data on student participation rates in the program, and any other outcome data deemed necessary by the department to be included.

Section 16. Paragraph (f) of subsection (2) of section 1006.07, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1006.07 District school board duties relating to student discipline and school safety.—The district school board shall provide for the proper accounting for all students, for the attendance and control of students at school, and for proper attention to health, safety, and other matters relating to the welfare of students, including:

(2) CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT.—Adopt a code of student conduct for elementary schools and a code of student conduct for middle and high schools and distribute the appropriate code to all teachers, school personnel, students, and parents, at the beginning of every school year. Each code shall be organized and written in language that is understandable to students and parents and shall be discussed at the beginning of every school year in student classes, school advisory council meetings, and parent and teacher association or organization meetings. Each code shall be based on the rules governing student conduct and discipline adopted by the district school board and shall be made available in the student handbook or similar publication. Each code shall include, but is not limited to:

(f) Notice that use of a wireless communications device includes the possibility of the imposition of disciplinary action by the school or criminal penalties if the device is used in a criminal act. A student may possess a wireless communications device while the student is on school property or in attendance at a school function; however, elementary and middle school students ~~a student~~ may not use a wireless communications device during the school day. High school students may not use a wireless communications device during instructional time, except when expressly directed by a teacher solely for educational purposes. A high school teacher shall designate an area for wireless communications devices during instructional time. Each district school board shall adopt rules governing the use of a wireless communications device by a student while the student is on school property or in attendance at a school function, including rules:

1. Designating locations within school buildings where a student may use his or her wireless communications device with the express permission of a school administrator.

2. Allowing the use of a wireless communications device by a student during the school day in accordance with:

a. The student's individualized education plan;

b. The student's 504 accommodation plan issued under s. 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; or

c. A doctor's note from a physician licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459 certifying in writing that the student requires the use of a wireless communications device based upon valid clinical reasoning or evidence.

Section 17. Subsection (4) of section 1007.263, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1007.263 Florida College System institutions; admissions of students. Each Florida College System institution board of trustees is authorized to adopt rules governing admissions of students subject to this section and rules of the State Board of Education. These rules shall include the following:

(4) A student who has earned the required 24 credits under s. 1003.4282, or the required 18 credits under s. 1002.3105(5), for the standard high school diploma, except for passage of any must-pass assessment under s. 1003.4282 or s. 1008.22 or an alternate assessment by the end of grade 12, been awarded a certificate of completion under s. 1003.4282 is eligible to enroll in certificate career education programs.

Each board of trustees shall establish policies that notify students about developmental education options for improving their communication or computation skills that are essential to performing college-level work, including tutoring, extended time in gateway courses, free online courses, adult basic education, adult secondary education, or private provider instruction.

Section 18. Paragraph (b) of subsection (13) of section 1009.22, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1009.22 Workforce education postsecondary student fees.—

(13)

(b) Notwithstanding ss. 1009.534, 1009.535, and 1009.536, the transportation access fee authorized under paragraph (a) may not be included in calculating the amount a student receives for a Florida Academic Scholars award, a Florida Medallion Scholars award, ~~or~~ a Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award, or a Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars award.



Section 19. Paragraph (b) of subsection (18) of section 1009.23, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1009.23 Florida College System institution student fees.—

(18)

(b) Notwithstanding ss. 1009.534, 1009.535, and 1009.536, the transportation access fee authorized under paragraph (a) may not be included in calculating the amount a student receives for a Florida Academic Scholars award, a Florida Medallion Scholars award, ~~or~~ a Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award, or a Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars award.

Section 20. Paragraph (c) of subsection (18) of section 1009.26, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1009.26 Fee waivers.—

(18)

(c) Upon enrollment in a Program of Strategic Emphasis or a state-approved teacher preparation program, the tuition and fees waived under this subsection must be reported for state funding purposes under ss. 1009.534 and 1009.535 and must be disbursed to the student. The amount disbursed to the student must be equal to the award amount the student has received under s. 1009.534(3) ~~s. 1009.534(2)~~ or s. 1009.535(2).

Section 21. 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 22. Subsections (2), (3), and (4) of section 1009.534, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (3), (4), and (5), respectively, subsection (1) is amended, and a new subsection (2) is added to that section, to read:

1009.534 Florida Academic Scholars award.—

(1) A student is eligible for a Florida Academic Scholars award if he or she meets the general eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program and:

(a) Has achieved a 3.5 weighted grade point average as calculated pursuant to s. 1009.531, or its equivalent, in high school courses that are designated by the State Board of Education as college-preparatory academic courses and has attained at least the score required under s. 1009.531(6)(a) on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program;

(b) Has attended a home education program according to s. 1002.41 during grades 11 and 12, has completed the International Baccalaureate curriculum but failed to earn the International Baccalaureate Diploma, or has completed the Advanced International Certificate of Education curriculum but failed to earn the Advanced International Certificate of Education Diploma, and has attained at least the score required under s. 1009.531(6)(a) on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program;

(c) Has been awarded an International Baccalaureate Diploma from the International Baccalaureate Office, ~~or an Advanced International Certificate of Education Diploma from the University of Cambridge International Examinations Office, or an Advanced Placement Capstone designation from the College Board beginning with high school students graduating in the 2025-2026 school year;~~

(d) Has been recognized by the merit or achievement programs of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a scholar or finalist; or

(e) Has been recognized by the National Hispanic Recognition Program as a scholar recipient.

The student must complete a program of volunteer service or, ~~beginning with a high school student graduating in the 2022-2023 academic year and thereafter,~~ paid work, as approved by the district school board, the administrators of a nonpublic school, or the Department of Education for home education program students, which must include 100 hours of volunteer service, paid work, or a combination of both. ~~Eligible paid work~~

completed on or after June 27, 2022, shall be included in the student's total of paid work hours. The student may identify a social or civic issue or a professional area that interests him or her and develop a plan for his or her personal involvement in addressing the issue or learning about the area. The student must, through papers or other presentations, evaluate and reflect upon his or her volunteer service or paid work experience. Such volunteer service or paid work may include, but is not limited to, a business or governmental internship, work for a nonprofit community service organization, or activities on behalf of a candidate for public office. The hours of volunteer service or paid work must be documented in writing, and the document must be signed by the student, the student's parent or guardian, and a representative of the organization for which the student performed the volunteer service or paid work.

(2) For purposes of this section, the Advanced Placement Capstone designation shall consist of earning a score of three or higher on six Advanced Placement Examinations, including Advanced Placement Seminar; Advanced Placement Research; and for students who:

(a) Began high school before the 2025-2026 school year, four Advanced Placement Examinations.

(b) Began high school during the 2025-2026 school year and thereafter, three Advanced Placement Examinations that satisfy the requirements of s. 1003.4282(3)(a)-(d) and one Advanced Placement Examination in a subject of the student's choice.

Receipt of the Advanced Placement Capstone designation does not satisfy the requirements for a standard high school diploma under s. 1003.4282.

Section 23. Subsection (1) of section 1009.535, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1009.535 Florida Medallion Scholars award.—

(1) A student is eligible for a Florida Medallion Scholars award if he or she meets the general eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program and:

(a) Has achieved a weighted grade point average of 3.0 as calculated pursuant to s. 1009.531, or the equivalent, in high school courses that are designated by the State Board of Education as college-preparatory academic courses and has attained at least the score required under s. 1009.531(6)(b) on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program;

(b) Has completed the International Baccalaureate curriculum but failed to earn the International Baccalaureate Diploma or has completed the Advanced International Certificate of Education curriculum but failed to

earn the Advanced International Certificate of Education Diploma, and has attained at least the score required under s. 1009.531(6)(b) on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program;

(c) Has attended a home education program according to s. 1002.41 during grades 11 and 12 and has attained at least the score required under s. 1009.531(6)(b) on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program;

(d) Has been recognized by the merit or achievement program of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a scholar or finalist but has not completed the program of volunteer service or paid work required under s. 1009.534; or

(e) Has been recognized by the National Hispanic Recognition Program as a scholar, but has not completed the program of volunteer service or paid work required under s. 1009.534.

A high school student must complete a program of volunteer service or, ~~beginning with a high school student graduating in the 2022-2023 academic year and thereafter,~~ paid work approved by the district school board, the administrators of a nonpublic school, or the Department of Education for home education program students, which must include 75 hours of volunteer service, 100 hours of paid work, or 100 hours of a combination of both. ~~Eligible paid work completed on or after June 27, 2022, shall be included in a student's total of required paid work hours.~~ The student may identify a social or civic issue or a professional area that interests him or her and develop a plan for his or her personal involvement in addressing the issue or learning about the area. The student must, through papers or other presentations, evaluate and reflect upon his or her volunteer service or paid work experience. Such volunteer service or paid work may include, but is not limited to, a business or governmental internship, work for a nonprofit community service organization, or activities on behalf of a candidate for public office. The hours of volunteer service or paid work must be documented in writing, and the document must be signed by the student, the student's parent or guardian, and a representative of the organization for which the student performed the volunteer service or paid work.

Section 24. Subsection (1), paragraph (b) of subsection (2), and subsection (5) of section 1009.536, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1009.536 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars and Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars awards.—The Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award and the Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars award are created within the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program to recognize and reward

academic achievement and career preparation by high school students who wish to continue their education.

(1) A student is eligible for a Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award if he or she meets the general eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program and:

(a) ~~Completes the secondary school portion of a sequential program of studies that requires~~ at least three high secondary school career and technical education credits. On-the-job training may not be substituted for any of the three required career credits.

(b) Demonstrates readiness for postsecondary education by earning a passing score on the Florida College Entry Level Placement Test or its equivalent as identified by the Department of Education.

(c) Earns a minimum cumulative weighted grade point average of 3.0, as calculated pursuant to s. 1009.531, on all subjects required for a standard high school diploma, excluding elective courses.

(d) ~~Has achieved~~ Earns a minimum unweighted grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale in high school for secondary career and technical education courses that comprise the career program.

(e) ~~Completes at least 30 hours of volunteer service, or 75 hours of volunteer service for students entering grade 9 in the 2024-2025 school year and thereafter, or, beginning with high school students graduating in the 2022-2023 academic year and thereafter, 100 hours of paid work, approved by the district school board, the administrators of a nonpublic school, or the Department of Education for home education program students, or 100 hours of a combination of both. Eligible paid work completed on or after June 27, 2022, shall be included in a student's total of required paid work hours. The student may identify a social or civic issue or a professional area that interests him or her and develop a plan for his or her personal involvement in addressing the issue or learning about the area. The student must, through papers or other presentations, evaluate and reflect upon his or her volunteer service or paid work experience. Such volunteer service or paid work may include, but is not limited to, a business or governmental internship, work for a nonprofit community service organization, or activities on behalf of a candidate for public office. The hours of volunteer service or paid work must be documented in writing, and the document must be signed by the student, the student's parent or guardian, and a representative of the organization for which the student performed the volunteer service or paid work.~~

(2) A student is eligible for a Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars award if he or she meets the general eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, and the student:

(b) Completes at least 30 hours of volunteer service, or 75 hours of volunteer service for students entering grade 9 in the 2024-2025 school year

~~and thereafter, or beginning with a high school student graduating in the 2022-2023 academic year and thereafter, 100 hours of paid work, approved by the district school board, the administrators of a nonpublic school, or the Department of Education for home education program students, or 100 hours of a combination of both. Eligible paid work completed on or after June 27, 2022, shall be included in a student's total required paid work hours. The student may identify a social or civic issue or a professional area that interests him or her and develop a plan for his or her personal involvement in addressing the issue or learning about the area. The student must, through papers or other presentations, evaluate and reflect upon his or her experience. Such volunteer service or paid work may include, but is not limited to, a business or governmental internship, work for a nonprofit community service organization, or activities on behalf of a candidate for public office. The hours of volunteer service or paid work must be documented in writing, and the document must be signed by the student, the student's parent or guardian, and a representative of the organization for which the student performed the volunteer service or paid work.~~

(5)(a) A student who is ~~initially eligible in the 2012-2013 academic year and thereafter~~ may earn a Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholarship for a maximum of 100 percent of the number of credit hours or equivalent clock hours required to complete one of the following at a Florida public or nonpublic education institution that offers these specific programs: for an applied technology diploma program as defined in s. 1004.02(7), up to 60 credit hours or equivalent clock hours; for a technical degree education program as defined in s. 1004.02(13), up to the number of hours required for a specific degree not to exceed 72 credit hours or equivalent clock hours; or for a career certificate program as defined in s. 1004.02(20), up to the number of hours required for a specific certificate not to exceed 72 credit hours or equivalent clock hours.

(b)1. A student who is ~~initially eligible in the 2017-2018 academic year and thereafter~~ for a Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars award under subsection (2) may receive an award for a maximum of 100 percent of the number of credit hours or equivalent clock hours required to complete one of the following at a Florida public or nonpublic education institution that offers these specific programs: for an applied technology diploma program as defined in s. 1004.02(7), up to 60 credit hours or equivalent clock hours; for a technical degree education program as defined in s. 1004.02(13), up to the number of hours required for a specific degree, not to exceed 72 credit hours or equivalent clock hours; or for a career certificate program as defined in s. 1004.02(20), up to the number of hours required for a specific certificate, not to exceed 72 credit hours or equivalent clock hours. A student who transfers from one of these program levels to another program level is eligible for the higher of the two credit hour limits.

2. A Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholar who completes a technical degree education program as defined in s. 1004.02(13) may also receive an award for:

a. A maximum of 60 credit hours for a bachelor of science degree program for which there is a statewide associate in science degree program to bachelor of science degree program articulation agreement; or

b. A maximum of 60 credit hours for a bachelor of applied science degree program at a Florida College System institution.

Section 25. Subsection (7) of section 1007.271, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (p) is added to subsection (21) of that section, to read:

1007.271 Dual enrollment programs.—

(7) Career dual enrollment shall be provided as a curricular option for secondary students to pursue in order to earn industry certifications adopted pursuant to s. 1008.44, which count as credits toward the high school diploma. Career dual enrollment shall be available for secondary students seeking a degree and industry certification through a career education program or course. Each career center established under s. 1001.44 shall enter into an agreement with each high school in any school district it serves. ~~Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year,~~ The agreement must be completed annually and submitted by the career center to the Department of Education by August 1. The agreement must:

(a) Identify the courses and programs that are available to students through career dual enrollment and the clock hour credits that students will earn upon completion of each course and program.

(b) Delineate the high school credit earned for the completion of each career dual enrollment course.

(c) Identify any college credit articulation agreements associated with each clock hour program.

(d) Describe how students and parents will be informed of career dual enrollment opportunities and related workforce demand, how students can apply to participate in a career dual enrollment program and register for courses through their high schools, and the postsecondary career education expectations for participating students.

(e) Establish any additional eligibility requirements for participation and a process for determining eligibility and monitoring the progress of participating students.

(f) Delineate costs incurred by each entity and determine how transportation will be provided for students who are unable to provide their own transportation and how students will be notified of such transportation.

(g) Address scheduling changes that will increase access and student participation.

(21) Each district school superintendent and each public postsecondary institution president shall develop a comprehensive dual enrollment articulation agreement for the respective school district and postsecondary institution. The superintendent and president shall establish an articulation committee for the purpose of developing the agreement. Each state university president may designate a university representative to participate in the development of a dual enrollment articulation agreement. A dual enrollment articulation agreement shall be completed and submitted annually by the postsecondary institution to the Department of Education on or before August 1. The agreement must include, but is not limited to:

(p) Any scheduling changes that are necessary to increase access and student participation.

Section 26. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section 1009.986, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1009.986 Florida ABLE program.—

(3) DIRECT-SUPPORT ORGANIZATION; FLORIDA ABLE, INC.—

(d)1. The board of directors of Florida ABLE, Inc., shall consist of:

a. The chair of the Florida Prepaid College Board, or his or her designee ~~who shall serve as the chair of the board of directors of Florida ABLE, Inc.~~

b. Up to three individuals who possess knowledge, skill, and experience in the areas of accounting, risk management, or investment management, one of whom may be a current member of the Florida Prepaid College Board, who shall be appointed by the Florida Prepaid College Board.

c. One individual who possesses knowledge, skill, and experience in the areas of accounting, risk management, or investment management, who shall be appointed by the Governor.

d. Two individuals who are advocates of persons with disabilities, one of whom shall be appointed by the President of the Senate and one of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. At least one of the individuals appointed under this sub-subparagraph must be an advocate of persons with developmental disabilities, as that term is defined in s. 393.063.

2.a. The term of the appointees under sub-subparagraph 1.b. shall be up to 3 years as determined by the Florida Prepaid College Board. Such appointees may be reappointed.

b. The term of the appointees under sub-subparagraphs 1.c. and d. shall be 3 years. Such appointees may be reappointed.



3. Unless authorized by the board of directors of Florida ABLE, Inc., an individual director has no authority to control or direct the operations of Florida ABLE, Inc., or the actions of its officers and employees.

4. The board of directors of Florida ABLE, Inc.:

a. Shall meet at least quarterly and at other times upon the call of the chair.

b. May use any method of telecommunications to conduct, or establish a quorum at, its meetings or the meetings of a subcommittee or other subdivision if the public is given proper notice of the telecommunications meeting and provided reasonable access to observe and, if appropriate, to participate.

c. Shall annually elect a board member to serve as chair.

5. A majority of the total current membership of the board of directors of Florida ABLE, Inc., constitutes a quorum of the board.

6. Members of the board of directors of Florida ABLE, Inc., and the board's subcommittees or other subdivisions shall serve without compensation; however, the members may be reimbursed for reasonable, necessary, and actual travel expenses pursuant to s. 112.061.

Section 27. 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). 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 28. Section 1011.801, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1011.801 Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program.—The Legislature recognizes that the need for school districts, charter schools, and Florida College System institutions to be able to respond to emerging local or statewide economic development needs is critical to the workforce development system. The Workforce Development Capitalization

Incentive Grant Program is created to provide grants to school districts, charter schools, and Florida College System institutions to fund some or all of the costs associated with the creation or expansion of career and technical education programs that lead to industry certifications included on the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List. The programs may serve secondary students or postsecondary students if the postsecondary career and technical education program also serves secondary students in grades 6 through 12.

(1) Funds awarded for a workforce development capitalization incentive grant may be used for instructional equipment, laboratory equipment, supplies, personnel, student services, or other expenses associated with the creation or expansion of a career and technical education program that serves secondary students. Expansion of a program may include either the expansion of enrollments in a program or expansion into new areas of specialization within a program. No grant funds may be used for recurring instructional costs or for institutions' indirect costs.

(2) The Department of Education shall administer the program. The State Board of Education may adopt rules for program administration. The State Board of Education shall consider the statewide geographic dispersion of grant funds in ranking the applications and shall give priority to applications from education agencies that are making maximum use of their workforce development funding by offering high-performing, high-demand programs or to applications from a job engine charter school under s. 1002.33(15)(c).

Section 29. By August 1, 2026, the Department of Education shall establish competencies for a mathematics endorsement aligned with evidence-based mathematics instructional and intervention strategies. The competencies must include numbers and operations, fractions, algebraic reasoning, measurement, geometric reasoning, and data analysis and probabilities at the elementary and secondary level. The competencies must be approved by the State Board of Education.

Section 30. (1) The Commissioner of Education shall coordinate with six school districts selected by the Department of Education which represent two small, two medium, and two large counties that currently, or will in the 2025-2026 school year, implement a policy for all district high schools that prohibits the use of cellular telephones and other personal electronic devices by students during the entire school day, while on school grounds, or while engaged in school activities off school grounds during the school day. The department shall provide a report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives before December 1, 2026, summarizing the effect of each school district policy on student achievement and behavior. The report must also include a model policy that school districts and charter schools may adopt.

(2) The report and model policy must address the authorized use of cellular telephones or other electronic devices during the school day by students:

(a) With disabilities or who are English Language Learners who may need such electronic devices to access curriculum or other required activities.

(b) When necessary for health reasons, for emergency medical issues, or for natural or manmade disasters.

(c) On school buses, before or after school hours.

(d) Engaged in extracurricular activities outside of the school day.

(3) The report must also include student code of conduct provisions for violations of the policy restricting the use of cellular telephones and other electronic devices which include, but are not limited to, violations that:

(a) Constitute illegal behavior and may result in a referral to law enforcement.

(b) Facilitate bullying, harassing, or threatening other students.

(c) Facilitate cheating or otherwise violating a school's policy for academic integrity.

(d) Capture or display any picture or video of any student during a medical issue or engaged in misconduct.

Section 31. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor May 30, 2025.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 30, 2025.