

CHAPTER 2018-6

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 7055

An act relating to education: creating s. 212.099, F.S.; defining terms; authorizing eligible businesses to receive a tax credit against specified taxes; requiring eligible businesses to apply to the Department of Revenue for an allocation; specifying uses for eligible contributions; requiring the department to adopt rules; amending s. 212.1831, F.S.; modifying the calculation of the dealer's collection allowance under s. 212.12 to include certain contributions to eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations; creating s. 212.1832, F.S.; authorizing certain persons to receive a tax credit for certain contributions to eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations for the Hope Scholarship Program; providing requirements for motor vehicle dealers; requiring the Department of Revenue to disregard certain tax credits for specified purposes; providing that specified provisions apply to certain provisions; amending s. 213.053, F.S.; providing definitions; authorizing the Department of Revenue to provide a list of certain taxpayers to certain nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations; amending s. 220.13, F.S.; providing an exception to the additions to the calculation of adjusted taxable income for corporate income tax purposes; amending s. 220.1875, F.S.; providing a deadline for an eligible contribution to be made to an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization; determining compliance with the requirement to pay tentative taxes under ss. 220.222 and 220.32 for tax credits under s. 1002.395; amending s. 1001.10, F.S.; revising the private schools to which the Department of Education is required to provide technical assistance and authorized staff; amending s. 1002.33, F.S.; revising the charter school application and review process relating to the opening of a school; revising the criteria for denying high-performing charter school system applications; revising the requirements for the term of a charter; revising provisions for the modification of and the nonrenewal or termination of a charter; revising the process for resolving contractual disputes; requiring a sponsor to provide specified information to the department annually; requiring the department to include the information in a specified report; amending s. 1002.331, F.S.; revising the criteria for designation as a high-performing charter school; revising the calculation used to determine facility capacity for such charter schools; revising the number of schools that can be established by a high-performing charter school; amending s. 1002.333, F.S.; providing for certain funds for the Schools of Hope Program to be carried forward for a specified number of years; amending s. 1002.37, F.S.; providing that certain students shall be given priority; requiring school districts to provide Florida Virtual School students access to certain examinations and assessments and certain information; amending s. 1002.385, F.S.; revising eligible expenditures for the Gardiner Scholarship Program; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 1002.39, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 1002.395, F.S.; revising the requirements for

an annual report of certain student data for the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program; providing an application deadline for certain tax credits related to nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations; extending the carry forward period for unused tax credits from 5 years to 10 years; providing applicability of the carried forward tax credit for purposes of certain taxes; removing the requirement for a taxpayer to apply to the department for approval of a carry forward tax credit; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; creating s. 1002.40, F.S.; establishing the Hope Scholarship Program; providing the purpose of the program; providing definitions; providing eligibility requirements; prohibiting the payment of a scholarship under certain circumstances; requiring a school principal to investigate a report of physical violence or emotional abuse; requiring a school district to notify an eligible student's parent of the program; requiring a school district to provide certain information relating to the statewide assessment program; providing requirements and obligations for eligible private schools; providing department obligations relating to participating students and private schools and program requirements; providing parent and student responsibilities for initial and continued participation in the program; providing eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization obligations; providing for the calculation of the scholarship amount; providing the scholarship amount for students transferred to certain public schools; requiring verification of specified information before a scholarship may be disbursed; providing requirements for the scholarship payments; providing funds for administrative expenses for certain nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations; providing requirements for administrative expenses; prohibiting an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization from charging an application fee; providing Auditor General obligations; providing requirements for taxpayer elections to contribute to the program; requiring the Department of Revenue to adopt forms to administer the program; providing reporting requirements for eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations relating to taxpayer contributions; providing requirements for certain agents of the Department of Revenue and motor vehicle dealers; providing penalties; providing for the restitution of specified funds under certain circumstances; providing that the state is not liable for the award or use of program funds; prohibiting additional regulations for private schools participating in the program beyond those necessary to enforce program requirements; requiring the State Board of Education and the Department of Revenue to adopt rules to administer the program; creating s. 1002.411, F.S.; establishing reading scholarship accounts for specified purposes; providing for eligibility for scholarships; providing for administration; providing duties of the Department of Education; providing school district obligations; specifying options for parents; providing that maximum funding shall be specified in the General Appropriations Act; providing for payment of funds; specifying that no state liability arises from the award or use of such an account; amending s. 1002.421, F.S.; providing private school requirements for participation in educational scholarship programs; providing background screening requirements and procedures for owners of private schools;

providing that a private school is ineligible to participate in an educational scholarship program under certain circumstances; providing department obligations relating to educational scholarship programs; providing commissioner authority and responsibilities for educational scholarship programs; authorizing the commissioner to deny, suspend, or revoke a private school's participation in an educational scholarship program; amending s. 1002.55, F.S.; authorizing an early learning coalition to refuse to contract with certain private prekindergarten providers; amending s. 1002.75, F.S.; authorizing an early learning coalition to refuse to contract with or revoke the eligibility of certain Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program providers; amending s. 1002.88, F.S.; authorizing an early learning coalition to refuse to contract with or revoke the eligibility of certain school readiness program providers; amending s. 1003.44, F.S.; requiring each district school board to adopt rules for the display of the official state motto in specified places; amending s. 1003.453, F.S.; revising school wellness policies; providing requirements for instruction in the use of cardiopulmonary resuscitation; amending s. 1003.576, F.S.; requiring a specified IEP system to be used statewide; deleting an obsolete date; amending s. 1006.061, F.S.; revising the applicability of certain child abuse, abandonment, and neglect provisions; amending s. 1006.15, F.S.; revising requirements for participation in extracurricular student activities for certain students; amending s. 1007.271, F.S.; deleting a requirement for a home education student to provide his or her own instructional materials; revising the requirements for home education and private school articulation agreements; amending s. 1008.22, F.S.; requiring certain portions of the English Language Arts assessments to include social studies content; revising the format requirements for certain statewide assessments; requiring published assessment items to be in a format that meets certain criteria; amending s. 1011.62, F.S.; renaming the "supplemental academic instruction categorical fund" as the "supplemental academic instruction allocation"; requiring certain school districts to use the allocation for specified purposes; deleting an obsolete date; deleting a provision authorizing the Florida State University School to expend specified funds for certain purposes; prohibiting the award of certain bonuses to teachers who fail to maintain the security of certain examinations or violate certain protocols; authorizing the state board to adopt rules for specified purposes; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; revising the research-based reading instruction allocation; revising the criteria for establishing the 300 lowest-performing elementary schools; providing requirements for staffing summer reading camps funded through the allocation; requiring school districts that meet specified criteria, rather than all school districts, to submit a comprehensive reading plan for specified purposes; deleting provisions for the release or withholding of funds based on a school district's comprehensive reading plan; revising a definition; requiring K-12 comprehensive reading plans to provide for intensive reading interventions that are delivered by teachers who meet certain criteria beginning with a specified school year; providing requirements for such interventions; amending s. 1011.6202, F.S.; renaming the

“Principal Autonomy Pilot Program” as the “Principal Autonomy Program”; providing that any school district may apply to participate in the program; providing that a school shall retain its exemption from specified laws under specified circumstances; requiring a designated leadership team at a participating school to complete a certain turnaround program; deleting a provision providing a specified amount of funds to a participating school district that completes the turnaround program; providing requirements for such schools; providing for such schools to participate in the program; providing requirements for such participation; specifying that no school district liability arises from the management of such schools; deleting a school’s authority to renew participation in the program; deleting reporting requirements; providing for funding; revising the principal eligibility criteria for a salary supplement through the program; amending s. 1011.69, F.S.; authorizing certain high schools to receive Title I funds; providing that a school district may withhold Title I funds for specified purposes; authorizing certain schools to use Title I funds for specified purposes; providing an exception for specified funds; amending s. 1011.71, F.S.; prohibiting a school district from withholding charter school administrative fees under certain circumstances; amending s. 1012.2315, F.S.; requiring certain employee organizations to include specified information in a specified application and to petition for recertification for specified purposes; amending s. 1012.28, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 1012.315, F.S.; revising the applicability of certain provisions related to disqualification from employment for the conviction of specified offenses; amending s. 1012.32, F.S.; requiring a district school board to reimburse certain costs if it fails to notify a charter school of the eligibility status of certain persons; amending s. 1012.562, F.S.; authorizing charter schools and charter management organizations to offer school leader preparation programs; amending s. 1012.586, F.S.; requiring the Department of Education to consider the award of endorsements for a teaching certificate to individuals who hold specified certifications or who complete specified programs that meet certain criteria in a specified review; amending s. 1012.731, F.S.; extending eligibility for the Florida Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship Program to school district employees who, in the prior school year, were classroom teachers and met certain eligibility requirements; amending s. 1012.796, F.S.; revising the applicability of a requirement that certain private schools file specified reports with the department for certain allegations against its employees; amending s. 1012.98, F.S.; requiring professional development resources to include sample course-at-a-glance and unit overview templates; providing requirements for such templates; amending s. 1013.28, F.S.; requiring school districts to provide charter schools access to certain property on the same basis as public schools; prohibiting certain actions by a charter school without the written permission of the school district; amending s. 1013.31, F.S.; authorizing a district to use certain sources of funds for educational, auxiliary, and ancillary plant capital outlay purposes without needing a survey recommendation; amending s. 1013.385, F.S.; providing additional exceptions to certain building code regulations for school districts; amending s.

1013.62, F.S.; revising requirements for charter school capital outlay funding; requiring each district to certify certain information to the department by October 1 each year; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; providing appropriations; providing retroactive applicability; authorizing the Department of Revenue to adopt emergency rules for specified purposes; specifying that certain students are exempt from specified required assessments, grades, and graduation requirements for the 2017-2018 school year; specifying that the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shall maintain specified grades and designations for the 2017-2018 school year; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. **Section 212.099, Florida Statutes, is created to read:**

212.099 Florida Sales Tax Credit Scholarship Program.—

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

(a) “Eligible business” means a tenant or person actually occupying, using, or entitled to the use of any property from which the rental or license fee is subject to taxation under s. 212.031.

(b) “Eligible contribution” or “contribution” means a monetary contribution from an eligible business to an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization to be used pursuant to s. 1002.385 or s. 1002.395. The eligible business making the contribution may not designate a specific student as the beneficiary of the contribution.

(c) “Eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization” or “organization” has the same meaning as provided in s. 1002.395(2)(f).

(2) An eligible business shall be granted a credit against the tax imposed under s. 212.031 and collected from the eligible business by a dealer. The credit shall be in an amount equal to 100 percent of an eligible contribution made to an organization.

(3) A dealer shall take a credit against the tax imposed under s. 212.031 in an amount equal to the credit taken by the eligible business under subsection (2).

(4)(a) An eligible business must apply to the department for an allocation of tax credits under this section. The eligible business must specify in the application the state fiscal year during which the contribution will be made, the organization that will receive the contribution, the planned amount of the contribution, the address of the property from which the rental or license fee is subject to taxation under s. 212.031, and the federal employer identification number of the dealer who collects the tax imposed under s. 212.031 from the eligible business and who will reduce collection of taxes from the eligible business pursuant to this section. The department shall

approve allocations of tax credits on a first-come, first-served basis and shall provide to the eligible business a separate approval or denial letter for each dealer for which the eligible business applied for an allocation of tax credits. Within 10 days after approving or denying an application, the department shall provide a copy of its approval or denial letter to the organization specified by the eligible business in the application. An approval letter must include the name and federal employer identification number of the dealer from whom a credit under this section can be taken and the amount of tax credits approved for use with that dealer.

(b) Upon receipt of an eligible contribution, the organization shall provide the eligible business that made the contribution with a separate certificate of contribution for each dealer from whom a credit can be taken as approved under paragraph (a). A certificate of contribution must include the contributor's name and, if available, federal employer identification number, the amount contributed, the date of contribution, the name of the organization, and the name and federal employer identification number of the dealer.

(5) Each dealer that receives from an eligible business a copy of the department's approval letter and a certificate of contribution, both of which identify the dealer as the dealer who collects the tax imposed under s. 212.031 from the eligible business and who will reduce collection of taxes from the eligible business pursuant to this section, shall reduce the tax collected from the eligible business under s. 212.031 by the total amount of contributions indicated in the certificate of contribution. The reduction may not exceed the amount of credit allocation approved by the department and may not exceed the amount of tax that would otherwise be collected from the eligible business by a dealer when a payment is made under the rental or license fee arrangement. However, payments by an eligible business to a dealer may not be reduced before October 1, 2018.

(a) If the total amount of credits an eligible business may take cannot be fully used within any period that a payment is due under the rental or license fee arrangement because of an insufficient amount of tax that the dealer would collect from the eligible business during that period, the unused amount may be carried forward for a period not to exceed 10 years.

(b) A tax credit may not be claimed on an amended return or through a refund.

(c) A dealer that claims a tax credit must file returns and pay taxes by electronic means under s. 213.755.

(d) An eligible business may not convey, assign, or transfer an approved tax credit or a carryforward tax credit to another entity unless all of the assets of the eligible business are conveyed, assigned, or transferred in the same transaction and the successor business continues the same lease with the dealer.

(e) Within any state fiscal year, an eligible business may rescind all or part of a tax credit approved under this section. The amount rescinded shall become available for that state fiscal year to another eligible business as approved by the department if the business receives notice from the department that the rescindment has been accepted by the department. Any amount rescinded under this subsection shall become available to an eligible business on a first-come, first-served basis based on tax credit applications received after the date the rescindment is accepted by the department.

(f) Within 10 days after the rescindment of a tax credit under paragraph (e) of this subsection is accepted by the department, the department shall notify the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization specified by the eligible business. The department shall also include the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization specified by the eligible business on all letters or correspondence of acknowledgment for tax credits under this section.

(6) An organization shall report to the department, on or before the 20th day of each month, the total amount of contributions received pursuant to subsection (4) in the preceding calendar month on a form provided by the department. Such report shall include the amount of contributions received during that reporting period and the federal employer identification number of each dealer associated with the contribution.

(7)(a) Eligible contributions may be used to fund the program established under s. 1002.385 if funds appropriated in a state fiscal year for the program are insufficient to fund eligible students.

(b) If the conditions in paragraph (a) are met, the organization shall first use eligible contributions received during a state fiscal year to fund scholarships for students in the priority set forth in s. 1002.385(12)(d). Remaining contributions may be used to fund scholarships for students eligible pursuant to s. 1002.395(3)(b)1. or 2.

(c) The organization shall separately account for each scholarship funded pursuant to this section.

(d) Notwithstanding s. 1002.385(6)(b), any funds remaining from a closed scholarship account funded pursuant to this section shall be used to fund other scholarships pursuant to s. 1002.385.

(e) The organization may, subject to the limitations of s. 1002.395(6)(j)1., use up to 3 percent of eligible contributions received during the state fiscal year in which such contributions are collected for administrative expenses.

(8) The sum of tax credits that may be approved by the department in any state fiscal year is \$57.5 million.

(9) For purposes of the distributions of tax revenue under s. 212.20, the department shall disregard any tax credits allowed under this section to

ensure that any reduction in tax revenue received that is attributable to the tax credits results only in a reduction in distributions to the General Revenue Fund.

(10) The department may adopt rules to administer this section.

Section 2. Section 212.1831, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

212.1831 Credit for contributions to eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations.—There is allowed a credit of 100 percent of an eligible contribution made to an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization under s. 1002.395 against any tax imposed by the state and due under this chapter from a direct pay permit holder as a result of the direct pay permit held pursuant to s. 212.183. For purposes of the dealer's credit granted for keeping prescribed records, filing timely tax returns, and properly accounting and remitting taxes under s. 212.12, the amount of tax due used to calculate the credit shall include any eligible contribution made to an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization from a direct pay permit holder. For purposes of the distributions of tax revenue under s. 212.20, the department shall disregard any tax credits allowed under this section to ensure that any reduction in tax revenue received that is attributable to the tax credits results only in a reduction in distributions to the General Revenue Fund. The provisions of s. 1002.395 apply to the credit authorized by this section.

Section 3. Effective upon this act becoming a law, **section 212.1832, Florida Statutes, is created to read:**

212.1832 Credit for contributions to the Hope Scholarship Program.—

(1) The purchaser of a motor vehicle shall be granted a credit of 100 percent of an eligible contribution made to an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization under s. 1002.40 against any tax imposed by the state under this chapter and collected from the purchaser by a dealer, designated agent, or private tag agent as a result of the purchase or acquisition of a motor vehicle on or after October 1, 2018, except that a credit may not exceed the tax that would otherwise be collected from the purchaser by a dealer, designated agent, or private tag agent. For purposes of this subsection, the term "purchase" does not include the lease or rental of a motor vehicle.

(2) A dealer shall take a credit against any tax imposed by the state under this chapter on the purchase of a motor vehicle in an amount equal to the credit granted to the purchaser under subsection (1).

(3) For purposes of the distributions of tax revenue under s. 212.20, the department shall disregard any tax credits allowed under this section to ensure that any reduction in tax revenue received that is attributable to the tax credits results only in a reduction in distributions to the General Revenue Fund. The provisions of s. 1002.40 apply to the credit authorized by this section.

Section 4. Effective upon this act becoming a law, subsection (21) is added to section 213.053, Florida Statutes, to read:

213.053 Confidentiality and information sharing.—

(21)(a) For purposes of this subsection, the term:

1. “Eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization” means an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization as defined in s. 1002.395(2) that meets the criteria in s. 1002.395(6) to use up to 3 percent of eligible contributions for administrative expenses.

2. “Taxpayer” has the same meaning as in s. 220.03, unless disclosure of the taxpayer’s name and address would violate any term of an information-sharing agreement between the department and an agency of the Federal Government.

(b) The department, upon request, shall provide to an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization that provides scholarships under s. 1002.395 a list of the 200 taxpayers with the greatest total corporate income or franchise tax due as reported on the taxpayer’s return filed pursuant to s. 220.22 during the previous calendar year. The list must be in alphabetical order based on the taxpayer’s name and shall contain the taxpayer’s address. The list may not disclose the amount of tax owed by any taxpayer.

(c) An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization may request the list once each calendar year. The department shall provide the list within 45 days after the request is made.

(d) Any taxpayer information contained in the list may be used by the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization only to notify the taxpayer of the opportunity to make an eligible contribution to the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program under s. 1002.395. Any information furnished to an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization under this subsection may not be further disclosed by the organization except as provided in this paragraph.

(e) An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization, its officers, and employees are subject to the same requirements of confidentiality and the same penalties for violating confidentiality as the department and its employees. Breach of confidentiality is a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided by s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

Section 5. Subsection (22) is added to section 213.053, Florida Statutes, as amended by this act, to read:

213.053 Confidentiality and information sharing.—

(22)(a) The department may provide to an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization, as defined in s. 1002.40, a dealer’s name, address, federal employer identification number, and information related to

differences between credits taken by the dealer pursuant to s. 212.1832(2) and amounts remitted to the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization under s. 1002.40(13)(b)3. The eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization may use the information for purposes of recovering eligible contributions designated for that organization that were collected by the dealer but never remitted to the organization.

(b) Nothing in this subsection authorizes the disclosure of information if such disclosure is prohibited by federal law. An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization is bound by the same requirements of confidentiality and the same penalties for a violation of the requirements as the department.

Section 6. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 220.13, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

220.13 **“Adjusted federal income” defined.—**

(1) The term “adjusted federal income” means an amount equal to the taxpayer’s taxable income as defined in subsection (2), or such taxable income of more than one taxpayer as provided in s. 220.131, for the taxable year, adjusted as follows:

(a) *Additions.*—There shall be added to such taxable income:

1.a. The amount of any tax upon or measured by income, excluding taxes based on gross receipts or revenues, paid or accrued as a liability to the District of Columbia or any state of the United States which is deductible from gross income in the computation of taxable income for the taxable year.

b. Notwithstanding sub-subparagraph a., if a credit taken under s. 220.1875 is added to taxable income in a previous taxable year under subparagraph 11. and is taken as a deduction for federal tax purposes in the current taxable year, the amount of the deduction allowed shall not be added to taxable income in the current year. The exception in this sub-subparagraph is intended to ensure that the credit under s. 220.1875 is added in the applicable taxable year and does not result in a duplicate addition in a subsequent year.

2. The amount of interest which is excluded from taxable income under s. 103(a) of the Internal Revenue Code or any other federal law, less the associated expenses disallowed in the computation of taxable income under s. 265 of the Internal Revenue Code or any other law, excluding 60 percent of any amounts included in alternative minimum taxable income, as defined in s. 55(b)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, if the taxpayer pays tax under s. 220.11(3).

3. In the case of a regulated investment company or real estate investment trust, an amount equal to the excess of the net long-term capital gain for the taxable year over the amount of the capital gain dividends attributable to the taxable year.

4. That portion of the wages or salaries paid or incurred for the taxable year which is equal to the amount of the credit allowable for the taxable year under s. 220.181. This subparagraph shall expire on the date specified in s. 290.016 for the expiration of the Florida Enterprise Zone Act.

5. That portion of the ad valorem school taxes paid or incurred for the taxable year which is equal to the amount of the credit allowable for the taxable year under s. 220.182. This subparagraph shall expire on the date specified in s. 290.016 for the expiration of the Florida Enterprise Zone Act.

6. The amount taken as a credit under s. 220.195 which is deductible from gross income in the computation of taxable income for the taxable year.

7. That portion of assessments to fund a guaranty association incurred for the taxable year which is equal to the amount of the credit allowable for the taxable year.

8. In the case of a nonprofit corporation which holds a pari-mutuel permit and which is exempt from federal income tax as a farmers' cooperative, an amount equal to the excess of the gross income attributable to the pari-mutuel operations over the attributable expenses for the taxable year.

9. The amount taken as a credit for the taxable year under s. 220.1895.

10. Up to nine percent of the eligible basis of any designated project which is equal to the credit allowable for the taxable year under s. 220.185.

11. The amount taken as a credit for the taxable year under s. 220.1875. The addition in this subparagraph is intended to ensure that the same amount is not allowed for the tax purposes of this state as both a deduction from income and a credit against the tax. This addition is not intended to result in adding the same expense back to income more than once.

12. The amount taken as a credit for the taxable year under s. 220.192.

13. The amount taken as a credit for the taxable year under s. 220.193.

14. Any portion of a qualified investment, as defined in s. 288.9913, which is claimed as a deduction by the taxpayer and taken as a credit against income tax pursuant to s. 288.9916.

15. The costs to acquire a tax credit pursuant to s. 288.1254(5) that are deducted from or otherwise reduce federal taxable income for the taxable year.

16. The amount taken as a credit for the taxable year pursuant to s. 220.194.

17. The amount taken as a credit for the taxable year under s. 220.196. The addition in this subparagraph is intended to ensure that the same

amount is not allowed for the tax purposes of this state as both a deduction from income and a credit against the tax. The addition is not intended to result in adding the same expense back to income more than once.

Section 7. Subsection (1) of section 220.1875, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (4) is added to that section, to read:

220.1875 Credit for contributions to eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations.—

(1) There is allowed a credit of 100 percent of an eligible contribution made to an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization under s. 1002.395 against any tax due for a taxable year under this chapter after the application of any other allowable credits by the taxpayer. An eligible contribution must be made to an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization on or before the date the taxpayer is required to file a return pursuant to s. 220.222. The credit granted by this section shall be reduced by the difference between the amount of federal corporate income tax taking into account the credit granted by this section and the amount of federal corporate income tax without application of the credit granted by this section.

(4) If a taxpayer applies and is approved for a credit under s. 1002.395 after timely requesting an extension to file under s. 220.222(2):

(a) The credit does not reduce the amount of tax due for purposes of the department's determination as to whether the taxpayer was in compliance with the requirement to pay tentative taxes under ss. 220.222 and 220.32.

(b) The taxpayer's noncompliance with the requirement to pay tentative taxes shall result in the revocation and rescindment of any such credit.

(c) The taxpayer shall be assessed for any taxes, penalties, or interest due from the taxpayer's noncompliance with the requirement to pay tentative taxes.

Section 8. Subsections (4) and (5) of section 1001.10, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsection (8) is added to that section, to read:

1001.10 Commissioner of Education; general powers and duties.—

(4) The Department of Education shall provide technical assistance to school districts, charter schools, the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, and private schools that accept scholarship students who participate in a state scholarship program under chapter 1002 under s. 1002.39 or s. 1002.395 in the development of policies, procedures, and training related to employment practices and standards of ethical conduct for instructional personnel and school administrators, as defined in s. 1012.01.

(5) The Department of Education shall provide authorized staff of school districts, charter schools, the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, and

private schools that accept scholarship students who participate in a state scholarship program under chapter 1002 under s. 1002.39 or s. 1002.395 with access to electronic verification of information from the following employment screening tools:

- (a) The Professional Practices' Database of Disciplinary Actions Against Educators; and
- (b) The Department of Education's Teacher Certification Database.

This subsection does not require the department to provide these staff with unlimited access to the databases. However, the department shall provide the staff with access to the data necessary for performing employment history checks of the instructional personnel and school administrators included in the databases.

(8) In the event of an emergency situation, the commissioner may coordinate through the most appropriate means of communication with local school districts, Florida College System institutions, and satellite offices of the Division of Blind Services and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to assess the need for resources and assistance to enable each school, institution, or satellite office the ability to reopen as soon as possible after considering the health, safety, and welfare of students and clients.

Section 9. Paragraphs (d) through (g) of subsection (8) of section 1002.33, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (c) through (f), respectively, and paragraph (b) of subsection (6), paragraphs (a), (d), and (e) of subsection (7), present paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of subsection (8), paragraph (n) of subsection (9), paragraph (e) of subsection (10), and paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (20) of that section are amended, to read:

1002.33 Charter schools.—

(6) APPLICATION PROCESS AND REVIEW.—Charter school applications are subject to the following requirements:

- (b) A sponsor shall receive and review all applications for a charter school using the evaluation instrument developed by the Department of Education. A sponsor shall receive and consider charter school applications received on or before August 1 of each calendar year for charter schools to be opened at the beginning of the school district's next school year, or to be opened at a time agreed to by the applicant and the sponsor. A sponsor may not refuse to receive a charter school application submitted before August 1 and may receive an application submitted later than August 1 if it chooses. Beginning in 2018 and thereafter, a sponsor shall receive and consider charter school applications received on or before February 1 of each calendar year for charter schools to be opened 18 months later at the beginning of the school district's school year, or to be opened at a time determined agreed to by the applicant and the sponsor. A sponsor may not refuse to receive a charter school application submitted before February 1 and may receive an

application submitted later than February 1 if it chooses. A sponsor may not charge an applicant for a charter any fee for the processing or consideration of an application, and a sponsor may not base its consideration or approval of a final application upon the promise of future payment of any kind. Before approving or denying any application, the sponsor shall allow the applicant, upon receipt of written notification, at least 7 calendar days to make technical or nonsubstantive corrections and clarifications, including, but not limited to, corrections of grammatical, typographical, and like errors or missing signatures, if such errors are identified by the sponsor as cause to deny the final application.

1. In order to facilitate an accurate budget projection process, a sponsor shall be held harmless for FTE students who are not included in the FTE projection due to approval of charter school applications after the FTE projection deadline. In a further effort to facilitate an accurate budget projection, within 15 calendar days after receipt of a charter school application, a sponsor shall report to the Department of Education the name of the applicant entity, the proposed charter school location, and its projected FTE.

2. In order to ensure fiscal responsibility, an application for a charter school shall include a full accounting of expected assets, a projection of expected sources and amounts of income, including income derived from projected student enrollments and from community support, and an expense projection that includes full accounting of the costs of operation, including start-up costs.

3.a. A sponsor shall by a majority vote approve or deny an application no later than 90 calendar days after the application is received, unless the sponsor and the applicant mutually agree in writing to temporarily postpone the vote to a specific date, at which time the sponsor shall by a majority vote approve or deny the application. If the sponsor fails to act on the application, an applicant may appeal to the State Board of Education as provided in paragraph (c). If an application is denied, the sponsor shall, within 10 calendar days after such denial, articulate in writing the specific reasons, based upon good cause, supporting its denial of the application and shall provide the letter of denial and supporting documentation to the applicant and to the Department of Education.

b. An application submitted by a high-performing charter school identified pursuant to s. 1002.331 or a high-performing charter school system identified pursuant to s. 1002.332 may be denied by the sponsor only if the sponsor demonstrates by clear and convincing evidence that:

(I) The application of a high-performing charter school does not materially comply with the requirements in paragraph (a) or, for a high-performing charter school system, the application does not materially comply with s. 1002.332(2)(b);

(II) The charter school proposed in the application does not materially comply with the requirements in paragraphs (9)(a)-(f);

(III) The proposed charter school's educational program does not substantially replicate that of the applicant or one of the applicant's high-performing charter schools;

(IV) The applicant has made a material misrepresentation or false statement or concealed an essential or material fact during the application process; or

(V) The proposed charter school's educational program and financial management practices do not materially comply with the requirements of this section.

Material noncompliance is a failure to follow requirements or a violation of prohibitions applicable to charter school applications, which failure is quantitatively or qualitatively significant either individually or when aggregated with other noncompliance. An applicant is considered to be replicating a high-performing charter school if the proposed school is substantially similar to at least one of the applicant's high-performing charter schools and the organization or individuals involved in the establishment and operation of the proposed school are significantly involved in the operation of replicated schools.

c. If the sponsor denies an application submitted by a high-performing charter school or a high-performing charter school system, the sponsor must, within 10 calendar days after such denial, state in writing the specific reasons, based upon the criteria in sub-subparagraph b., supporting its denial of the application and must provide the letter of denial and supporting documentation to the applicant and to the Department of Education. The applicant may appeal the sponsor's denial of the application in accordance with paragraph (c).

4. For budget projection purposes, the sponsor shall report to the Department of Education the approval or denial of an application within 10 calendar days after such approval or denial. In the event of approval, the report to the Department of Education shall include the final projected FTE for the approved charter school.

5. Upon approval of an application, the initial startup shall commence with the beginning of the public school calendar for the district in which the charter is granted. A charter school may defer the opening of the school's operations for up to 3 ~~2~~ years to provide time for adequate facility planning. The charter school must provide written notice of such intent to the sponsor and the parents of enrolled students at least 30 calendar days before the first day of school.

(7) CHARTER.—The terms and conditions for the operation of a charter school shall be set forth by the sponsor and the applicant in a written

contractual agreement, called a charter. The sponsor and the governing board of the charter school shall use the standard charter contract pursuant to subsection (21), which shall incorporate the approved application and any addenda approved with the application. Any term or condition of a proposed charter contract that differs from the standard charter contract adopted by rule of the State Board of Education shall be presumed a limitation on charter school flexibility. The sponsor may not impose unreasonable rules or regulations that violate the intent of giving charter schools greater flexibility to meet educational goals. The charter shall be signed by the governing board of the charter school and the sponsor, following a public hearing to ensure community input.

(a) The charter shall address and criteria for approval of the charter shall be based on:

1. The school's mission, the students to be served, and the ages and grades to be included.

2. The focus of the curriculum, the instructional methods to be used, any distinctive instructional techniques to be employed, and identification and acquisition of appropriate technologies needed to improve educational and administrative performance which include a means for promoting safe, ethical, and appropriate uses of technology which comply with legal and professional standards.

a. The charter shall ensure that reading is a primary focus of the curriculum and that resources are provided to identify and provide specialized instruction for students who are reading below grade level. The curriculum and instructional strategies for reading must be consistent with the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards and grounded in scientifically based reading research.

b. In order to provide students with access to diverse instructional delivery models, to facilitate the integration of technology within traditional classroom instruction, and to provide students with the skills they need to compete in the 21st century economy, the Legislature encourages instructional methods for blended learning courses consisting of both traditional classroom and online instructional techniques. Charter schools may implement blended learning courses which combine traditional classroom instruction and virtual instruction. Students in a blended learning course must be full-time students of the charter school pursuant to s. 1011.61(1)(a) 1. Instructional personnel certified pursuant to s. 1012.55 who provide virtual instruction for blended learning courses may be employees of the charter school or may be under contract to provide instructional services to charter school students. At a minimum, such instructional personnel must hold an active state or school district adjunct certification under s. 1012.57 for the subject area of the blended learning course. The funding and performance accountability requirements for blended learning courses are the same as those for traditional courses.

3. The current incoming baseline standard of student academic achievement, the outcomes to be achieved, and the method of measurement that will be used. The criteria listed in this subparagraph shall include a detailed description of:

a. How the baseline student academic achievement levels and prior rates of academic progress will be established.

b. How these baseline rates will be compared to rates of academic progress achieved by these same students while attending the charter school.

c. To the extent possible, how these rates of progress will be evaluated and compared with rates of progress of other closely comparable student populations.

The district school board is required to provide academic student performance data to charter schools for each of their students coming from the district school system, as well as rates of academic progress of comparable student populations in the district school system.

4. The methods used to identify the educational strengths and needs of students and how well educational goals and performance standards are met by students attending the charter school. The methods shall provide a means for the charter school to ensure accountability to its constituents by analyzing student performance data and by evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of its major educational programs. Students in charter schools shall, at a minimum, participate in the statewide assessment program created under s. 1008.22.

5. In secondary charter schools, a method for determining that a student has satisfied the requirements for graduation in s. 1002.3105(5), s. 1003.4281, or s. 1003.4282.

6. A method for resolving conflicts between the governing board of the charter school and the sponsor.

7. The admissions procedures and dismissal procedures, including the school's code of student conduct. Admission or dismissal must not be based on a student's academic performance.

8. The ways by which the school will achieve a racial/ethnic balance reflective of the community it serves or within the racial/ethnic range of other public schools in the same school district.

9. The financial and administrative management of the school, including a reasonable demonstration of the professional experience or competence of those individuals or organizations applying to operate the charter school or those hired or retained to perform such professional services and the description of clearly delineated responsibilities and the policies and practices needed to effectively manage the charter school. A description of

internal audit procedures and establishment of controls to ensure that financial resources are properly managed must be included. Both public sector and private sector professional experience shall be equally valid in such a consideration.

10. The asset and liability projections required in the application which are incorporated into the charter and shall be compared with information provided in the annual report of the charter school.

11. A description of procedures that identify various risks and provide for a comprehensive approach to reduce the impact of losses; plans to ensure the safety and security of students and staff; plans to identify, minimize, and protect others from violent or disruptive student behavior; and the manner in which the school will be insured, including whether or not the school will be required to have liability insurance, and, if so, the terms and conditions thereof and the amounts of coverage.

12. The term of the charter which shall provide for cancellation of the charter if insufficient progress has been made in attaining the student achievement objectives of the charter and if it is not likely that such objectives can be achieved before expiration of the charter. **The initial term of a charter shall be for 4 or 5 years, excluding 2 planning years.** In order to facilitate access to long-term financial resources for charter school construction, charter schools that are operated by a municipality or other public entity as provided by law are eligible for up to a 15-year charter, subject to approval by the district school board. A charter lab school is eligible for a charter for a term of up to 15 years. In addition, to facilitate access to long-term financial resources for charter school construction, charter schools that are operated by a private, not-for-profit, s. 501(c)(3) status corporation are eligible for up to a 15-year charter, subject to approval by the district school board. Such long-term charters remain subject to annual review and may be terminated during the term of the charter, but only according to the provisions set forth in subsection (8).

13. The facilities to be used and their location. The sponsor may not require a charter school to have a certificate of occupancy or a temporary certificate of occupancy for such a facility earlier than 15 calendar days before the first day of school.

14. The qualifications to be required of the teachers and the potential strategies used to recruit, hire, train, and retain qualified staff to achieve best value.

15. The governance structure of the school, including the status of the charter school as a public or private employer as required in paragraph (12)(i).

16. A timetable for implementing the charter which addresses the implementation of each element thereof and the date by which the charter shall be awarded in order to meet this timetable.

17. In the case of an existing public school that is being converted to charter status, alternative arrangements for current students who choose not to attend the charter school and for current teachers who choose not to teach in the charter school after conversion in accordance with the existing collective bargaining agreement or district school board rule in the absence of a collective bargaining agreement. However, alternative arrangements shall not be required for current teachers who choose not to teach in a charter lab school, except as authorized by the employment policies of the state university which grants the charter to the lab school.

18. Full disclosure of the identity of all relatives employed by the charter school who are related to the charter school owner, president, chairperson of the governing board of directors, superintendent, governing board member, principal, assistant principal, or any other person employed by the charter school who has equivalent decisionmaking authority. For the purpose of this subparagraph, the term “relative” means father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, first cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half brother, or half sister.

19. Implementation of the activities authorized under s. 1002.331 by the charter school when it satisfies the eligibility requirements for a high-performing charter school. A high-performing charter school shall notify its sponsor in writing by March 1 if it intends to increase enrollment or expand grade levels the following school year. The written notice shall specify the amount of the enrollment increase and the grade levels that will be added, as applicable.

(d) A charter may be modified during its initial term or any renewal term upon the recommendation of the sponsor or the charter school’s governing board and the approval of both parties to the agreement. Modification during any term may include, but is not limited to, consolidation of multiple charters into a single charter if the charters are operated under the same governing board and ~~physically located on the same campus~~, regardless of the renewal cycle. A charter school that is not subject to a school improvement plan and that closes as part of a consolidation shall be reported by the school district as a consolidation.

(e) A charter may be terminated by a charter school’s governing board through voluntary closure. The decision to cease operations must be determined at a public meeting. The governing board shall notify the parents and sponsor of the public meeting in writing before the public meeting. The governing board must notify the sponsor, parents of enrolled students, and the department in writing within 24 hours after the public meeting of its determination. The notice shall state the charter school’s intent to continue operations or the reason for the closure and acknowledge that the governing board agrees to follow the procedures for dissolution and reversion of public funds pursuant to paragraphs (8)(d)-(f) and (9)(o) paragraphs (8)(e)-(g) and (9)(e).

(8) CAUSES FOR NONRENEWAL OR TERMINATION OF CHARTER.

(a) The sponsor shall make student academic achievement for all students the most important factor when determining whether to renew or terminate the charter. The sponsor may also choose not to renew or may terminate the charter if the sponsor finds that one of the grounds set forth below exists by clear and convincing evidence for any of the following grounds:

1. Failure to participate in the state's education accountability system created in s. 1008.31, as required in this section, or failure to meet the requirements for student performance stated in the charter.
2. Failure to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management.
3. Material violation of law.
4. Other good cause shown.

(b) At least 90 days before renewing, nonrenewing, or terminating a charter, the sponsor shall notify the governing board of the school of the proposed action in writing. The notice shall state in reasonable detail the grounds for the proposed action and stipulate that the school's governing board may, within 14 calendar days after receiving the notice, request a hearing. The hearing shall be conducted ~~at the sponsor's election in accordance with one of the following procedures:~~

~~1.— A direct hearing conducted by the sponsor within 60 days after receipt of the request for a hearing. The hearing shall be conducted in accordance with ss. 120.569 and 120.57. The sponsor shall decide upon nonrenewal or termination by a majority vote. The sponsor's decision shall be a final order; or~~

~~2.— A hearing conducted by an administrative law judge assigned by the Division of Administrative Hearings. The hearing shall be conducted within 90 60 days after receipt of the request for a hearing and in accordance with chapter 120. The administrative law judge's final recommended order shall be submitted to the sponsor. The administrative law judge shall award the prevailing party reasonable attorney fees and costs incurred during the administrative proceeding and any appeals. A majority vote by the sponsor shall be required to adopt or modify the administrative law judge's recommended order. The sponsor shall issue a final order.~~

~~(c) The final order shall state the specific reasons for the sponsor's decision. The sponsor shall provide its final order to the charter school's governing board and the Department of Education no later than 10 calendar days after its issuance. The charter school's governing board may, within 30 calendar days after receiving the sponsor's final order, appeal the decision pursuant to s. 120.68.~~

(9) CHARTER SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS.—

(n)1. The director and a representative of the governing board of a charter school that has earned a grade of “D” or “F” pursuant to s. 1008.34 shall appear before the sponsor to present information concerning each contract component having noted deficiencies. The director and a representative of the governing board shall submit to the sponsor for approval a school improvement plan to raise student performance. Upon approval by the sponsor, the charter school shall begin implementation of the school improvement plan. The department shall offer technical assistance and training to the charter school and its governing board and establish guidelines for developing, submitting, and approving such plans.

2.a. If a charter school earns three consecutive grades below a “C,” the charter school governing board shall choose one of the following corrective actions:

(I) Contract for educational services to be provided directly to students, instructional personnel, and school administrators, as prescribed in state board rule;

(II) Contract with an outside entity that has a demonstrated record of effectiveness to operate the school;

(III) Reorganize the school under a new director or principal who is authorized to hire new staff; or

(IV) Voluntarily close the charter school.

b. The charter school must implement the corrective action in the school year following receipt of a third consecutive grade below a “C.”

c. The sponsor may annually waive a corrective action if it determines that the charter school is likely to improve a letter grade if additional time is provided to implement the intervention and support strategies prescribed by the school improvement plan. Notwithstanding this sub-subparagraph, a charter school that earns a second consecutive grade of “F” is subject to subparagraph 3.

d. A charter school is no longer required to implement a corrective action if it improves to a “C” or higher. However, the charter school must continue to implement strategies identified in the school improvement plan. The sponsor must annually review implementation of the school improvement plan to monitor the school’s continued improvement pursuant to subparagraph 4.

e. A charter school implementing a corrective action that does not improve to a “C” or higher after 2 full school years of implementing the corrective action must select a different corrective action. Implementation of the new corrective action must begin in the school year following the implementation period of the existing corrective action, unless the sponsor determines that the charter school is likely to improve to a “C” or higher if additional time is provided to implement the existing corrective action.

Notwithstanding this sub-subparagraph, a charter school that earns a second consecutive grade of “F” while implementing a corrective action is subject to subparagraph 3.

3. A charter school’s charter contract is automatically terminated if the school earns two consecutive grades of “F” after all school grade appeals are final unless:

a. The charter school is established to turn around the performance of a district public school pursuant to s. 1008.33(4)(b)2. Such charter schools shall be governed by s. 1008.33;

b. The charter school serves a student population the majority of which resides in a school zone served by a district public school subject to s. 1008.33(4) and the charter school earns at least a grade of “D” in its third year of operation. The exception provided under this sub-subparagraph does not apply to a charter school in its fourth year of operation and thereafter; or

c. The state board grants the charter school a waiver of termination. The charter school must request the waiver within 15 days after the department’s official release of school grades. The state board may waive termination if the charter school demonstrates that the Learning Gains of its students on statewide assessments are comparable to or better than the Learning Gains of similarly situated students enrolled in nearby district public schools. The waiver is valid for 1 year and may only be granted once. Charter schools that have been in operation for more than 5 years are not eligible for a waiver under this sub-subparagraph.

The sponsor shall notify the charter school’s governing board, the charter school principal, and the department in writing when a charter contract is terminated under this subparagraph. ~~The letter of termination must meet the requirements of paragraph (8)(c).~~ A charter terminated under this subparagraph must follow the procedures for dissolution and reversion of public funds pursuant to paragraphs (8)(d)-(f) and (9)(o) ~~paragraphs (8)(e)-(g) and (9)(e).~~

4. The director and a representative of the governing board of a graded charter school that has implemented a school improvement plan under this paragraph shall appear before the sponsor at least once a year to present information regarding the progress of intervention and support strategies implemented by the school pursuant to the school improvement plan and corrective actions, if applicable. The sponsor shall communicate at the meeting, and in writing to the director, the services provided to the school to help the school address its deficiencies.

5. Notwithstanding any provision of this paragraph except sub-subparagraphs 3.a.-c., the sponsor may terminate the charter at any time pursuant to subsection (8).

(10) ELIGIBLE STUDENTS.—

(e) A charter school may limit the enrollment process only to target the following student populations:

1. Students within specific age groups or grade levels.
2. Students considered at risk of dropping out of school or academic failure. Such students shall include exceptional education students.
3. Students enrolling in a charter school-in-the-workplace or charter school-in-a-municipality established pursuant to subsection (15).
4. Students residing within a reasonable distance of the charter school, as described in paragraph (20)(c). Such students shall be subject to a random lottery and to the racial/ethnic balance provisions described in subparagraph (7)(a)8. or any federal provisions that require a school to achieve a racial/ethnic balance reflective of the community it serves or within the racial/ethnic range of other public schools in the same school district.
5. Students who meet reasonable academic, artistic, or other eligibility standards established by the charter school and included in the charter school application and charter or, in the case of existing charter schools, standards that are consistent with the school's mission and purpose. Such standards shall be in accordance with current state law and practice in public schools and may not discriminate against otherwise qualified individuals.
6. Students articulating from one charter school to another pursuant to an articulation agreement between the charter schools that has been approved by the sponsor.
7. Students living in a development in which a business entity provides the school facility and related property having an appraised value of at least \$5 ~~10~~ million to be used as a charter school to mitigate the educational impact created by ~~for~~ the development of new residential dwelling units. Students living in the development shall be entitled to no more than 50 percent of the student stations in the charter school. The students who are eligible for enrollment are subject to a random lottery, the racial/ethnic balance provisions, or any federal provisions, as described in subparagraph 4. The remainder of the student stations shall be filled in accordance with subparagraph 4.

(20) SERVICES.—

(a)1. A sponsor shall provide certain administrative and educational services to charter schools. These services shall include contract management services; full-time equivalent and data reporting services; exceptional student education administration services; services related to eligibility and reporting duties required to ensure that school lunch services under the National School Lunch Program, consistent with the needs of the charter school, are provided by the school district at the request of the charter school, that any funds due to the charter school under the National School Lunch

Program be paid to the charter school as soon as the charter school begins serving food under the National School Lunch Program, and that the charter school is paid at the same time and in the same manner under the National School Lunch Program as other public schools serviced by the sponsor or the school district; test administration services, including payment of the costs of state-required or district-required student assessments; processing of teacher certificate data services; and information services, including equal access to student information systems that are used by public schools in the district in which the charter school is located. Student performance data for each student in a charter school, including, but not limited to, FCAT scores, standardized test scores, previous public school student report cards, and student performance measures, shall be provided by the sponsor to a charter school in the same manner provided to other public schools in the district.

2. A sponsor may withhold an administrative fee for the provision of such services which shall be a percentage of the available funds defined in paragraph (17)(b) calculated based on weighted full-time equivalent students. If the charter school serves 75 percent or more exceptional education students as defined in s. 1003.01(3), the percentage shall be calculated based on unweighted full-time equivalent students. The administrative fee shall be calculated as follows:

a. Up to 5 percent for:

(I) Enrollment of up to and including 250 students in a charter school as defined in this section.

(II) Enrollment of up to and including 500 students within a charter school system which meets all of the following:

(A) Includes conversion charter schools and nonconversion charter schools.

(B) Has all of its schools located in the same county.

(C) Has a total enrollment exceeding the total enrollment of at least one school district in the state.

(D) Has the same governing board for all of its schools.

(E) Does not contract with a for-profit service provider for management of school operations.

(III) Enrollment of up to and including 250 students in a virtual charter school.

b. Up to 2 percent for enrollment of up to and including 250 students in a high-performing charter school as defined in s. 1002.331.

3. A sponsor may not charge charter schools any additional fees or surcharges for administrative and educational services in addition to the

maximum percentage of administrative fees withheld pursuant to this paragraph.

4. A sponsor shall provide to the department by September 15 of each year the total amount of funding withheld from charter schools pursuant to this subsection for the prior fiscal year. The department must include the information in the report required under sub-sub-subparagraph (5)(b) 1.k.III.

(b) If goods and services are made available to the charter school through the contract with the school district, they shall be provided to the charter school at a rate no greater than the district’s actual cost unless mutually agreed upon by the charter school and the sponsor in a contract negotiated separately from the charter. When mediation has failed to resolve disputes over contracted services or contractual matters not included in the charter, an appeal may be made to an administrative law judge appointed by the Division of Administrative Hearings. The administrative law judge has final order authority to rule on the dispute. The administrative law judge shall award the prevailing party reasonable attorney fees and costs incurred during the mediation process, administrative proceeding, and any appeals, to be paid by the party whom the administrative law judge rules against for a dispute resolution hearing before the Charter School Appeal Commission. To maximize the use of state funds, school districts shall allow charter schools to participate in the sponsor’s bulk purchasing program if applicable.

Section 10. Subsection (1), paragraph (a) of subsection (2), and paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section 1002.331, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1002.331 High-performing charter schools.—

(1) A charter school is a high-performing charter school if it:

(a) Received at least two school grades of “A” and no school grade below “B,” pursuant to s. 1008.34, during each of the previous 3 school years or received at least two consecutive school grades of “A” in the most recent 2 school years.

(b) Received an unqualified opinion on each annual financial audit required under s. 218.39 in the most recent 3 fiscal years for which such audits are available.

(c) Did not receive a financial audit that revealed one or more of the financial emergency conditions set forth in s. 218.503(1) in the most recent 3 fiscal years for which such audits are available. However, this requirement is deemed met for a charter school-in-the-workplace if there is a finding in an audit that the school has the monetary resources available to cover any reported deficiency or that the deficiency does not result in a deteriorating financial condition pursuant to s. 1002.345(1)(a)3.

For purposes of determining initial eligibility, the requirements of paragraphs (b) and (c) only apply for the most recent 2 fiscal years if the charter school earns two consecutive grades of “A.” A virtual charter school established under s. 1002.33 is not eligible for designation as a high-performing charter school.

(2) A high-performing charter school is authorized to:

(a) Increase its student enrollment once per school year to more than the capacity identified in the charter, but student enrollment may not exceed the current facility capacity of the facility at the time the enrollment increase will take effect. Facility capacity for purposes of grade level expansion shall include any improvements to an existing facility or any new facility in which a majority of the students of the high-performing charter school will enroll.

A high-performing charter school shall notify its sponsor in writing by March 1 if it intends to increase enrollment or expand grade levels the following school year. The written notice shall specify the amount of the enrollment increase and the grade levels that will be added, as applicable. If a charter school notifies the sponsor of its intent to expand, the sponsor shall modify the charter within 90 days to include the new enrollment maximum and may not make any other changes. The sponsor may deny a request to increase the enrollment of a high-performing charter school if the commissioner has declassified the charter school as high-performing. If a high-performing charter school requests to consolidate multiple charters, the sponsor shall have 40 days after receipt of that request to provide an initial draft charter to the charter school. The sponsor and charter school shall have 50 days thereafter to negotiate and notice the charter contract for final approval by the sponsor.

(3)

(b) A high-performing charter school may not establish more than two ~~one~~ charter schools ~~school~~ within the state under paragraph (a) in any year. A subsequent application to establish a charter school under paragraph (a) may not be submitted unless each charter school established in this manner achieves high-performing charter school status. However, a high-performing charter school may establish more than one charter school within the state under paragraph (a) in any year if it operates in the area of a persistently low-performing school and serves students from that school.

Section 11. Paragraph (d) is added to subsection (10) of section 1002.333, Florida Statutes, to read:

1002.333 Persistently low-performing schools.—

(10) SCHOOLS OF HOPE PROGRAM.—The Schools of Hope Program is created within the Department of Education.

(d) Notwithstanding s. 216.301 and pursuant to s. 216.351, funds allocated for the purpose of this subsection which are not disbursed by

June 30 of the fiscal year in which the funds are allocated may be carried forward for up to 5 years after the effective date of the original appropriation.

Section 12. Present paragraph (c) of subsection (9) of section 1002.37, Florida Statutes, is amended, and a new paragraph (c) is added to subsection (9) of that section, to read:

1002.37 The Florida Virtual School.—

(9)

(c) Industry certification examinations, national assessments, and statewide assessments offered by the school district shall be available to all Florida Virtual School students.

(d)(e) Unless an alternative testing site is mutually agreed to by the Florida Virtual School and the school district or as contracted under s. 1008.24, all industry certification examinations, national assessments, and statewide assessments must be taken at the school to which the student would be assigned according to district school board attendance areas. A school district must provide the student with access to the school's testing facilities and the date and time of the administration of each examination or assessment.

Section 13. Paragraph (e) of subsection (2), paragraphs (d) and (h) of subsection (5), subsection (8), paragraph (c) of subsection (9), paragraph (a) of subsection (10), and paragraph (a) of subsection (11) of section 1002.385, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph (p) is added to subsection (5) of that section, to read:

1002.385 The Gardiner Scholarship.—

(2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

(e) “Eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization” or “organization” means a nonprofit scholarship-funding organization that is approved pursuant to s. 1002.395(15) ~~s. 1002.395(16)~~.

(5) **AUTHORIZED USES OF PROGRAM FUNDS.**—Program funds must be used to meet the individual educational needs of an eligible student and may be spent for the following purposes:

(d) Enrollment in, or Tuition or fees associated with full-time or part-time enrollment in, a home education program, an eligible private school, an eligible postsecondary educational institution or a program offered by the postsecondary institution, a private tutoring program authorized under s. 1002.43, a virtual program offered by a department-approved private online provider that meets the provider qualifications specified in s. 1002.45(2)(a), the Florida Virtual School as a private paying student, or an approved online course offered pursuant to s. 1003.499 or s. 1004.0961.

(h) Tuition and fees for part-time tutoring services provided by a person who holds a valid Florida educator's certificate pursuant to s. 1012.56; a person who holds an adjunct teaching certificate pursuant to s. 1012.57; a person who has a bachelor's degree or a graduate degree in the subject area in which instruction is given; or a person who has demonstrated a mastery of subject area knowledge pursuant to s. 1012.56(5). As used in this paragraph, the term "part-time tutoring services" does not qualify as regular school attendance as defined in s. 1003.01(13)(e).

(p) Tuition or fees associated with enrollment in a nationally or internationally recognized research-based training program for a child with a neurological disorder or brain damage.

A provider of any services receiving payments pursuant to this subsection may not share, refund, or rebate any moneys from the Gardiner Scholarship with the parent or participating student in any manner. A parent, student, or provider of any services may not bill an insurance company, Medicaid, or any other agency for the same services that are paid for using Gardiner Scholarship funds.

(8) PRIVATE SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY AND OBLIGATIONS.—An eligible private school may be sectarian or nonsectarian and shall:

(a) Comply with all requirements for private schools participating in state school choice scholarship programs pursuant to s. 1002.421.

~~(b) Provide to the organization, upon request, all documentation required for the student's participation, including the private school's and student's fee schedules.~~

~~(c) Be academically accountable to the parent for meeting the educational needs of the student by:~~

~~1. At a minimum, annually providing to the parent a written explanation of the student's progress.~~

(b)1.2. Annually administer or make administering or making provision for students participating in the program in grades 3 through 10 to take one of the nationally norm-referenced tests identified by the Department of Education or the statewide assessments pursuant to s. 1008.22. Students with disabilities for whom standardized testing is not appropriate are exempt from this requirement. A participating private school shall report a student's scores to the parent.

~~2.3. Administer~~ Cooperating with the scholarship student whose parent chooses to have the student participate in the statewide assessments pursuant to s. 1008.22 ~~or, if a private school chooses to offer the statewide assessments, administering the assessments at the school.~~

a. A participating private school may choose to offer and administer the statewide assessments to all students who attend the private school in grades 3 through 10 and must.

~~b. A participating private school shall submit a request in writing to the Department of Education by March 1 of each year in order to administer the statewide assessments in the subsequent school year.~~

~~(d) Employ or contract with teachers who have regular and direct contact with each student receiving a scholarship under this section at the school's physical location.~~

~~(e) Provide a report from an independent certified public accountant who performs the agreed-upon procedures developed under s. 1002.395(6)(o) if the private school receives more than \$250,000 in funds from scholarships awarded under this section in a state fiscal year. A private school subject to this paragraph must annually submit the report by September 15 to the organization that awarded the majority of the school's scholarship funds. The agreed-upon procedures must be conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.~~

If a private school fails is unable to meet the requirements of this subsection or s. 1002.421 or has consecutive years of material exceptions listed in the report required under paragraph (e), the commissioner may determine that the private school is ineligible to participate in the scholarship program.

(9) DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OBLIGATIONS.—The department shall:

(c) Investigate any written complaint of a violation of this section by a parent, a student, a private school, a public school or a school district, an organization, a provider, or another appropriate party in accordance with the process established by s. 1002.421 ~~s. 1002.395(9)(f)~~.

(10) COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION AUTHORITY AND OBLIGATIONS.—

(a) The Commissioner of Education:

1. May suspend or revoke program participation or use of program funds by the student or participation or eligibility of an organization, ~~eligible private school~~, eligible postsecondary educational institution, approved provider, or other party for a violation of this section.

2. May determine the length of, and conditions for lifting, a suspension or revocation specified in this subsection.

3. May recover unexpended program funds or withhold payment of an equal amount of program funds to recover program funds that were not authorized for use.

4. Shall deny or terminate program participation upon a parent's forfeiture of a Gardiner Scholarship pursuant to subsection (11).

(11) PARENT AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PROGRAM PARTICIPATION.—A parent who applies for program participation under this section is exercising his or her parental option to determine the appropriate placement or the services that best meet the needs of his or her child. The scholarship award for a student is based on a matrix that assigns the student to support Level III services. If a parent receives an IEP and a matrix of services from the school district pursuant to subsection (7), the amount of the payment shall be adjusted as needed, when the school district completes the matrix.

(a) To satisfy or maintain program eligibility, including eligibility to receive and spend program payments, the parent must sign an agreement with the organization and annually submit a notarized, sworn compliance statement to the organization to:

1. Affirm that the student is enrolled in a program that meets regular school attendance requirements as provided in s. 1003.01(13)(b)-(d).

2. Affirm that the program funds are used only for authorized purposes serving the student's educational needs, as described in subsection (5).

3. Affirm that the parent is responsible for the education of his or her student by, as applicable:

a. Requiring the student to take an assessment in accordance with paragraph (8)(b) ~~paragraph (8)(e)~~;

b. Providing an annual evaluation in accordance with s. 1002.41(1)(c); or

c. Requiring the child to take any preassessments and postassessments selected by the provider if the child is 4 years of age and is enrolled in a program provided by an eligible Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program provider. A student with disabilities for whom a preassessment and postassessment is not appropriate is exempt from this requirement. A participating provider shall report a student's scores to the parent.

4. Affirm that the student remains in good standing with the provider or school if those options are selected by the parent.

A parent who fails to comply with this subsection forfeits the Gardiner Scholarship.

Section 14. Subsections (8) through (14) of section 1002.39, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (7) through (13), respectively, and paragraph (b) of subsection (2), paragraph (h) of subsection (3), and present subsections (6), (7), and (8) of that section are amended, to read:

1002.39 The John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program.—There is established a program that is separate and distinct from the Opportunity Scholarship Program and is named the John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program.

(2) JOHN M. MCKAY SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY.—The parent of a student with a disability may request and receive from the state a John M. McKay Scholarship for the child to enroll in and attend a private school in accordance with this section if:

(b) The parent has obtained acceptance for admission of the student to a private school that is eligible for the program under subsection (7) ~~subsection (8)~~ and has requested from the department a scholarship at least 60 days before the date of the first scholarship payment. The request must be communicated directly to the department in a manner that creates a written or electronic record of the request and the date of receipt of the request. The department must notify the district of the parent's intent upon receipt of the parent's request.

(3) JOHN M. MCKAY SCHOLARSHIP PROHIBITIONS.—A student is not eligible for a John M. McKay Scholarship:

(h) While he or she is not having regular and direct contact with his or her private school teachers at the school's physical location unless he or she is enrolled in the private school's transition-to-work program pursuant to subsection (9) ~~subsection (10)~~; or

(6) DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OBLIGATIONS.—The department shall:

~~(a) Establish a toll-free hotline that provides parents and private schools with information on participation in the John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program.~~

~~(b) Annually verify the eligibility of private schools that meet the requirements of subsection (8).~~

~~(c) Establish a process by which individuals may notify the department of any violation by a parent, private school, or school district of state laws relating to program participation. The department shall conduct an inquiry of any written complaint of a violation of this section, or make a referral to the appropriate agency for an investigation, if the complaint is signed by the complainant and is legally sufficient. A complaint is legally sufficient if it contains ultimate facts that show that a violation of this section or any rule adopted by the State Board of Education has occurred. In order to determine legal sufficiency, the department may require supporting information or documentation from the complainant. A department inquiry is not subject to the requirements of chapter 120.~~

~~(d) Require an annual, notarized, sworn compliance statement by participating private schools certifying compliance with state laws and shall retain such records.~~

(e) cross-check the list of participating scholarship students with the public school enrollment lists prior to each scholarship payment to avoid duplication.

~~(f)1. Conduct random site visits to private schools participating in the John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program. The purpose of the site visits is solely to verify the information reported by the schools concerning the enrollment and attendance of students, the credentials of teachers, background screening of teachers, and teachers' fingerprinting results, which information is required by rules of the State Board of Education, subsection (8), and s. 1002.421. The Department of Education may not make more than three random site visits each year and may not make more than one random site visit each year to the same private school.~~

~~2. Annually, by December 15, report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives the Department of Education's actions with respect to implementing accountability in the scholarship program under this section and s. 1002.421, any substantiated allegations or violations of law or rule by an eligible private school under this program concerning the enrollment and attendance of students, the credentials of teachers, background screening of teachers, and teachers' fingerprinting results and the corrective action taken by the Department of Education.~~

~~(7) COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION AUTHORITY AND OBLIGATIONS.—~~

~~(a) The Commissioner of Education:~~

~~1. Shall deny, suspend, or revoke a private school's participation in the scholarship program if it is determined that the private school has failed to comply with the provisions of this section. However, if the noncompliance is correctable within a reasonable amount of time and if the health, safety, or welfare of the students is not threatened, the commissioner may issue a notice of noncompliance which provides the private school with a timeframe within which to provide evidence of compliance before taking action to suspend or revoke the private school's participation in the scholarship program.~~

~~2. May deny, suspend, or revoke a private school's participation in the scholarship program if the commissioner determines that an owner or operator of the private school is operating or has operated an educational institution in this state or in another state or jurisdiction in a manner contrary to the health, safety, or welfare of the public.~~

~~a.— In making such a determination, the commissioner may consider factors that include, but are not limited to, acts or omissions by an owner or operator which led to a previous denial or revocation of participation in an education scholarship program; an owner’s or operator’s failure to reimburse the Department of Education for scholarship funds improperly received or retained by a school; imposition of a prior criminal sanction related to an owner’s or operator’s management or operation of an educational institution; imposition of a civil fine or administrative fine, license revocation or suspension, or program eligibility suspension, termination, or revocation related to an owner’s or operator’s management or operation of an educational institution; or other types of criminal proceedings in which an owner or operator was found guilty of, regardless of adjudication, or entered a plea of nolo contendere or guilty to, any offense involving fraud, deceit, dishonesty, or moral turpitude.~~

~~b.— For purposes of this subparagraph, the term “owner or operator” includes an owner, operator, superintendent, or principal of, or a person who has equivalent decisionmaking authority over, a private school participating in the scholarship program.~~

~~(b)—The commissioner’s determination is subject to the following:~~

~~1.— If the commissioner intends to deny, suspend, or revoke a private school’s participation in the scholarship program, the department shall notify the private school of such proposed action in writing by certified mail and regular mail to the private school’s address of record with the department. The notification shall include the reasons for the proposed action and notice of the timelines and procedures set forth in this paragraph.~~

~~2.— The private school that is adversely affected by the proposed action shall have 15 days from receipt of the notice of proposed action to file with the department’s agency clerk a request for a proceeding pursuant to ss. 120.569 and 120.57. If the private school is entitled to a hearing under s. 120.57(1), the department shall forward the request to the Division of Administrative Hearings.~~

~~3.— Upon receipt of a request referred pursuant to this paragraph, the director of the Division of Administrative Hearings shall expedite the hearing and assign an administrative law judge who shall commence a hearing within 30 days after the receipt of the formal written request by the division and enter a recommended order within 30 days after the hearing or within 30 days after receipt of the hearing transcript, whichever is later. Each party shall be allowed 10 days in which to submit written exceptions to the recommended order. A final order shall be entered by the agency within 30 days after the entry of a recommended order. The provisions of this subparagraph may be waived upon stipulation by all parties.~~

~~(c)—The commissioner may immediately suspend payment of scholarship funds if it is determined that there is probable cause to believe that there is:~~

- 1.—An imminent threat to the health, safety, or welfare of the students; or
- 2.—Fraudulent activity on the part of the private school. Notwithstanding s. 1002.22, in incidents of alleged fraudulent activity pursuant to this section, the Department of Education’s Office of Inspector General is authorized to release personally identifiable records or reports of students to the following persons or organizations:
 - a.—A court of competent jurisdiction in compliance with an order of that court or the attorney of record in accordance with a lawfully issued subpoena, consistent with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g.
 - b.—A person or entity authorized by a court of competent jurisdiction in compliance with an order of that court or the attorney of record pursuant to a lawfully issued subpoena, consistent with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g.
 - c.—Any person, entity, or authority issuing a subpoena for law enforcement purposes when the court or other issuing agency has ordered that the existence or the contents of the subpoena or the information furnished in response to the subpoena not be disclosed, consistent with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g, and 34 C.F.R. s. 99.31.

The commissioner’s order suspending payment pursuant to this paragraph may be appealed pursuant to the same procedures and timelines as the notice of proposed action set forth in paragraph (b).

~~(7)~~(8) PRIVATE SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY AND OBLIGATIONS.—To be eligible to participate in the John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program, a private school may be sectarian or nonsectarian and must:

- (a) Comply with all requirements for private schools participating in state school choice scholarship programs pursuant to s. 1002.421.
- (b) Provide to the department all documentation required for a student’s participation, including the private school’s and student’s fee schedules, at least 30 days before any quarterly scholarship payment is made for the student pursuant to paragraph (10)(e) ~~paragraph (11)(e)~~. A student is not eligible to receive a quarterly scholarship payment if the private school fails to meet this deadline.
- ~~(c) Be academically accountable to the parent for meeting the educational needs of the student by:~~

- 1.—At a minimum, annually providing to the parent a written explanation of the student’s progress.

~~2.—Cooperating with the scholarship student whose parent chooses to participate in the statewide assessments pursuant to s. 1008.22.~~

~~(d) Maintain in this state a physical location where a scholarship student regularly attends classes.~~

~~If The inability of a private school fails to meet the requirements of this subsection or s. 1002.421, the commissioner may determine that the private school is ineligible shall constitute a basis for the ineligibility of the private school to participate in the scholarship program as determined by the department.~~

Section 15. Present subsections (12) through (16) of section 1002.395, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (11) through (15), respectively, and paragraphs (f) and (j) of subsection (2), paragraphs (b), (c), (f), and (g) of subsection (5), paragraphs (n), (o), and (p) of subsection (6), subsections (8) and (9), and present subsection (11) of that section are amended, to read:

1002.395 Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program.—

(2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

(f) **“Eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization”** means a state university; or an independent college or university that is eligible to participate in the **William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant Program,** located and chartered in this state, is not for profit, and is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; or is a charitable organization that:

- 1. Is exempt from federal income tax pursuant to s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code;
- 2. Is a Florida entity formed under chapter 605, chapter 607, or chapter 617 and whose principal office is located in the state; and
- 3. Complies with subsections (6) and (15) ~~subsections (6) and (16)~~.

(j) “Tax credit cap amount” means the maximum annual tax credit amount that the department may approve for ~~in~~ a state fiscal year.

(5) SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING TAX CREDITS; LIMITATIONS.—

(b) A taxpayer may submit an application to the department for a tax credit or credits under one or more of s. 211.0251, s. 212.1831, s. 220.1875, s. 561.1211, or s. 624.51055.

- 1. The taxpayer shall specify in the application each tax for which the taxpayer requests a credit and the applicable taxable year for a credit under s. 220.1875 or s. 624.51055 or the applicable state fiscal year for a credit under s. 211.0251, s. 212.1831, or s. 561.1211. **For purposes of s. 220.1875, a taxpayer may apply for a credit to be used for a prior taxable year before the**

date the taxpayer is required to file a return for that year pursuant to s. 220.222. The department shall approve tax credits on a first-come, first-served basis and must obtain the division's approval before approving a tax credit under s. 561.1211.

2. Within 10 days after approving or denying an application, the department shall provide a copy of its approval or denial letter to the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization specified by the taxpayer in the application.

(c) If a tax credit approved under paragraph (b) is not fully used within the specified state fiscal year for credits under s. 211.0251, s. 212.1831, or s. 561.1211 or against taxes due for the specified taxable year for credits under s. 220.1875 or s. 624.51055 because of insufficient tax liability on the part of the taxpayer, the unused amount shall ~~may~~ be carried forward for a period not to exceed 10 ~~5~~ years. For purposes of s. 220.1875, a credit carried forward may be used in a subsequent year after applying the other credits and unused carryovers in the order provided in s. 220.02(8). ~~However, any taxpayer that seeks to carry forward an unused amount of tax credit must submit an application to the department for approval of the carryforward tax credit in the year that the taxpayer intends to use the carryforward. The department must obtain the division's approval prior to approving the carryforward of a tax credit under s. 561.1211.~~

(f) ~~Within 10 days after approving or denying an application for a carryforward tax credit under paragraph (e), the conveyance, transfer, or assignment of a tax credit under paragraph (d), or the rescindment of a tax credit under paragraph (e), the department shall provide a copy of its approval or denial letter to the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization specified by the taxpayer. The department shall also include the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization specified by the taxpayer on all letters or correspondence of acknowledgment for tax credits under s. 212.1831.~~

(g) For purposes of calculating the underpayment of estimated corporate income taxes pursuant to s. 220.34 and tax installment payments for taxes on insurance premiums or assessments under s. 624.5092, the final amount due is the amount after credits earned under s. 220.1875 or s. 624.51055 for contributions to eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations are deducted.

1. For purposes of determining if a penalty or interest shall be imposed for underpayment of estimated corporate income tax pursuant to s. 220.34(2)(d)1., a taxpayer may, after earning a credit under s. 220.1875, reduce any ~~the following~~ estimated payment in that taxable year by the amount of the credit. This subparagraph applies to contributions made on or after July 1, 2014.

2. For purposes of determining if a penalty under s. 624.5092 shall be imposed, an insurer may, after earning a credit under s. 624.51055, reduce

the following installment payment of 27 percent of the amount of the net tax due as reported on the return for the preceding year under s. 624.5092(2)(b) by the amount of the credit. This subparagraph applies to contributions made on or after July 1, 2014.

(6) OBLIGATIONS OF ELIGIBLE NONPROFIT SCHOLARSHIP-FUNDING ORGANIZATIONS.—An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization:

(n) Must prepare and submit quarterly reports to the Department of Education pursuant to ~~paragraph (9)(i)~~ paragraph (9)(m). In addition, an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization must submit in a timely manner any information requested by the Department of Education relating to the scholarship program.

(o)1.a. ~~Must participate in the joint development of agreed-upon procedures to be performed by an independent certified public accountant as required under paragraph (8)(e) if the scholarship-funding organization provided more than \$250,000 in scholarship funds to an eligible private school under this section during the 2009-2010 state fiscal year. The agreed-upon procedures must uniformly apply to all private schools and must determine, at a minimum, whether the private school has been verified as eligible by the Department of Education under s. 1002.421 paragraph (9)(e); has an adequate accounting system, system of financial controls, and process for deposit and classification of scholarship funds; and has properly expended scholarship funds for education-related expenses. During the development of the procedures, the participating scholarship-funding organizations shall specify guidelines governing the materiality of exceptions that may be found during the accountant's performance of the procedures. The procedures and guidelines shall be provided to private schools and the Commissioner of Education by March 15, 2011.~~

b. ~~Must participate in a joint review of the agreed-upon procedures and guidelines developed under sub-subparagraph a., by February of each biennium 2013 and biennially thereafter, if the scholarship-funding organization provided more than \$250,000 in scholarship funds to an eligible private school under this chapter section during the state fiscal year preceding the biennial review. If the procedures and guidelines are revised, the revisions must be provided to private schools and the Commissioner of Education by March 15 of the year in which the revisions were completed. The revised agreed-upon procedures shall take effect the subsequent school year. For the 2018-2019 school year only, the joint review of the agreed-upon procedures must be completed and the revisions submitted to the commissioner no later than September 15, 2018. The revised procedures are applicable to the 2018-2019 school year, 2013, and biennially thereafter.~~

c. ~~Must monitor the compliance of a private school with s. 1002.421(1)(q) paragraph (8)(e) if the scholarship-funding organization provided the majority of the scholarship funding to the school. For each private school subject to s. 1002.421(1)(q) paragraph (8)(e), the appropriate scholarship-~~

funding organization shall annually notify the Commissioner of Education by October 30, 2011, and annually thereafter of:

(I) A private school's failure to submit a report required under s. 1002.421(1)(q) ~~paragraph (8)(e)~~; or

(II) Any material exceptions set forth in the report required under s. 1002.421(1)(q) ~~paragraph (8)(e)~~.

2. Must seek input from the accrediting associations that are members of the Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic Schools and the Department of Education when jointly developing the agreed-upon procedures and guidelines under sub-subparagraph 1.a. and conducting a review of those procedures and guidelines under sub-subparagraph 1.b.

(p) Must maintain the surety bond or letter of credit required by ~~subsection (15) subsection (16)~~. The amount of the surety bond or letter of credit may be adjusted quarterly to equal the actual amount of undisbursed funds based upon submission by the organization of a statement from a certified public accountant verifying the amount of undisbursed funds. The requirements of this paragraph are waived if the cost of acquiring a surety bond or letter of credit exceeds the average 10-year cost of acquiring a surety bond or letter of credit by 200 percent. The requirements of this paragraph are waived for a state university; or an independent college or university which is eligible to participate in the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant Program, located and chartered in this state, is not for profit, and is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Information and documentation provided to the Department of Education and the Auditor General relating to the identity of a taxpayer that provides an eligible contribution under this section shall remain confidential at all times in accordance with s. 213.053.

(8) PRIVATE SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY AND OBLIGATIONS.—An eligible private school may be sectarian or nonsectarian and must:

(a) Comply with all requirements for private schools participating in state school choice scholarship programs pursuant to s. 1002.421.

~~(b) Provide to the eligible nonprofit scholarship funding organization, upon request, all documentation required for the student's participation, including the private school's and student's fee schedules.~~

~~(c) Be academically accountable to the parent for meeting the educational needs of the student by:~~

~~1.—At a minimum, annually providing to the parent a written explanation of the student's progress.~~

~~(b)1.2.~~ Annually administer or make administering or making provision for students participating in the scholarship program in grades 3 through 10 to take one of the nationally norm-referenced tests identified by the Department of Education or the statewide assessments pursuant to s. 1008.22. Students with disabilities for whom standardized testing is not appropriate are exempt from this requirement. A participating private school must report a student's scores to the parent. A participating private school must annually report by August 15 the scores of all participating students to a state university the Learning System Institute described in ~~paragraph (9)(f)~~ paragraph (9)(j).

~~2.3.~~ Administer Cooperating with the scholarship student whose parent chooses to have the student participate in the statewide assessments pursuant to s. 1008.22 ~~or, if a private school chooses to offer the statewide assessments, administering the assessments at the school.~~

~~a.~~ A participating private school may choose to offer and administer the statewide assessments to all students who attend the private school in grades 3 through 10 and.

~~b.~~ A participating private school must submit a request in writing to the Department of Education by March 1 of each year in order to administer the statewide assessments in the subsequent school year.

~~(d)~~ Employ or contract with teachers who have regular and direct contact with each student receiving a scholarship under this section at the school's physical location.

~~(e)~~ Provide a report from an independent certified public accountant who performs the agreed-upon procedures developed under paragraph (6)(o) if the private school receives more than \$250,000 in funds from scholarships awarded under this section in a state fiscal year. A private school subject to this paragraph must annually submit the report by September 15 to the scholarship funding organization that awarded the majority of the school's scholarship funds. The agreed-upon procedures must be conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

If a private school ~~fails~~ is unable to meet the requirements of this subsection or s. 1002.421 or has consecutive years of material exceptions listed in the report required under paragraph (e), the commissioner may determine that the private school is ineligible to participate in the scholarship program as determined by the Department of Education.

(9) DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OBLIGATIONS.—The Department of Education shall:

(a) Annually submit to the department and division, by March 15, a list of eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations that meet the requirements of paragraph (2)(f).

(b) Annually verify the eligibility of nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations that meet the requirements of paragraph (2)(f).

~~(c) Annually verify the eligibility of private schools that meet the requirements of subsection (8).~~

~~(c)(d) Annually verify the eligibility of expenditures as provided in paragraph (6)(d) using the audit required by paragraph (6)(m) and s. 11.45(2)(l) s. 11.45(2)(k).~~

~~(e) Establish a toll-free hotline that provides parents and private schools with information on participation in the scholarship program.~~

~~(f) Establish a process by which individuals may notify the Department of Education of any violation by a parent, private school, or school district of state laws relating to program participation. The Department of Education shall conduct an inquiry of any written complaint of a violation of this section, or make a referral to the appropriate agency for an investigation, if the complaint is signed by the complainant and is legally sufficient. A complaint is legally sufficient if it contains ultimate facts that show that a violation of this section or any rule adopted by the State Board of Education has occurred. In order to determine legal sufficiency, the Department of Education may require supporting information or documentation from the complainant. A department inquiry is not subject to the requirements of chapter 120.~~

~~(g) Require an annual, notarized, sworn compliance statement by participating private schools certifying compliance with state laws and shall retain such records.~~

(d)(h) Cross-check the list of participating scholarship students with the public school enrollment lists to avoid duplication.

~~(e)(i) Maintain a list of nationally norm-referenced tests identified for purposes of satisfying the testing requirement in subparagraph (8)(b)1 subparagraph (8)(e)2. The tests must meet industry standards of quality in accordance with State Board of Education rule.~~

~~(f)(j) Issue a project grant award to a state university the Learning System Institute at the Florida State University, to which participating private schools must report the scores of participating students on the nationally norm-referenced tests or the statewide assessments administered by the private school in grades 3 through 10. The project term is 2 years, and the amount of the project is up to \$250,000 ~~\$500,000~~ per year. The project grant award must be reissued in 2-year intervals in accordance with this paragraph.~~

1. The ~~state university Learning System Institute~~ must annually report to the Department of Education on the student performance of participating students:

a. On a statewide basis. The report shall also include, to the extent possible, a comparison of scholarship students' performance to the statewide student performance of public school students with socioeconomic backgrounds similar to those of students participating in the scholarship program. To minimize costs and reduce time required for the state university's Learning System Institute's analysis and evaluation, the Department of Education shall coordinate with the state university Learning System Institute to provide data to the state university Learning System Institute in order to conduct analyses of matched students from public school assessment data and calculate control group student performance using an agreed-upon methodology with the state university Learning System Institute; and

b. On an individual school basis. The annual report must include student performance for each participating private school in which at least 51 percent of the total enrolled students in the private school participated in the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program in the prior school year. The report shall be according to each participating private school, and for participating students, in which there are at least 30 participating students who have scores for tests administered. If the state university Learning System Institute determines that the 30-participating-student cell size may be reduced without disclosing personally identifiable information, as described in 34 C.F.R. s. 99.12, of a participating student, the state university Learning System Institute may reduce the participating-student cell size, but the cell size must not be reduced to less than 10 participating students. The department shall provide each private school's prior school year's student enrollment information to the state university Learning System Institute no later than June 15 of each year, or as requested by the state university Learning System Institute.

2. The sharing and reporting of student performance data under this paragraph must be in accordance with requirements of ss. 1002.22 and 1002.221 and 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, and the applicable rules and regulations issued pursuant thereto, and shall be for the sole purpose of creating the annual report required by subparagraph 1. All parties must preserve the confidentiality of such information as required by law. The annual report must not disaggregate data to a level that will identify individual participating schools, except as required under sub-subparagraph 1.b., or disclose the academic level of individual students.

3. The annual report required by subparagraph 1. shall be published by the Department of Education on its website.

~~(g)~~^(k) Notify an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization of any of the organization's identified students who are receiving educational scholarships pursuant to chapter 1002.

~~(h)~~^(l) Notify an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization of any of the organization's identified students who are receiving tax credit

scholarships from other eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations.

~~(i)(m)~~ Require quarterly reports by an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization regarding the number of students participating in the scholarship program, the private schools at which the students are enrolled, and other information deemed necessary by the Department of Education.

~~(n)1.~~— Conduct site visits to private schools participating in the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program. The purpose of the site visits is solely to verify the information reported by the schools concerning the enrollment and attendance of students, the credentials of teachers, background screening of teachers, and teachers' fingerprinting results. The Department of Education may not make more than seven site visits each year; however, the department may make additional site visits at any time to any school that has received a notice of noncompliance or a notice of proposed action within the previous 2 years.

~~2.~~— Annually, by December 15, report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives the Department of Education's actions with respect to implementing accountability in the scholarship program under this section and s. 1002.421, any substantiated allegations or violations of law or rule by an eligible private school under this program concerning the enrollment and attendance of students, the credentials of teachers, background screening of teachers, and teachers' fingerprinting results and the corrective action taken by the Department of Education.

~~(j)(o)~~ Provide a process to match the direct certification list with the scholarship application data submitted by any nonprofit scholarship-funding organization eligible to receive the 3-percent administrative allowance under paragraph (6)(j).

~~(p)~~— Upon the request of a participating private school, provide at no cost to the school the statewide assessments administered under s. 1008.22 and any related materials for administering the assessments. Students at a private school may be assessed using the statewide assessments if the addition of those students and the school does not cause the state to exceed its contractual caps for the number of students tested and the number of testing sites. The state shall provide the same materials and support to a private school that it provides to a public school. A private school that chooses to administer statewide assessments under s. 1008.22 shall follow the requirements set forth in ss. 1008.22 and 1008.24, rules adopted by the State Board of Education to implement those sections, and district-level testing policies established by the district school board.

~~(11)~~— COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION AUTHORITY AND OBLIGATIONS.—

~~(a)1.—The Commissioner of Education shall deny, suspend, or revoke a private school's participation in the scholarship program if it is determined that the private school has failed to comply with the provisions of this section. However, in instances in which the noncompliance is correctable within a reasonable amount of time and in which the health, safety, or welfare of the students is not threatened, the commissioner may issue a notice of noncompliance that shall provide the private school with a timeframe within which to provide evidence of compliance prior to taking action to suspend or revoke the private school's participation in the scholarship program.~~

~~2.—The Commissioner of Education may deny, suspend, or revoke a private school's participation in the scholarship program if the commissioner determines that:~~

~~a.—An owner or operator of a private school has exhibited a previous pattern of failure to comply with this section or s. 1002.421; or~~

~~b.—An owner or operator of the private school is operating or has operated an educational institution in this state or another state or jurisdiction in a manner contrary to the health, safety, or welfare of the public.~~

~~In making the determination under this subparagraph, the commissioner may consider factors that include, but are not limited to, acts or omissions by an owner or operator that led to a previous denial or revocation of participation in an education scholarship program; an owner's or operator's failure to reimburse the Department of Education or a nonprofit scholarship-funding organization for scholarship funds improperly received or retained by a school; imposition of a prior criminal sanction, civil fine, administrative fine, license revocation or suspension, or program eligibility suspension, termination, or revocation related to an owner's or operator's management or operation of an educational institution; or other types of criminal proceedings in which the owner or operator was found guilty of, regardless of adjudication, or entered a plea of nolo contendere or guilty to, any offense involving fraud, deceit, dishonesty, or moral turpitude.~~

~~(b)—The commissioner's determination is subject to the following:~~

~~1.—If the commissioner intends to deny, suspend, or revoke a private school's participation in the scholarship program, the Department of Education shall notify the private school of such proposed action in writing by certified mail and regular mail to the private school's address of record with the Department of Education. The notification shall include the reasons for the proposed action and notice of the timelines and procedures set forth in this paragraph.~~

~~2.—The private school that is adversely affected by the proposed action shall have 15 days from receipt of the notice of proposed action to file with the Department of Education's agency clerk a request for a proceeding pursuant to ss. 120.569 and 120.57. If the private school is entitled to a~~

hearing under s. 120.57(1), the Department of Education shall forward the request to the Division of Administrative Hearings.

~~3.— Upon receipt of a request referred pursuant to this paragraph, the director of the Division of Administrative Hearings shall expedite the hearing and assign an administrative law judge who shall commence a hearing within 30 days after the receipt of the formal written request by the division and enter a recommended order within 30 days after the hearing or within 30 days after receipt of the hearing transcript, whichever is later. Each party shall be allowed 10 days in which to submit written exceptions to the recommended order. A final order shall be entered by the agency within 30 days after the entry of a recommended order. The provisions of this subparagraph may be waived upon stipulation by all parties.~~

~~(c) The commissioner may immediately suspend payment of scholarship funds if it is determined that there is probable cause to believe that there is:~~

- ~~1.— An imminent threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the students;~~
 - ~~2.— A previous pattern of failure to comply with this section or s. 1002.421;~~
- ~~or~~

~~3.— Fraudulent activity on the part of the private school. Notwithstanding s. 1002.22, in incidents of alleged fraudulent activity pursuant to this section, the Department of Education's Office of Inspector General is authorized to release personally identifiable records or reports of students to the following persons or organizations:~~

~~a.— A court of competent jurisdiction in compliance with an order of that court or the attorney of record in accordance with a lawfully issued subpoena, consistent with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g.~~

~~b.— A person or entity authorized by a court of competent jurisdiction in compliance with an order of that court or the attorney of record pursuant to a lawfully issued subpoena, consistent with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g.~~

~~c.— Any person, entity, or authority issuing a subpoena for law enforcement purposes when the court or other issuing agency has ordered that the existence or the contents of the subpoena or the information furnished in response to the subpoena not be disclosed, consistent with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g, and 34 C.F.R. s. 99.31.~~

The commissioner's order suspending payment pursuant to this paragraph may be appealed pursuant to the same procedures and timelines as the notice of proposed action set forth in paragraph (b).

Section 16. Effective upon this act becoming a law, section 1002.40, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1002.40 The Hope Scholarship Program.—

(1) **PURPOSE.**—The Hope Scholarship Program is established to provide the parent of a public school student who was subjected to an incident listed in subsection (3) an opportunity to transfer the student to another public school or to request a scholarship for the student to enroll in and attend an eligible private school.

(2) **DEFINITIONS.**—As used in this section, the term:

(a) **“Dealer”** has the same meaning as provided in s. 212.06.

(b) **“Department”** means the Department of Education.

(c) **“Designated agent”** has the same meaning as provided in s. 212.06(10).

(d) **“Eligible contribution”** or **“contribution”** means a monetary contribution from a person purchasing a motor vehicle, subject to the restrictions provided in this section, to an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization. The person making the contribution may not designate a specific student as the beneficiary of the contribution.

(e) **“Eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization”** or **“organization”** has the same meaning as provided in s. 1002.395(2)(f).

(f) **“Eligible private school”** has the same meaning as provided in s. 1002.395(2)(g).

(g) **“Motor vehicle”** has the same meaning as provided in s. 320.01(1)(a), but does not include a heavy truck, truck tractor, trailer, or motorcycle.

(h) **“Parent”** means a resident of this state who is a parent, as defined in s. 1000.21, and whose student reported an incident in accordance with subsection (6).

(i) **“Program”** means the Hope Scholarship Program.

(j) **“School”** means any educational program or activity conducted by a public K-12 educational institution, any school-related or school-sponsored program or activity, and riding on a school bus, as defined in s. 1006.25(1), including waiting at a school bus stop.

(k) **“Unweighted FTE funding amount”** means the statewide average total funds per unweighted full-time equivalent funding amount that is incorporated by reference in the General Appropriations Act, or by a subsequent special appropriations act, for the applicable state fiscal year.

(3) **PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY.**—Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, contingent upon available funds, and on a first-come, first-served basis, a student enrolled in a Florida public school in kindergarten through grade 12 is eligible for a scholarship under this program if the student

reported an incident in accordance with subsection (6). For purposes of this section, the term “incident” means battery; harassment; hazing; bullying; kidnapping; physical attack; robbery; sexual offenses, harassment, assault, or battery; threat or intimidation; or fighting at school, as defined by the department in accordance with s. 1006.09(6).

(4) PROGRAM PROHIBITIONS.—Payment of a scholarship to a student enrolled in a private school may not be made if a student is:

(a) Enrolled in a public school, including, but not limited to, the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind; the College-Preparatory Boarding Academy; a developmental research school authorized under s. 1002.32; or a charter school authorized under s. 1002.33, s. 1002.331, or s. 1002.332;

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

(c) Participating in a virtual school, correspondence school, or distance learning program that receives state funding pursuant to the student’s participation unless the participation is limited to no more than two courses per school year; or

(d) Receiving any other educational scholarship pursuant to this chapter.

(5) TERM OF HOPE SCHOLARSHIP.—For purposes of continuity of educational choice, a Hope scholarship shall remain in force until the student returns to public school or graduates from high school, whichever occurs first. A scholarship student who enrolls in a public school or public school program is considered to have returned to a public school for the purpose of determining the end of the scholarship’s term.

(6) SCHOOL DISTRICT OBLIGATIONS; PARENTAL OPTIONS.—

(a) Upon receipt of a report of an incident, the school principal, or his or her designee, shall provide a copy of the report to the parent and investigate the incident to determine if the incident must be reported as required by s. 1006.09(6). Within 24 hours after receipt of the report, the principal or his or her designee shall provide a copy of the report to the parent of the alleged offender and to the superintendent. Upon conclusion of the investigation or within 15 days after the incident was reported, whichever occurs first, the school district shall notify the parent of the program and offer the parent an opportunity to enroll his or her student in another public school that has capacity or to request and receive a scholarship to attend an eligible private school, subject to available funding. A parent who chooses to enroll his or her student in a public school located outside the district in which the student resides pursuant to s. 1002.31 shall be eligible for a scholarship to transport the student as provided in paragraph (11)(b).

(b) For each student participating in the program in an eligible private school who chooses to participate in the statewide assessments under s. 1008.22 or the Florida Alternate Assessment, the school district in which the student resides must notify the student and his or her parent about the locations and times to take all statewide assessments.

(7) PRIVATE SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY AND OBLIGATIONS.—An eligible private school may be sectarian or nonsectarian and shall:

(a) Comply with all requirements for private schools participating in state school choice scholarship programs pursuant to this section and s. 1002.421.

(b)1. Annually administer or make provision for students participating in the program in grades 3 through 10 to take one of the nationally norm-referenced tests identified by the department or the statewide assessments pursuant to s. 1008.22. Students with disabilities for whom standardized testing is not appropriate are exempt from this requirement. A participating private school shall report a student's scores to his or her parent.

2. Administer the statewide assessments pursuant to s. 1008.22 if a private school chooses to offer the statewide assessments. A participating private school may choose to offer and administer the statewide assessments to all students who attend the private school in grades 3 through 10 and must submit a request in writing to the department by March 1 of each year in order to administer the statewide assessments in the subsequent school year.

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

(8) DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OBLIGATIONS.—The department shall:

(a) Cross-check the list of participating scholarship students with the public school enrollment lists to avoid duplication.

(b) Maintain a list of nationally norm-referenced tests identified for purposes of satisfying the testing requirement in paragraph (9)(f). The tests must meet industry standards of quality in accordance with State Board of Education rule.

(c) Require quarterly reports by an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization regarding the number of students participating in the program, the private schools in which the students are enrolled, and other information deemed necessary by the department.

(d) Contract with an independent entity to provide an annual evaluation of the program by:

1. Reviewing the school bullying prevention education program, climate and code of student conduct of each public school from which 10 or more students transferred to another public school or private school using the Hope scholarship to determine areas in the school or school district procedures involving reporting, investigating, and communicating a parent's and student's rights that are in need of improvement. At a minimum, the review must include:

a. An assessment of the investigation time and quality of the response of the school and the school district.

b. An assessment of the effectiveness of communication procedures with the students involved in an incident, the students' parents, and the school and school district personnel.

c. An analysis of school incident and discipline data.

d. The challenges and obstacles relating to implementing recommendations from the review.

2. Reviewing the school bullying prevention education program, climate and code of student conduct of each public school to which a student transferred if the student was from a school identified in subparagraph 1. in order to identify best practices and make recommendations to a public school at which the incidents occurred.

3. Reviewing the performance of participating students enrolled in a private school in which at least 51 percent of the total enrolled students in the prior school year participated in the program and in which there are at least 10 participating students who have scores for tests administered.

4. Surveying the parents of participating students to determine academic, safety, and school climate satisfaction and to identify any challenges to or obstacles in addressing the incident or relating to the use of the scholarship.

(9) PARENT AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PROGRAM PARTICIPATION.—A parent who applies for a Hope scholarship is exercising his or her parental option to place his or her student in an eligible private school.

(a) The parent must select an eligible private school and apply for the admission of his or her student.

(b) The parent must inform the student's school district when the parent withdraws his or her student to attend an eligible private school.

(c) Any student participating in the program must remain in attendance throughout the school year unless excused by the school for illness or other good cause.

(d) Each parent and each student has an obligation to the private school to comply with such school's published policies.

(e) Upon reasonable notice to the department and the school district, the parent may remove the student from the private school and place the student in a public school in accordance with this section.

(f) The parent must ensure that the student participating in the program takes the norm-referenced assessment offered by the private school. The parent may also choose to have the student participate in the statewide assessments pursuant to s. 1008.22. If the parent requests that the student take the statewide assessments pursuant to s. 1008.22 and the private school has not chosen to offer and administer the statewide assessments, the parent is responsible for transporting the student to the assessment site designated by the school district.

(g) Upon receipt of a scholarship warrant, the parent to whom the warrant is made must restrictively endorse the warrant to the private school for deposit into the account of such school. If payment is made by funds transfer in accordance with paragraph (11)(d), the parent must approve each payment before the scholarship funds may be deposited. The parent may not designate any entity or individual associated with the participating private school as the parent's attorney in fact to endorse a scholarship warrant or approve a funds transfer. A parent who fails to comply with this paragraph forfeits the scholarship.

(10) OBLIGATIONS OF ELIGIBLE NONPROFIT SCHOLARSHIP-FUNDING ORGANIZATIONS.—An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization may establish scholarships for eligible students by:

(a) Receiving applications and determining student eligibility in accordance with the requirements of this section.

(b) Notifying parents of their receipt of a scholarship on a first-come, first-served basis, based upon available funds.

(c) Establishing a date by which the parent of a participating student must confirm continuing participation in the program.

(d) Awarding scholarship funds to eligible students, giving priority to renewing students from the previous year.

(e) Preparing and submitting quarterly reports to the department pursuant to paragraph (8)(c). In addition, an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization must submit in a timely manner any information requested by the department relating to the program.

(f) Notifying the department of any violation of this section.

(11) FUNDING AND PAYMENT.—

(a) The maximum amount awarded to a student enrolled in an eligible private school shall be determined as a percentage of the unweighted FTE funding amount for that state fiscal year and thereafter as follows:

1. Eighty-eight percent for a student enrolled in kindergarten through grade 5.

2. Ninety-two percent for a student enrolled in grade 6 through grade 8.

3. Ninety-six percent for a student enrolled in grade 9 through grade 12.

(b) The maximum amount awarded to a student enrolled in a public school located outside of the district in which the student resides shall be \$750.

(c) When a student enters the program, the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization must receive all documentation required for the student's participation, including a copy of the report of the incident received pursuant to subsection (6) and the private school's and student's fee schedules. The initial payment shall be made after verification of admission acceptance, and subsequent payments shall be made upon verification of continued enrollment and attendance at the private school.

(d) Payment of the scholarship by the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization may be by individual warrant made payable to the student's parent or by funds transfer, including, but not limited to, debit cards, electronic payment cards, or any other means of payment that the department deems to be commercially viable or cost-effective. If payment is made by warrant, the warrant must be delivered by the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization to the private school of the parent's choice, and the parent shall restrictively endorse the warrant to the private school. If payments are made by funds transfer, the parent must approve each payment before the scholarship funds may be deposited. The parent may not designate any entity or individual associated with the participating private school as the parent's attorney in fact to endorse a scholarship warrant or approve a funds transfer.

(e) An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization shall obtain verification from the private school of a student's continued attendance at the school for each period covered by a scholarship payment.

(f) Payment of the scholarship shall be made by the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization no less frequently than on a quarterly basis.

(g) An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization may use up to 3 percent of eligible contributions received during the state fiscal year in which such contributions are collected for administrative expenses if the organization has operated as an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization for at least the preceding 3 fiscal years and did not have any findings of material weakness or material noncompliance in its most recent

audit under s. 1002.395(6)(m). Such administrative expenses must be reasonable and necessary for the organization’s management and distribution of eligible contributions under this section. Funds authorized under this paragraph may not be used for lobbying or political activity or expenses related to lobbying or political activity. Up to one-third of the funds authorized for administrative expenses under this paragraph may be used for expenses related to the recruitment of contributions. An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization may not charge an application fee.

(h) Moneys received pursuant to this section do not constitute taxable income to the qualified student or his or her parent.

(12) OBLIGATIONS OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL.—

(a) The Auditor General shall conduct an annual operational audit of accounts and records of each organization that participates in the program. As part of this audit, the Auditor General shall verify, at a minimum, the total number of students served and transmit that information to the department. The Auditor General shall provide the commissioner with a copy of each annual operational audit performed pursuant to this paragraph within 10 days after the audit is finalized.

(b) The Auditor General shall notify the department of any organization that fails to comply with a request for information.

(13) SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING TAX CREDITS.—

(a) A tax credit is available under s. 212.1832(1) for use by a person that makes an eligible contribution. Each eligible contribution is limited to a single payment of \$105 per motor vehicle purchased at the time of purchase of a motor vehicle or a single payment of \$105 per motor vehicle purchased at the time of registration of a motor vehicle that was not purchased from a dealer, except that a contribution may not exceed the state tax imposed under chapter 212 that would otherwise be collected from the purchaser by a dealer, designated agent, or private tag agent. Payments of contributions shall be made to a dealer at the time of purchase of a motor vehicle or to a designated agent or private tag agent at the time of registration of a motor vehicle that was not purchased from a dealer. An eligible contribution shall be accompanied by a contribution election form provided by the Department of Revenue. The form shall include, at a minimum, the following brief description of the Hope Scholarship Program: “THE HOPE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM PROVIDES A PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT WHO WAS SUBJECTED TO AN INCIDENT OF VIOLENCE OR BULLYING AT SCHOOL THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP TO ATTEND AN ELIGIBLE PRIVATE SCHOOL RATHER THAN REMAIN IN AN UNSAFE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT.” The form shall also include, at a minimum, a section allowing the consumer to designate, from all participating scholarship funding organizations, which organization will receive his or

her donation. For purposes of this subsection, the term “purchase” does not include the lease or rental of a motor vehicle.

(b) A dealer, designated agent, or private tag agent shall:

1. Provide the purchaser the contribution election form, as provided by the Department of Revenue, at the time of purchase of a motor vehicle or at the time of registration of a motor vehicle that was not purchased from a dealer.

2. Collect eligible contributions.

3. Using a form provided by the Department of Revenue, which shall include the dealer’s or agent’s federal employer identification number, remit to an organization no later than the date the return filed pursuant to s. 212.11 is due the total amount of contributions made to that organization and collected during the preceding reporting period. Using the same form, the dealer or agent shall also report this information to the Department of Revenue no later than the date the return filed pursuant to s. 212.11 is due.

4. Report to the Department of Revenue on each return filed pursuant to s. 212.11 the total amount of credits granted under s. 212.1832 for the preceding reporting period.

(c) An organization shall report to the Department of Revenue, on or before the 20th day of each month, the total amount of contributions received pursuant to paragraph (b) in the preceding calendar month on a form provided by the Department of Revenue. Such report shall include:

1. The federal employer identification number of each designated agent, private tag agent, or dealer who remitted contributions to the organization during that reporting period.

2. The amount of contributions received from each designated agent, private tag agent, or dealer during that reporting period.

(d) A person who, with the intent to unlawfully deprive or defraud the program of its moneys or the use or benefit thereof, fails to remit a contribution collected under this section is guilty of theft, punishable as follows:

1. If the total amount stolen is less than \$300, the offense is a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. Upon a second conviction, the offender is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. Upon a third or subsequent conviction, the offender is guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

2. If the total amount stolen is \$300 or more, but less than \$20,000, the offense is a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

3. If the total amount stolen is \$20,000 or more, but less than \$100,000, the offense is a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

4. If the total amount stolen is \$100,000 or more, the offense is a felony of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(e) A person convicted of an offense under paragraph (d) shall be ordered by the sentencing judge to make restitution to the organization in the amount that was stolen from the program.

(f) Upon a finding that a dealer failed to remit a contribution under subparagraph (b)3. for which the dealer claimed a credit pursuant to s. 212.1832(2), the Department of Revenue shall notify the affected organizations of the dealer's name, address, federal employer identification number, and information related to differences between credits taken by the dealer pursuant to s. 212.1832(2) and amounts remitted to the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization under subparagraph (b)3.

(g) Any dealer, designated agent, private tag agent, or organization that fails to timely submit reports to the Department of Revenue as required in paragraphs (b) and (c) is subject to a penalty of \$1,000 for every month, or part thereof, the report is not provided, up to a maximum amount of \$10,000. Such penalty shall be collected by the Department of Revenue and shall be transferred into the General Revenue Fund. Such penalty must be settled or compromised if it is determined by the Department of Revenue that the noncompliance is due to reasonable cause and not due to willful negligence, willful neglect, or fraud.

(14) LIABILITY.—The state is not liable for the award of or any use of awarded funds under this section.

(15) SCOPE OF AUTHORITY.—This section does not expand the regulatory authority of this state, its officers, or any school district to impose additional regulation on participating private schools beyond those reasonably necessary to enforce requirements expressly set forth in this section.

(16) RULES.—The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to administer this section, except the Department of Revenue shall adopt rules to administer subsection (13).

Section 17. Section 1002.411, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1002.411 Reading scholarship accounts.—

(1) READING SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNTS.—Reading scholarship accounts are established to provide educational options for students.

(2) ELIGIBILITY.—Contingent upon available funds, and on a first-come, first-served basis, each student in grades 3 through 5 who is enrolled in a Florida public school is eligible for a reading scholarship account if the student scored below a Level 3 on the grade 3 or grade 4 statewide, standardized English Language Arts (ELA) assessment in the prior school year. An eligible student who is classified as an English Language Learner and is enrolled in a program or receiving services that are specifically designed to meet the instructional needs of English Language Learner students shall receive priority.

(3) PARENT AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PARTICIPATION.—

(a) For an eligible student to receive a reading scholarship account, the student's parent must:

1. Submit an application to an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization by the deadline established by such organization; and

2. Submit eligible expenses to the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization for reimbursement of qualifying expenditures, which may include:

a. Instructional materials.

b. Curriculum. As used in this sub-subparagraph, the term “curriculum” means a complete course of study for a particular content area or grade level, including any required supplemental materials and associated online instruction.

c. Tuition and fees for part-time tutoring services provided by a person who holds a valid Florida educator's certificate pursuant to s. 1012.56; a person who holds a baccalaureate or graduate degree in the subject area; a person who holds an adjunct teaching certificate pursuant to s. 1012.57; or a person who has demonstrated a mastery of subject area knowledge pursuant to s. 1012.56(5).

d. Fees for summer education programs designed to improve reading or literacy skills.

e. Fees for after-school education programs designed to improve reading or literacy skills.

A provider of any services receiving payments pursuant to this subparagraph may not share any moneys from the reading scholarship with, or provide a refund or rebate of any moneys from such scholarship to, the parent or participating student in any manner. A parent, student, or provider of any services may not bill an insurance company, Medicaid, or any

other agency for the same services that are paid for using reading scholarship funds.

(b) The parent is responsible for the payment of all eligible expenses in excess of the amount in the account in accordance with the terms agreed to between the parent and any providers and may not receive any refund or rebate of any expenditures made in accordance with paragraph (a).

(4) ADMINISTRATION.—An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization participating in the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program established by s. 1002.395 may establish reading scholarship accounts for eligible students in accordance with the requirements of eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations under this chapter.

(5) DEPARTMENT OBLIGATIONS.—The department shall have the same duties imposed by this chapter upon the department regarding oversight of scholarship programs administered by an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization.

(6) SCHOOL DISTRICT OBLIGATIONS; PARENTAL OPTIONS.—By September 30, the school district shall notify the parent of each student in grades 3 through 5 who scored below a level 3 on the statewide, standardized ELA assessment in the prior school year of the process to request and receive a reading scholarship, subject to available funds.

(7) ACCOUNT FUNDING AND PAYMENT.—

(a) For the 2018-2019 school year, the amount of the scholarship shall be \$500 per eligible student. Thereafter, the maximum amount granted for an eligible student shall be provided in the General Appropriations Act.

(b) One hundred percent of the funds appropriated for the reading scholarship accounts shall be released to the department at the beginning of the first quarter of each fiscal year.

(c) Upon notification from the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization that a student has been determined eligible for a reading scholarship, the department shall release the student's scholarship funds to such organization to be deposited into the student's account.

(d) Accrued interest in the student's account is in addition to, and not part of, the awarded funds. Account funds include both the awarded funds and accrued interest.

(e) The eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization may develop a system for payment of scholarship funds by funds transfer, including, but not limited to, debit cards, electronic payment cards, or any other means of payment that the department deems to be commercially viable or cost-effective. A student's scholarship award may not be reduced for debit card or electronic payment fees. Commodities or services related to the development

of such a system shall be procured by competitive solicitation unless they are purchased from a state term contract pursuant to s. 287.056.

(f) Payment of the scholarship shall be made by the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization no less frequently than on a quarterly basis.

(g) In addition to funds appropriated for scholarships and subject to a separate, specific legislative appropriation, an organization may receive an amount equivalent to not more than 3 percent of the amount of each scholarship from state funds for administrative expenses if the organization has operated as a nonprofit entity for at least the preceding 3 fiscal years and did not have any findings of material weakness or material noncompliance in its most recent audit under s. 1002.395. Such administrative expenses must be reasonable and necessary for the organization's management and distribution of scholarships under this section. Funds authorized under this paragraph may not be used for lobbying or political activity or expenses related to lobbying or political activity. An organization may not charge an application fee for a scholarship. Administrative expenses may not be deducted from funds appropriated for scholarships.

(h) Moneys received pursuant to this section do not constitute taxable income to the qualified student or his or her parent.

(i) A student's scholarship account must be closed and any remaining funds shall revert to the state after:

1. Denial or revocation of scholarship eligibility by the commissioner for fraud or abuse, including, but not limited to, the student or student's parent accepting any payment, refund, or rebate, in any manner, from a provider of any services received pursuant to subsection (3); or

2. Three consecutive fiscal years in which an account has been inactive.

(8) LIABILITY.—No liability shall arise on the part of the state based on the award or use of a reading scholarship account.

Section 18. Section 1002.421, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.421 Accountability of private schools participating in State school choice scholarship program accountability and oversight programs.—

(1) PRIVATE SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY AND OBLIGATIONS.—A Florida private school participating in the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program established pursuant to s. 1002.395 or an educational scholarship program established pursuant to this chapter must be a private school as defined in s. 1002.01(2) in this state, be registered, and be in compliance with all requirements of this section in addition to private school requirements outlined in s. 1002.42, specific requirements identified within respective scholarship program laws, and other provisions of Florida law that apply to private schools, and must:

~~(2) A private school participating in a scholarship program must be a Florida private school as defined in s. 1002.01(2), must be registered in accordance with s. 1002.42, and must:~~

- (a) Comply with the antidiscrimination provisions of 42 U.S.C. s. 2000d.
- (b) Notify the department of its intent to participate in a scholarship program.
- (c) Notify the department of any change in the school's name, school director, mailing address, or physical location within 15 days after the change.
- (d) Provide to the department or scholarship-funding organization all documentation required for a student's participation, including the private school's and student's individual fee schedule, and Complete student enrollment and attendance verification requirements, including use of an online attendance verification as required by the department or scholarship-funding organization form, prior to scholarship payment.
- (e) Annually complete and submit to the department a notarized scholarship compliance statement certifying that all school employees and contracted personnel with direct student contact have undergone background screening pursuant to s. 943.0542 and have met the screening standards as provided in s. 435.04.
- (f) Demonstrate fiscal soundness and accountability by:
 - 1. Being in operation for at least 3 school years or obtaining a surety bond or letter of credit for the amount equal to the scholarship funds for any quarter and filing the surety bond or letter of credit with the department.
 - 2. Requiring the parent of each scholarship student to personally restrictively endorse the scholarship warrant to the school or to approve a funds transfer before any funds are deposited for a student. The school may not act as attorney in fact for the parent of a scholarship student under the authority of a power of attorney executed by such parent, or under any other authority, to endorse a scholarship warrant or approve a funds transfer warrants on behalf of such parent.
- (g) Meet applicable state and local health, safety, and welfare laws, codes, and rules, including:
 - 1. Firesafety.
 - 2. Building safety.
- (h) Employ or contract with teachers who hold baccalaureate or higher degrees, have at least 3 years of teaching experience in public or private schools, or have special skills, knowledge, or expertise that qualifies them to provide instruction in subjects taught.

(i) Maintain a physical location in the state at which each student has regular and direct contact with teachers.

(j) Publish on the school's website, or provide in a written format, information for parents regarding the school, including, but not limited to, programs, services, and the qualifications of classroom teachers.

(k) At a minimum, provide the parent of each scholarship student with a written explanation of the student's progress on a quarterly basis.

(l) Cooperate with a student whose parent chooses to participate in the statewide assessments pursuant to s. 1008.22.

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

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

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

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

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

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

6.(b) The Department of Law Enforcement shall search all arrest fingerprints received under s. 943.051 against the fingerprints retained in the statewide automated biometric identification system under

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

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

8.(d) Every 5 years following employment or engagement to provide services with a private school, employees or contracted personnel required to be screened under this section must meet screening standards under s. 435.04, at which time the private school shall request the Department of Law Enforcement to forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for national processing. If the fingerprints of employees or contracted personnel are not retained by the Department of Law Enforcement under subparagraph 5. paragraph (a), employees and contracted personnel must electronically file a complete set of fingerprints with the Department of Law Enforcement. Upon submission of fingerprints for this purpose, the private school shall request that the Department of Law Enforcement forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for national processing, and the fingerprints shall be retained by the Department of Law Enforcement under subparagraph 5 paragraph (a).

~~(4) A private school that accepts scholarship students under s. 1002.39 or s. 1002.395 must:~~

~~(a) Disqualify instructional personnel and school administrators, as defined in s. 1012.01, from employment in any position that requires direct contact with students if the personnel or administrators are ineligible for such employment under s. 1012.315.~~

(n)(b) Adopt policies establishing standards of ethical conduct for instructional personnel and school administrators. The policies must require all instructional personnel and school administrators, as defined in s. 1012.01, to complete training on the standards; establish the duty of instructional personnel and school administrators to report, and procedures for reporting, alleged misconduct by other instructional personnel and school

administrators which affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student; and include an explanation of the liability protections provided under ss. 39.203 and 768.095. A private school, or any of its employees, may not enter into a confidentiality agreement regarding terminated or dismissed instructional personnel or school administrators, or personnel or administrators who resign in lieu of termination, based in whole or in part on misconduct that affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student, and may not provide the instructional personnel or school administrators with employment references or discuss the personnel's or administrators' performance with prospective employers in another educational setting, without disclosing the personnel's or administrators' misconduct. Any part of an agreement or contract that has the purpose or effect of concealing misconduct by instructional personnel or school administrators which affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student is void, is contrary to public policy, and may not be enforced.

(o)(e) Before employing instructional personnel or school administrators in any position that requires direct contact with students, conduct employment history checks of each of the personnel's or administrators' previous employers, screen the personnel or administrators through use of the educator screening tools described in s. 1001.10(5), and document the findings. If unable to contact a previous employer, the private school must document efforts to contact the employer.

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

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

to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for level 2 screening, and the fingerprints shall be retained by the Department of Law Enforcement under subparagraph 2.

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

3. The Department of Law Enforcement shall search all arrest fingerprints received under s. 943.051 against the fingerprints retained in the statewide automated biometric identification system under subparagraph 2. Any arrest record that is identified with an owner's or operator's fingerprints must be reported to the owner or operator, who must report to the Department of Education. Any costs associated with the search shall be borne by the owner or operator.

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

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

- a. Any authorizing statutes, if the offense was a felony.
- b. This chapter, if the offense was a felony.
- c. Section 409.920, relating to Medicaid provider fraud.
- d. Section 409.9201, relating to Medicaid fraud.
- e. Section 741.28, relating to domestic violence.
- f. Section 817.034, relating to fraudulent acts through mail, wire, radio, electromagnetic, photoelectronic, or photooptical systems.
- g. Section 817.234, relating to false and fraudulent insurance claims.
- h. Section 817.505, relating to patient brokering.
- i. Section 817.568, relating to criminal use of personal identification information.

j. Section 817.60, relating to obtaining a credit card through fraudulent means.

k. Section 817.61, relating to fraudulent use of credit cards, if the offense was a felony.

l. Section 831.01, relating to forgery.

m. Section 831.02, relating to uttering forged instruments.

n. Section 831.07, relating to forging bank bills, checks, drafts, or promissory notes.

o. Section 831.09, relating to uttering forged bank bills, checks, drafts, or promissory notes.

p. Section 831.30, relating to fraud in obtaining medicinal drugs.

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

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

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

(q) Provide a report from an independent certified public accountant who performs the agreed-upon procedures developed pursuant to s. 1002.395(6)(o) if the private school receives more than \$250,000 in funds from scholarships awarded under this chapter in a state fiscal year. A private school subject to this subsection must annually submit the report by September 15 to the scholarship-funding organization that awarded the majority of the school's scholarship funds. However, a school that receives more than \$250,000 in scholarship funds only through the John M. McKay Scholarship for Students with Disabilities Program pursuant to s. 1002.39 must submit the annual report by September 15 to the department. The agreed-upon procedures must be conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

The department shall suspend the payment of funds ~~under ss. 1002.39 and 1002.395~~ to a private school that knowingly fails to comply with this subsection, and shall prohibit the school from enrolling new scholarship students, for 1 fiscal year and until the school complies.

~~(5) If The inability of a private school fails to meet the requirements of this subsection or has consecutive years of material exceptions listed in the report required under paragraph (q), the commissioner may determine that the private school is ineligible section shall constitute a basis for the ineligibility of the private school to participate in a scholarship program as determined by the department.~~

(2) DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OBLIGATIONS.—

(a) The Department of Education shall:

1. Annually verify the eligibility of private schools that meet the requirements of this section, specific requirements identified within respective scholarship program laws, and other provisions of state law that apply to private schools.

2. Establish a toll-free hotline that provides parents and private schools with information on participation in the scholarship programs.

3. Establish a process by which individuals may notify the department of any violation by a parent, private school, or school district of state laws relating to program participation. If the department has reasonable cause to believe that a violation of this section or any rule adopted by the State Board of Education has occurred, it shall conduct an inquiry or make a referral to the appropriate agency for an investigation. A department inquiry is not subject to the requirements of chapter 120.

4. Require an annual, notarized, sworn compliance statement from participating private schools certifying compliance with state laws, and retain such records.

5. Coordinate with the entities conducting the health inspection for a private school to obtain copies of the inspection reports.

6. Conduct site visits to private schools entering a scholarship program for the first time. Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, a private school is not eligible to receive scholarship payments until a satisfactory site visit has been conducted and the school is in compliance with all other requirements of this section.

7. Coordinate with the State Fire Marshal to obtain access to fire inspection reports for private schools. The authority conducting the fire safety inspection shall certify to the State Fire Marshal that the annual inspection has been completed and that the school is in full compliance. The certification shall be made electronically or by such other means as directed by the State Fire Marshal.

8. Upon the request of a participating private school authorized to administer statewide assessments, provide at no cost to the school the statewide assessments administered under s. 1008.22 and any related materials for administering the assessments. Students at a private school may be assessed using the statewide assessments if the addition of those students and the school does not cause the state to exceed its contractual caps for the number of students tested and the number of testing sites. The state shall provide the same materials and support to a private school that it provides to a public school. A private school that chooses to administer statewide assessments under s. 1008.22 shall follow the requirements set forth in ss. 1008.22 and 1008.24, rules adopted by the State Board of Education to implement those sections, and district-level testing policies established by the district school board.

(b) The department may conduct site visits to any private school participating in a scholarship program pursuant to this chapter that has received a complaint about a violation of state law or state board rule pursuant to subparagraph (a)3. or has received a notice of noncompliance or a notice of proposed action within the previous 2 years.

(c) Annually, by December 15, the department shall report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives its actions in implementing accountability in the scholarship programs under this section, any substantiated allegations or violations of law or rule by an eligible private school under this section, and the corrective action taken.

(3) COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION AUTHORITY AND OBLIGATIONS.—The Commissioner of Education:

(a) Shall deny, suspend, or revoke a private school's participation in a scholarship program if it is determined that the private school has failed to comply with this section or exhibits a previous pattern of failure to comply. However, if the noncompliance is correctable within a reasonable amount of time, not to exceed 45 days, and if the health, safety, or welfare of the students is not threatened, the commissioner may issue a notice of noncompliance which provides the private school with a timeframe within which to provide evidence of compliance before taking action to suspend or revoke the private school's participation in the scholarship program.

(b) May deny, suspend, or revoke a private school's participation in a scholarship program if the commissioner determines that an owner or operator of the private school is operating or has operated an educational institution in this state or in another state or jurisdiction in a manner contrary to the health, safety, or welfare of the public or if the owner or operator has exhibited a previous pattern of failure to comply with this section or specific requirements identified within respective scholarship program laws. For purposes of this subsection, the term "owner or operator" has the same meaning as provided in paragraph (1)(p).

(c)1. In making such a determination, may consider factors that include, but are not limited to, acts or omissions by an owner or operator which led to a previous denial, suspension, or revocation of participation in a state or federal education scholarship program; an owner's or operator's failure to reimburse the department or scholarship-funding organization for scholarship funds improperly received or retained by a school; the imposition of a prior criminal sanction related to an owner's or operator's management or operation of an educational institution; the imposition of a civil fine or administrative fine, license revocation or suspension, or program eligibility suspension, termination, or revocation related to an owner's or operator's management or operation of an educational institution; or other types of criminal proceedings in which an owner or operator was found guilty of, regardless of adjudication, or entered a plea of nolo contendere or guilty to, any offense involving fraud, deceit, dishonesty, or moral turpitude.

2. The commissioner's determination is subject to the following:

a. If the commissioner intends to deny, suspend, or revoke a private school's participation in the scholarship program, the department shall notify the private school of such proposed action in writing by certified mail and regular mail to the private school's address of record with the department. The notification shall include the reasons for the proposed action and notice of the timelines and procedures set forth in this paragraph.

b. The private school that is adversely affected by the proposed action shall have 15 days after receipt of the notice of proposed action to file with the department's agency clerk a request for a proceeding pursuant to ss. 120.569 and 120.57. If the private school is entitled to a hearing under s. 120.57(1), the department shall forward the request to the Division of Administrative Hearings.

c. Upon receipt of a request referred pursuant to this subparagraph, the director of the Division of Administrative Hearings shall expedite the hearing and assign an administrative law judge who shall commence a hearing within 30 days after the receipt of the formal written request by the division and enter a recommended order within 30 days after the hearing or within 30 days after receipt of the hearing transcript, whichever is later. Each party shall be allowed 10 days in which to submit written exceptions to the recommended order. A final order shall be entered by the agency within 30 days after the entry of a recommended order. The provisions of this subparagraph may be waived upon stipulation by all parties.

(d) May immediately suspend payment of scholarship funds if it is determined that there is probable cause to believe that there is:

1. An imminent threat to the health, safety, or welfare of the students;
2. A previous pattern of failure to comply with this section; or

3. Fraudulent activity on the part of the private school. Notwithstanding s. 1002.22, in incidents of alleged fraudulent activity pursuant to this section, the department's Office of Inspector General is authorized to release personally identifiable records or reports of students to the following persons or organizations:

a. A court of competent jurisdiction in compliance with an order of that court or the attorney of record in accordance with a lawfully issued subpoena, consistent with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g.

b. A person or entity authorized by a court of competent jurisdiction in compliance with an order of that court or the attorney of record pursuant to a lawfully issued subpoena, consistent with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g.

c. Any person, entity, or authority issuing a subpoena for law enforcement purposes when the court or other issuing agency has ordered that the existence or the contents of the subpoena or the information furnished in response to the subpoena not be disclosed, consistent with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g, and 34 C.F.R. s. 99.31.

The commissioner's order suspending payment pursuant to this paragraph may be appealed pursuant to the same procedures and timelines as the notice of proposed action set forth in subparagraph (c)2.

(4)(6) The inclusion of eligible private schools within options available to Florida public school students does not expand the regulatory authority of the state, its officers, or any school district to impose any additional regulation of private schools beyond those reasonably necessary to enforce requirements expressly set forth in this section.

(5)(7) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to administer this section, including rules to establish a deadline for private school applications for participation and timelines for the department to conduct site visits.

Section 19. Subsection (5) of section 1002.55, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.55 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by private prekindergarten providers.—

(5)(a) Notwithstanding paragraph (3)(b), a private prekindergarten provider may not participate in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program if the provider has child disciplinary policies that do not prohibit children from being subjected to discipline that is severe, humiliating, frightening, or associated with food, rest, toileting, spanking, or any other form of physical punishment as provided in s. 402.305(12).

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if a private prekindergarten provider has been cited for a class I violation, as defined by rule, the coalition may refuse to contract with the provider.

Section 20. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section 1002.75, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.75 Office of Early Learning; powers and duties.—

(3) The Office of Early Learning shall adopt, in consultation with and subject to approval by the department, procedures governing the administration of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program by the early learning coalitions and school districts for:

(c) Removing a private prekindergarten provider or public school from eligibility to deliver the program due to the provider's or school's remaining on probation beyond the time permitted under s. 1002.67. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if a private prekindergarten provider has been cited for a class I violation, as defined by rule, the coalition may refuse to contract with the provider or revoke the provider's eligibility to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

Section 21. Subsection (2) of section 1002.88, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.88 School readiness program provider standards; eligibility to deliver the school readiness program.—

(2)(a) If a school readiness program provider fails or refuses to comply with this part or any contractual obligation of the statewide provider contract under s. 1002.82(2)(m), the coalition may revoke the provider's eligibility to deliver the school readiness program or receive state or federal funds under this chapter for a period of 5 years.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if a school readiness program provider has been cited for a class I violation, as defined by rule, the coalition may refuse to contract with the provider or revoke the provider's eligibility to deliver the school readiness program.

Section 22. Subsection (4) is added to section 1003.44, Florida Statutes, to read:

1003.44 Patriotic programs; rules.—

(4) Each district school board shall adopt rules to require, in all of the schools of the district and in each building used by the district school board, the display of the state motto, "In God We Trust," designated under s. 15.0301, in a conspicuous place.

Section 23. Subsection (3) of section 1003.453, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.453 School wellness and physical education policies; nutrition guidelines.—

(3) School districts are encouraged to provide basic training in first aid, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation, for all students, beginning in grade 6 and every 2 years thereafter. Instruction in the use of cardiopulmonary resuscitation must be based on a nationally recognized program that uses the most current evidence-based emergency cardiovascular care guidelines. The instruction must allow students to practice the psychomotor skills associated with performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation and use an automated external defibrillator when a school district has the equipment necessary to perform the instruction. Private and public partnerships for providing training or necessary funding are encouraged.

Section 24. Section 1003.576, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.576 Individual education plans for exceptional students.—The Department of Education must develop and have an operating electronic IEP system in place for potential statewide use ~~no later than July 1, 2007.~~ The statewide system shall be developed collaboratively with school districts and must include input from school districts currently developing or operating electronic IEP systems.

Section 25. Section 1006.061, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1006.061 Child abuse, abandonment, and neglect policy.—Each district school board, charter school, and private school that accepts scholarship students who participate in a state scholarship program under chapter 1002 under s. 1002.39 or s. 1002.395 shall:

(1) Post in a prominent place in each school a notice that, pursuant to chapter 39, all employees and agents of the district school board, charter school, or private school have an affirmative duty to report all actual or suspected cases of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect; have immunity from liability if they report such cases in good faith; and have a duty to comply with child protective investigations and all other provisions of law relating to child abuse, abandonment, and neglect. The notice shall also include the statewide toll-free telephone number of the central abuse hotline.

(2) Post in a prominent place at each school site and on each school's Internet website, if available, the policies and procedures for reporting alleged misconduct by instructional personnel or school administrators which affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student; the contact person to whom the report is made; and the penalties imposed on instructional personnel or school administrators who fail to report suspected or actual child abuse or alleged misconduct by other instructional personnel or school administrators.

(3) Require the principal of the charter school or private school, or the district school superintendent, or the superintendent's designee, at the request of the Department of Children and Families, to act as a liaison to the Department of Children and Families and the child protection team, as defined in s. 39.01, when in a case of suspected child abuse, abandonment, or neglect or an unlawful sexual offense involving a child the case is referred to such a team; except that this does not relieve or restrict the Department of Children and Families from discharging its duty and responsibility under the law to investigate and report every suspected or actual case of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect or unlawful sexual offense involving a child.

(4)(a) Post in a prominent place in a clearly visible location and public area of the school which is readily accessible to and widely used by students a sign in English and Spanish that contains:

1. The statewide toll-free telephone number of the central abuse hotline as provided in chapter 39;
2. Instructions to call 911 for emergencies; and
3. Directions for accessing the Department of Children and Families Internet website for more information on reporting abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

(b) The information in paragraph (a) must be put on at least one poster in each school, on a sheet that measures at least 11 inches by 17 inches, produced in large print, and placed at student eye level for easy viewing.

The Department of Education shall develop, and publish on the department's Internet website, sample notices suitable for posting in accordance with subsections (1), (2), and (4).

Section 26. Paragraphs (c), (d), and (e) of subsection (3) of section 1006.15, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1006.15 Student standards for participation in interscholastic and intrascholastic extracurricular student activities; regulation.—

(3)

(c) An individual home education student is eligible to participate at the public school to which the student would be assigned according to district school board attendance area policies or which the student could choose to attend pursuant to s. 1002.31, or may develop an agreement to participate at a private school, in the interscholastic extracurricular activities of that school, provided the following conditions are met:

1. The home education student must meet the requirements of the home education program pursuant to s. 1002.41.

2. During the period of participation at a school, the home education student must demonstrate educational progress as required in paragraph (b) in all subjects taken in the home education program by a method of evaluation agreed upon by the parent and the school principal which may include: review of the student's work by a certified teacher chosen by the parent; grades earned through correspondence; grades earned in courses taken at a Florida College System institution, university, or trade school; standardized test scores above the 35th percentile; or any other method designated in s. 1002.41.

3. The home education student must meet the same residency requirements as other students in the school at which he or she participates.

4. The home education student must meet the same standards of acceptance, behavior, and performance as required of other students in extracurricular activities.

5. The student must register with the school his or her intent to participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities as a representative of the school before participation ~~the beginning date of the season for the activity in which he or she wishes to participate.~~ A home education student must be able to participate in curricular activities if that is a requirement for an extracurricular activity.

6. A student who transfers from a home education program to a public school before or during the first grading period of the school year is academically eligible to participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities during the first grading period provided the student has a successful evaluation from the previous school year, pursuant to subparagraph 2.

7. Any public school or private school student who has been unable to maintain academic eligibility for participation in interscholastic extracurricular activities is ineligible to participate in such activities as a home education student until the student has successfully completed one grading period in home education pursuant to subparagraph 2. to become eligible to participate as a home education student.

(d) An individual charter school student pursuant to s. 1002.33 is eligible to participate at the public school to which the student would be assigned according to district school board attendance area policies or which the student could attend in any interscholastic extracurricular activity of that school, unless such activity is provided by the student's charter school, if the following conditions are met:

1. The charter school student must meet the requirements of the charter school education program as determined by the charter school governing board.

2. During the period of participation at a school, the charter school student must demonstrate educational progress as required in paragraph (b).

3. The charter school student must meet the same residency requirements as other students in the school at which he or she participates.

4. The charter school student must meet the same standards of acceptance, behavior, and performance that are required of other students in extracurricular activities.

5. The charter school student must register with the school his or her intent to participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities as a representative of the school before participation ~~the beginning date of the season for the activity in which he or she wishes to participate~~. A charter school student must be able to participate in curricular activities if that is a requirement for an extracurricular activity.

6. A student who transfers from a charter school program to a traditional public school before or during the first grading period of the school year is academically eligible to participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities during the first grading period if the student has a successful evaluation from the previous school year, pursuant to subparagraph 2.

7. Any public school or private school student who has been unable to maintain academic eligibility for participation in interscholastic extracurricular activities is ineligible to participate in such activities as a charter school student until the student has successfully completed one grading period in a charter school pursuant to subparagraph 2. to become eligible to participate as a charter school student.

(e) A student of the Florida Virtual School full-time program may participate in any interscholastic extracurricular activity at the public school to which the student would be assigned according to district school board attendance area policies or which the student could choose to attend pursuant to s. 1002.31 if the student:

1. During the period of participation in the interscholastic extracurricular activity, meets the requirements in paragraph (a).

2. Meets any additional requirements as determined by the board of trustees of the Florida Virtual School.

3. Meets the same residency requirements as other students in the school at which he or she participates.

4. Meets the same standards of acceptance, behavior, and performance that are required of other students in extracurricular activities.

5. Registers his or her intent to participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities with the school before participation ~~the beginning date~~

of the season for the activity in which he or she wishes to participate. A Florida Virtual school student must be able to participate in curricular activities if that is a requirement for an extracurricular activity.

Section 27. Subsections (3) and (13) and paragraph (b) of subsection (24) of section 1007.271, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1007.271 Dual enrollment programs.—

(3) Student eligibility requirements for initial enrollment in college credit dual enrollment courses must include a 3.0 unweighted high school grade point average and the minimum score on a common placement test adopted by the State Board of Education which indicates that the student is ready for college-level coursework. Student eligibility requirements for continued enrollment in college credit dual enrollment courses must include the maintenance of a 3.0 unweighted high school grade point average and the minimum postsecondary grade point average established by the postsecondary institution. Regardless of meeting student eligibility requirements for continued enrollment, a student may lose the opportunity to participate in a dual enrollment course if the student is disruptive to the learning process such that the progress of other students or the efficient administration of the course is hindered. Student eligibility requirements for initial and continued enrollment in career certificate dual enrollment courses must include a 2.0 unweighted high school grade point average. Exceptions to the required grade point averages may be granted on an individual student basis if the educational entities agree and the terms of the agreement are contained within the dual enrollment articulation agreement established pursuant to subsection (21). Florida College System institution boards of trustees may establish additional initial student eligibility requirements, which shall be included in the dual enrollment articulation agreement, to ensure student readiness for postsecondary instruction. Additional requirements included in the agreement may not arbitrarily prohibit students who have demonstrated the ability to master advanced courses from participating in dual enrollment courses or limit the number of dual enrollment courses in which a student may enroll based solely upon enrollment by the student at an independent postsecondary institution.

(13)(a) The dual enrollment program for a home education student, including, but not limited to, students with disabilities, consists of the enrollment of an eligible home education secondary student in a postsecondary course creditable toward an associate degree, a career certificate, or a baccalaureate degree. To participate in the dual enrollment program, an eligible home education secondary student must:

1. Provide proof of enrollment in a home education program pursuant to s. 1002.41.
2. Be responsible for his or her own ~~instructional materials and transportation unless provided for in the articulation agreement.~~

3. Sign a home education articulation agreement pursuant to paragraph (b).

(b) Each public postsecondary institution eligible to participate in the dual enrollment program pursuant to s. 1011.62(1)(i) must enter into a home education articulation agreement with each home education student seeking enrollment in a dual enrollment course and the student's parent. By August 1 of each year, the eligible postsecondary institution shall complete and submit the home education articulation agreement to the Department of Education. The home education articulation agreement must include, at a minimum:

1. A delineation of courses and programs available to dually enrolled home education students. Courses and programs may be added, revised, or deleted at any time by the postsecondary institution. Any course or program limitations may not exceed the limitations for other dually enrolled students.

2. The initial and continued eligibility requirements for home education student participation, not to exceed those required of other dually enrolled students. A high school grade point average may not be required for home education students who meet the minimum score on a common placement test adopted by the State Board of Education which indicates that the student is ready for college-level coursework; however, home education student eligibility requirements for continued enrollment in dual enrollment courses must include the maintenance of the minimum postsecondary grade point average established by the postsecondary institution.

3. The student's responsibilities for providing his or her own instructional materials and transportation.

4. A copy of the statement on transfer guarantees developed by the Department of Education under subsection (15).

(24)

(b) Each public postsecondary institution eligible to participate in the dual enrollment program pursuant to s. 1011.62(1)(i) must enter into a private school articulation agreement with each eligible private school in its geographic service area seeking to offer dual enrollment courses to its students, including, but not limited to, students with disabilities. By August 1 of each year, the eligible postsecondary institution shall complete and submit the private school articulation agreement to the Department of Education. The private school articulation agreement must include, at a minimum:

1. A delineation of courses and programs available to the private school student. The postsecondary institution may add, revise, or delete courses and programs at any time.

2. The initial and continued eligibility requirements for private school student participation, not to exceed those required of other dual enrollment students.

3. The student's responsibilities for providing his or her own instructional materials and transportation.

4. A provision clarifying that the private school will award appropriate credit toward high school completion for the postsecondary course under the dual enrollment program.

5. A provision expressing that costs associated with tuition and fees, including registration, and laboratory fees, will not be passed along to the student.

6. A provision stating whether the private school will compensate the postsecondary institution for the standard tuition rate per credit hour for each dual enrollment course taken by its students.

Section 28. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) and paragraph (a) of subsection (8) of section 1008.22, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1008.22 Student assessment program for public schools.—

(3) STATEWIDE, STANDARDIZED ASSESSMENT PROGRAM.—The Commissioner of Education shall design and implement a statewide, standardized assessment program aligned to the core curricular content established in the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards. The commissioner also must develop or select and implement a common battery of assessment tools that will be used in all juvenile justice education programs in the state. These tools must accurately measure the core curricular content established in the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards. Participation in the assessment program is mandatory for all school districts and all students attending public schools, including adult students seeking a standard high school diploma under s. 1003.4282 and students in Department of Juvenile Justice education programs, except as otherwise provided by law. If a student does not participate in the assessment program, the school district must notify the student's parent and provide the parent with information regarding the implications of such nonparticipation. The statewide, standardized assessment program shall be designed and implemented as follows:

(a) *Statewide, standardized comprehensive assessments.*—The statewide, standardized Reading assessment shall be administered annually in grades 3 through 10. The statewide, standardized Writing assessment shall be administered annually at least once at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. When the Reading and Writing assessments are replaced by English Language Arts (ELA) assessments, ELA assessments shall be administered to students in grades 3 through 10. Retake opportunities for the grade 10 Reading assessment or, upon implementation, the grade 10

ELA assessment must be provided. Students taking the ELA assessments shall not take the statewide, standardized assessments in Reading or Writing. Reading passages and writing prompts for ELA assessments shall incorporate grade-level core curricula content from social studies be administered online. The statewide, standardized Mathematics assessments shall be administered annually in grades 3 through 8. Students taking a revised Mathematics assessment shall not take the discontinued assessment. The statewide, standardized Science assessment shall be administered annually at least once at the elementary and middle grades levels. In order to earn a standard high school diploma, a student who has not earned a passing score on the grade 10 Reading assessment or, upon implementation, the grade 10 ELA assessment must earn a passing score on the assessment retake or earn a concordant score as authorized under subsection (9).

(8) PUBLICATION OF ASSESSMENTS.—To promote transparency in the statewide assessment program, in any procurement for the ELA assessment in grades 3 through 10 and the mathematics assessment in grades 3 through 8, the Department of Education shall solicit cost proposals for publication of the state assessments on its website in accordance with this subsection.

(a) The department shall publish each assessment administered under paragraph (3)(a) and subparagraph (3)(b)1., excluding assessment retakes, at least once on a triennial basis pursuant to a schedule determined by the Commissioner of Education. Each assessment, when published, must have been administered during the most recent school year and be in a format that facilitates the sharing of assessment items.

Section 29. Paragraphs (f), (o), and (t) of subsection (1), paragraph (b) of subsection (6), and paragraphs (a), (c), and (d) of subsection (9) of section 1011.62, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1011.62 Funds for operation of schools.—If the annual allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each district for operation of schools is not determined in the annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as follows:

(1) COMPUTATION OF THE BASIC AMOUNT TO BE INCLUDED FOR OPERATION.—The following procedure shall be followed in determining the annual allocation to each district for operation:

(f) *Supplemental academic instruction allocation; categorical fund.*—

1. There is created the supplemental academic instruction allocation a ~~categorical fund~~ to provide supplemental academic instruction to students in kindergarten through grade 12. ~~This paragraph may be cited as the “Supplemental Academic Instruction Categorical Fund.”~~

2. The supplemental academic instruction allocation shall be provided annually in the Florida Education Finance Program as specified in the General Appropriations Act. These funds are categorical fund is in addition to the funds appropriated on the basis of FTE student membership in the Florida Education Finance Program and shall be included in the total potential funds of each district. Beginning with the 2018-2019 fiscal year, These funds shall be used to provide supplemental academic instruction to students enrolled in the K-12 program. each school district that has a school earning a grade of "D" or "F" pursuant to s. 1008.34 must use that school's portion of the supplemental academic instruction allocation to implement intervention and support strategies for school improvement pursuant to s. 1008.33 and for salary incentives pursuant to s. 1012.2315(3) or salary supplements pursuant to s. 1012.22(1)(c)5.c. that are provided through a memorandum of understanding between the collective bargaining agent and the school board that addresses the selection, placement, and expectations of instructional personnel and school administrators. Each school district that has one or more of the 300 lowest-performing elementary schools based on a 3-year average of the state reading assessment data must use that school's portion of the allocation to provide an additional hour per day of intensive reading for the students in the school. The additional hour may be provided within the school day. Students enrolled in these schools who earned a level 4 or level 5 score on the statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment for the previous school year may participate in the extra hour of instruction. For all other schools, the school district's use of the supplemental academic instruction allocation one or more of the 300 lowest-performing elementary schools based on the state reading assessment for the prior year shall use these funds, together with the funds provided in the district's research-based reading instruction allocation and other available funds, to provide an additional hour of instruction beyond the normal school day for each day of the entire school year for intensive reading instruction for the students in each of these schools. This additional hour of instruction must be provided by teachers or reading specialists who have demonstrated effectiveness in teaching reading or by a K-5 mentoring reading program that is supervised by a teacher who is effective at teaching reading. Students enrolled in these schools who have level 5 assessment scores may participate in the additional hour of instruction on an optional basis. Exceptional student education centers shall not be included in the 300 schools. The designation of the 300 lowest-performing elementary schools must be based on the state reading assessment for the prior year. After this requirement has been met, supplemental instruction strategies may include, but is are not limited to, the: use of a modified curriculum, reading instruction, after-school instruction, tutoring, mentoring, a reduction in class size, extended school year, intensive skills development in summer school, dropout prevention programs as defined in ss. 1003.52 and 1003.53(1)(a), (b), and (c), and other methods of improving student achievement. Supplemental academic instruction may be provided to a student in any manner and at any time during or beyond the regular 180-day term identified by the school as being the most effective and efficient way to best help that student progress from grade to grade and to graduate.

3. ~~Categorical funds for supplemental academic instruction shall be provided annually in the Florida Education Finance Program as specified in the General Appropriations Act. These funds shall be provided as a supplement to the funds appropriated for the basic funding level and shall be included in the total funds of each district. The supplemental academic instruction allocation shall consist of a base amount that has a workload adjustment based on changes in unweighted FTE. In addition, districts that have elementary schools included in the 300 lowest-performing schools designation shall be allocated additional funds to assist those districts in providing intensive reading instruction to students in those schools. The amount provided shall be based on each district's level of per-student funding in the reading instruction allocation and the supplemental academic instruction categorical fund and on the total FTE for each of the schools. The supplemental academic instruction allocation categorical funding shall be recalculated during the fiscal year following an updated designation of the 300 lowest-performing elementary schools and shall be based on actual student membership from the FTE surveys. Upon recalculation of funding for the supplemental academic instruction allocation categorical fund, if the total allocation is greater than the amount provided in the General Appropriations Act, the allocation shall be prorated to the level provided to support the appropriation, based on each district's share of the total.~~

4. ~~Effective with the 1999-2000 fiscal year, Funding on the basis of FTE membership beyond the 180-day regular term shall be provided in the FEFP only for students enrolled in juvenile justice education programs or in education programs for juveniles placed in secure facilities or programs under s. 985.19. Funding for instruction beyond the regular 180-day school year for all other K-12 students shall be provided through the supplemental academic instruction allocation and other state, federal, and local fund sources with ample flexibility for schools to provide supplemental instruction to assist students in progressing from grade to grade and graduating.~~

5. ~~The Florida State University School, as a lab school, is authorized to expend from its FEFP or Lottery Enhancement Trust Fund allocation the cost to the student of remediation in reading, writing, or mathematics for any graduate who requires remediation at a postsecondary educational institution.~~

6. ~~Beginning in the 1999-2000 school year, dropout prevention programs as defined in ss. 1003.52, 1003.53(1)(a), (b), and (c), and 1003.54 shall be included in group 1 programs under subparagraph (d)3.~~

(o) *Calculation of additional full-time equivalent membership based on successful completion of a career-themed course pursuant to ss. 1003.491, 1003.492, and 1003.493, or courses with embedded CAPE industry certifications or CAPE Digital Tool certificates, and issuance of industry certification identified on the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List pursuant to rules adopted by the State Board of Education or CAPE Digital Tool certificates pursuant to s. 1003.4203.—*

1.a. A value of 0.025 full-time equivalent student membership shall be calculated for CAPE Digital Tool certificates earned by students in elementary and middle school grades.

b. A value of 0.1 or 0.2 full-time equivalent student membership shall be calculated for each student who completes a course as defined in s. 1003.493(1)(b) or courses with embedded CAPE industry certifications and who is issued an industry certification identified annually on the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List approved under rules adopted by the State Board of Education. A value of 0.2 full-time equivalent membership shall be calculated for each student who is issued a CAPE industry certification that has a statewide articulation agreement for college credit approved by the State Board of Education. For CAPE industry certifications that do not articulate for college credit, the Department of Education shall assign a full-time equivalent value of 0.1 for each certification. Middle grades students who earn additional FTE membership for a CAPE Digital Tool certificate pursuant to sub-subparagraph a. may not use the previously funded examination to satisfy the requirements for earning an industry certification under this sub-subparagraph. Additional FTE membership for an elementary or middle grades student may not exceed 0.1 for certificates or certifications earned within the same fiscal year. The State Board of Education shall include the assigned values on the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List under rules adopted by the state board. Such value shall be added to the total full-time equivalent student membership for grades 6 through 12 in the subsequent year. CAPE industry certifications earned through dual enrollment must be reported and funded pursuant to s. 1011.80. However, if a student earns a certification through a dual enrollment course and the certification is not a fundable certification on the postsecondary certification funding list, or the dual enrollment certification is earned as a result of an agreement between a school district and a nonpublic postsecondary institution, the bonus value shall be funded in the same manner as other nondual enrollment course industry certifications. In such cases, the school district may provide for an agreement between the high school and the technical center, or the school district and the postsecondary institution may enter into an agreement for equitable distribution of the bonus funds.

c. A value of 0.3 full-time equivalent student membership shall be calculated for student completion of the courses and the embedded certifications identified on the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List and approved by the commissioner pursuant to ss. 1003.4203(5)(a) and 1008.44.

d. A value of 0.5 full-time equivalent student membership shall be calculated for CAPE Acceleration Industry Certifications that articulate for 15 to 29 college credit hours, and 1.0 full-time equivalent student membership shall be calculated for CAPE Acceleration Industry Certifications that articulate for 30 or more college credit hours pursuant to CAPE Acceleration Industry Certifications approved by the commissioner pursuant to ss. 1003.4203(5)(b) and 1008.44.

2. Each district must allocate at least 80 percent of the funds provided for CAPE industry certification, in accordance with this paragraph, to the program that generated the funds. This allocation may not be used to supplant funds provided for basic operation of the program.

3. For CAPE industry certifications earned in the 2013-2014 school year and in subsequent years, the school district shall distribute to each classroom teacher who provided direct instruction toward the attainment of a CAPE industry certification that qualified for additional full-time equivalent membership under subparagraph 1.:

a. A bonus of \$25 for each student taught by a teacher who provided instruction in a course that led to the attainment of a CAPE industry certification on the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List with a weight of 0.1.

b. A bonus of \$50 for each student taught by a teacher who provided instruction in a course that led to the attainment of a CAPE industry certification on the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List with a weight of 0.2.

c. A bonus of \$75 for each student taught by a teacher who provided instruction in a course that led to the attainment of a CAPE industry certification on the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List with a weight of 0.3.

d. A bonus of \$100 for each student taught by a teacher who provided instruction in a course that led to the attainment of a CAPE industry certification on the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List with a weight of 0.5 or 1.0.

Bonuses awarded pursuant to this paragraph shall be provided to teachers who are employed by the district in the year in which the additional FTE membership calculation is included in the calculation. Bonuses shall be calculated based upon the associated weight of a CAPE industry certification on the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List for the year in which the certification is earned by the student. Any bonus awarded to a teacher pursuant to under this paragraph is in addition to any regular wage or other bonus the teacher received or is scheduled to receive. A bonus may not be awarded to a teacher who fails to maintain the security of any CAPE industry certification examination or who otherwise violates the security or administration protocol of any assessment instrument that may result in a bonus being awarded to the teacher under this paragraph.

(t) Computation for funding through the Florida Education Finance Program.—The State Board of Education may adopt rules establishing programs, industry certifications, and courses for which the student may earn credit toward high school graduation and the criteria under which a student's industry certification or grade may be rescinded.

(6) CATEGORICAL FUNDS.—

(b) If a district school board finds and declares in a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the school board that the funds received for any of the following categorical appropriations are urgently needed to maintain school board specified academic classroom instruction or improve school safety, the school board may consider and approve an amendment to the school district operating budget transferring the identified amount of the categorical funds to the appropriate account for expenditure:

1. Funds for student transportation.

2.— Funds for safe schools.

3.— Funds for supplemental academic instruction if the required additional hour of instruction beyond the normal school day for each day of the entire school year has been provided for the students in each low-performing elementary school in the district pursuant to paragraph (1)(f).

2.4. Funds for research-based reading instruction if the required additional hour of instruction beyond the normal school day for each day of the entire school year has been provided for the students in each low-performing elementary school in the district pursuant to paragraph (9)(a).

3.5. Funds for instructional materials if all instructional material purchases necessary to provide updated materials that are aligned with applicable state standards and course descriptions and that meet statutory requirements of content and learning have been completed for that fiscal year, but no sooner than March 1. Funds available after March 1 may be used to purchase hardware for student instruction.

(9) RESEARCH-BASED READING INSTRUCTION ALLOCATION.—

(a) The research-based reading instruction allocation is created to provide comprehensive reading instruction to students in kindergarten through grade 12. Each school district that has one or more of the 300 lowest-performing elementary schools based on a 3-year average of the state reading assessment data must use the school's portion of the allocation to provide shall give priority to providing an additional hour per day of intensive reading instruction ~~beyond the normal school day for each day of the entire school year~~ for the students in each school. The additional hour may be provided within the school day. ~~The designation of the 300 lowest-performing elementary schools must be based on the state reading assessment for the prior year.~~ Students enrolled in these schools who earned a have level 4 or level 5 score on the statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment for the previous school year scores may participate in the additional hour of instruction ~~on an optional basis~~. Exceptional student education centers may not be included in the 300 schools. The intensive reading instruction delivered in this additional hour ~~and for other students~~ shall include: research-based reading instruction that

has been proven to accelerate progress of students exhibiting a reading deficiency; differentiated instruction based on screening, diagnostic, progress monitoring, or student assessment data to meet students' specific reading needs; explicit and systematic reading strategies to develop phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension, with more extensive opportunities for guided practice, error correction, and feedback; and the integration of social studies, science, and mathematics-text reading, text discussion, and writing in response to reading.

(c) Funds allocated under this subsection must be used to provide a system of comprehensive reading instruction to students enrolled in the K-12 programs, which may include the following:

1. ~~The provision of~~ An additional hour per day of intensive reading instruction to students in the 300 lowest-performing elementary schools by teachers and reading specialists who have demonstrated effectiveness in teaching reading as required in paragraph (a).

2. Kindergarten through grade 5 reading intervention teachers to provide intensive intervention during the school day and in the required extra hour for students identified as having a reading deficiency.

3. ~~The provision of~~ Highly qualified reading coaches to specifically support teachers in making instructional decisions based on student data, and improve teacher delivery of effective reading instruction, intervention, and reading in the content areas based on student need.

4. Professional development for school district teachers in scientifically based reading instruction, including strategies to teach reading in content areas and with an emphasis on technical and informational text, to help school district teachers earn a certification or an endorsement in reading.

5. ~~The provision of~~ Summer reading camps, using only teachers or other district personnel who are certified or endorsed in reading consistent with s. 1008.25(7)(b)3., for all students in kindergarten through grade 2 who demonstrate a reading deficiency as determined by district and state assessments, and students in grades 3 through 5 who score at Level 1 on the statewide, standardized ~~reading assessment or, upon implementation,~~ the English Language Arts assessment.

6. ~~The provision of~~ Supplemental instructional materials that are grounded in scientifically based reading research as identified by the Just Read, Florida! Office pursuant to s. 1001.215(8).

7. ~~The provision of~~ Intensive interventions for students in kindergarten through grade 12 who have been identified as having a reading deficiency or who are reading below grade level as determined by the statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment.

(d)1. Annually, by a date determined by the Department of Education but before May 1, school districts shall submit a K-12 comprehensive reading

plan for the specific use of the research-based reading instruction allocation in the format prescribed by the department for review and approval by the Just Read, Florida! Office created pursuant to s. 1001.215. The plan annually submitted by school districts shall be deemed approved unless the department rejects the plan on or before June 1. If a school district and the Just Read, Florida! Office cannot reach agreement on the contents of the plan, the school district may appeal to the State Board of Education for resolution. School districts shall be allowed reasonable flexibility in designing their plans and shall be encouraged to offer reading intervention through innovative methods, including career academies. The plan format shall be developed with input from school district personnel, including teachers and principals, and shall provide for ~~allow courses in core, career, and alternative programs that deliver intensive reading interventions~~ remediation through integrated curricula, provided that, beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, the interventions are delivered by a teacher who is certified or endorsed in reading. Such interventions must incorporate strategies identified by the Just Read, Florida! Office pursuant to s. 1001.215(8) deemed highly qualified to teach reading or working toward that status. No later than July 1 annually, the department shall release the school district's allocation of appropriated funds to those districts having approved plans. A school district that spends 100 percent of this allocation on its approved plan shall be deemed to have been in compliance with the plan. The department may withhold funds upon a determination that reading instruction allocation funds are not being used to implement the approved plan. The department shall monitor and track the implementation of each district plan, including conducting site visits and collecting specific data on expenditures and reading improvement results. By February 1 of each year, the department shall report its findings to the Legislature.

2. Each school district that has a school designated as one of the 300 lowest-performing elementary schools as specified in paragraph (a) shall specifically delineate in the comprehensive reading plan, or in an addendum to the comprehensive reading plan, the implementation design and reading intervention strategies that will be used for the required additional hour of reading instruction. The term "reading intervention" includes evidence-based strategies frequently used to remediate reading deficiencies and also includes individual instruction, tutoring, mentoring, or the use of technology that targets specific reading skills and abilities.

Section 30. Section 1011.6202, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1011.6202 Principal Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative.—The Principal Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative is created within the Department of Education. The purpose of the pilot program is to provide a the highly effective principal of a participating school with increased autonomy and authority to operate his or her school, as well as other schools, in a way that produces significant improvements in student achievement and school management while complying with constitutional requirements. The State Board of Education may, upon approval of a principal autonomy

proposal, enter into a performance contract with ~~the up-to-seven district school board boards~~ for participation in the pilot program.

(1) PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS.—~~Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, contingent upon available funds, and on a first-come, first-served basis, a~~ The district school board boards in Broward, Duval, Jefferson, Madison, Palm Beach, Pinellas, and Seminole Counties may submit, no later than December 1, to the state board for approval a principal autonomy proposal that exchanges statutory and rule exemptions for an agreement to meet performance goals established in the proposal. If approved by the state board, ~~the each of these school district is districts shall~~ be eligible to participate in the pilot program for 3 years. ~~At the end of the 3 years, the performance of all participating schools in the school district shall be evaluated.~~

(2) PRINCIPAL AUTONOMY PROPOSAL.—

(a) To participate in the pilot program, a school district must:

1. Identify three schools that received at least two school grades of “D” or “F” pursuant to s. 1008.34 during the previous 3 school years.

2. Identify three principals who have earned a highly effective rating on the prior year’s performance evaluation pursuant to s. 1012.34, one of whom shall be assigned to each of the participating schools.

3. Describe the current financial and administrative management of each participating school; identify the areas in which each school principal will have increased fiscal and administrative autonomy, including the authority and responsibilities provided in s. 1012.28(8); and identify the areas in which each participating school will continue to follow district school board fiscal and administrative policies.

4. Explain the methods used to identify the educational strengths and needs of the participating school’s students and identify how student achievement can be improved.

5. Establish performance goals for student achievement, as defined in s. 1008.34(1), and explain how the increased autonomy of principals will help participating schools improve student achievement and school management.

6. Provide each participating school’s mission and a description of its student population.

(b) The state board shall establish criteria, which must include the criteria listed in paragraph (a), for the approval of a principal autonomy proposal.

(c) A district school board must submit its principal autonomy proposal to the state board for approval by December 1 in order to begin participation in the subsequent school year. By February 28 of the school year in which the

proposal is submitted, the state board shall notify the district school board in writing whether the proposal is approved.

(3) EXEMPTION FROM LAWS.—

(a) With the exception of those laws listed in paragraph (b), a participating school or a school operated by a principal pursuant to subsection (5) is exempt from the provisions of chapters 1000-1013 and rules of the state board that implement those exempt provisions.

(b) A participating school or a school operated by a principal pursuant to subsection (5) shall comply with the provisions of chapters 1000-1013, and rules of the state board that implement those provisions, pertaining to the following:

1. Those laws relating to the election and compensation of district school board members, the election or appointment and compensation of district school superintendents, public meetings and public records requirements, financial disclosure, and conflicts of interest.

2. Those laws relating to the student assessment program and school grading system, including chapter 1008.

3. Those laws relating to the provision of services to students with disabilities.

4. Those laws relating to civil rights, including s. 1000.05, relating to discrimination.

5. Those laws relating to student health, safety, and welfare.

6. Section 1001.42(4)(f), relating to the uniform opening date for public schools.

7. Section 1003.03, governing maximum class size, except that the calculation for compliance pursuant to s. 1003.03 is the average at the school level for a participating school.

8. Sections 1012.22(1)(c) and 1012.27(2), relating to compensation and salary schedules.

9. Section 1012.33(5), relating to workforce reductions for annual contracts for instructional personnel. This subparagraph does not apply to at-will employees.

10. Section 1012.335, relating to annual contracts for instructional personnel hired on or after July 1, 2011. This subparagraph does not apply to at-will employees.

11. Section 1012.34, relating to personnel evaluation procedures and criteria.

12. Those laws pertaining to educational facilities, including chapter 1013, except that s. 1013.20, relating to covered walkways for relocatables, and s. 1013.21, relating to the use of relocatable facilities exceeding 20 years of age, are eligible for exemption.

13. Those laws pertaining to participating school districts, including this section and ss. 1011.69(2) and 1012.28(8).

(c) A school shall remain exempt, as provided in this subsection, beyond the term of the program so long as the school receives no grade lower than a "B."

(4) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.—Each participating school district shall require that the principal of each participating school and a designated leadership team selected by the principal of the participating school, a three-member leadership team from each participating school, and district personnel working with each participating school complete a nationally recognized school turnaround program which focuses on improving leadership, instructional infrastructure, talent management, and differentiated support and accountability. The required personnel must enroll in the nationally recognized school turnaround program upon acceptance into the pilot program. ~~Each participating school district shall receive \$100,000 from the department for participation in the nationally recognized school turnaround program.~~

(5) DISTRICT INNOVATION ACADEMIES AND ZONES.—To encourage further innovation and expand the reach of highly effective principals trained pursuant to subsection (4) district school boards may authorize these principals to manage multiple schools within a zone. A zone may include the school at which the principal is assigned, persistently low-performing schools, feeder pattern schools, or a group of schools identified by the school district. The principal may allocate resources and personnel between the schools under his or her administration.

(6)(5) TERM OF PARTICIPATION.—The state board shall authorize a school district to participate in the pilot program for a period of 3 years commencing with approval of the principal autonomy proposal. ~~Authorization to participate in the pilot program may be renewed upon action of the state board.~~ The state board may revoke authorization to participate in the pilot program if the school district fails to meet the requirements of this section during the 3-year period.

~~(6) REPORTING.—Each participating school district shall submit an annual report to the state board. The state board shall annually report on the implementation of the Principal Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative. Upon completion of the pilot program's first 3-year term, the Commissioner of Education shall submit to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 1 a full evaluation of the effectiveness of the pilot program.~~

(7) **FUNDING.**—~~Subject to an annual appropriation, The Legislature shall provide an appropriation to the department shall fund for the costs of the pilot program to include the, including administrative costs and enrollment costs for the nationally recognized school turnaround program required in subsection (4); and an additional amount not to exceed of \$10,000 for each participating principal in each participating district as an annual salary supplement for 3 years, a fund for the principal's school to be used at the principal's discretion, or both, as determined by the district. To be eligible for a salary supplement under this subsection, a participating principal must:~~

(a) Be rated “highly effective” as determined by the principal’s performance evaluation under s. 1012.34;

(b) Be transferred to a school that earned a grade of “F” or ~~two~~ three consecutive grades of “D” pursuant to s. 1008.34, ~~or manage, pursuant to subsection (5), a persistently low-performing school and provided additional authority and responsibilities pursuant to s. 1012.28(8); and~~

(c) Have implemented a turnaround option under ~~s. 1008.33 s. 1008.33(4)~~ at a school as the school’s principal. The turnaround option must have resulted in the school improving by at least one letter grade while he or she was serving as the school’s principal.

(8) **RULEMAKING.**—The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to administer this section.

Section 31. Subsection (5) of section 1011.69, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1011.69 Equity in School-Level Funding Act.—

(5) ~~After providing Title I, Part A, Basic funds to schools above the 75 percent poverty threshold, which may include high schools above the 50 percent threshold as permitted by federal law, school districts shall provide any remaining Title I, Part A, Basic funds directly to all eligible schools as provided in this subsection.~~ For purposes of this subsection, an eligible school is a school that is eligible to receive Title I funds, including a charter school. The threshold for identifying eligible schools may not exceed the threshold established by a school district for the 2016-2017 school year or the statewide percentage of economically disadvantaged students, as determined annually.

(a) Prior to the allocation of Title I funds to eligible schools, a school district may withhold funds only as follows:

1. One percent for parent involvement, in addition to the one percent the district must reserve under federal law for allocations to eligible schools for parent involvement;

2. A necessary and reasonable amount for administration, which includes the district’s indirect cost rate, not to exceed a total of 10 8 percent; ~~and~~

3. A reasonable and necessary amount to provide:

a. Homeless programs;

b. Delinquent and neglected programs;

c. Prekindergarten programs and activities;

d. Private school equitable services; ~~and~~

e. Transportation for foster care children to their school of origin or choice programs; ~~and~~.

4. A necessary and reasonable amount, not to exceed 1 percent, for eligible schools to provide educational services in accordance with the approved Title I plan.

(b) All remaining Title I funds shall be distributed to all eligible schools in accordance with federal law and regulation. An eligible school may use funds under this subsection to participate in discretionary educational services provided by the school district. Any funds provided by an eligible school to participate in discretionary educational services provided by the school district are not subject to the requirements of this subsection.

(c) Any funds carried forward by the school district are not subject to the requirements of this subsection.

Section 32. Subsection (2) of section 1011.71, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1011.71 District school tax.—

(2) In addition to the maximum millage levy as provided in subsection (1), each school board may levy not more than 1.5 mills against the taxable value for school purposes for charter schools pursuant to s. 1013.62(1) and (3) s. 1013.62(3) and for district schools to fund:

(a) New construction and remodeling projects, as set forth in s. 1013.64(6)(b) ~~s. 1013.64(3)(d) and (6)(b)~~ and included in the district’s educational plant survey pursuant to s. 1013.31, without regard to prioritization, sites and site improvement or expansion to new sites, existing sites, auxiliary facilities, athletic facilities, or ancillary facilities.

(b) Maintenance, renovation, and repair of existing school plants or of leased facilities to correct deficiencies pursuant to s. 1013.15(2).

(c) The purchase, lease-purchase, or lease of school buses.

(d) The purchase, lease-purchase, or lease of new and replacement equipment; computer and device hardware and operating system software necessary for gaining access to or enhancing the use of electronic and digital instructional content and resources; and enterprise resource software applications that are classified as capital assets in accordance with definitions of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, have a useful life of at least 5 years, and are used to support districtwide administration or state-mandated reporting requirements. Enterprise resource software may be acquired by annual license fees, maintenance fees, or lease agreements.

(e) Payments for educational facilities and sites due under a lease-purchase agreement entered into by a district school board pursuant to s. 1003.02(1)(f) or s. 1013.15(2), not exceeding, in the aggregate, an amount equal to three-fourths of the proceeds from the millage levied by a district school board pursuant to this subsection. The three-fourths limit is waived for lease-purchase agreements entered into before June 30, 2009, by a district school board pursuant to this paragraph. If payments under lease-purchase agreements in the aggregate, including lease-purchase agreements entered into before June 30, 2009, exceed three-fourths of the proceeds from the millage levied pursuant to this subsection, the district school board may not withhold the administrative fees authorized by s. 1002.33(20) from any charter school operating in the school district.

(f) Payment of loans approved pursuant to ss. 1011.14 and 1011.15.

(g) Payment of costs directly related to complying with state and federal environmental statutes, rules, and regulations governing school facilities.

(h) Payment of costs of leasing relocatable educational facilities, of renting or leasing educational facilities and sites pursuant to s. 1013.15(2), or of renting or leasing buildings or space within existing buildings pursuant to s. 1013.15(4).

(i) Payment of the cost of school buses when a school district contracts with a private entity to provide student transportation services if the district meets the requirements of this paragraph.

1. The district's contract must require that the private entity purchase, lease-purchase, or lease, and operate and maintain, one or more school buses of a specific type and size that meet the requirements of s. 1006.25.

2. Each such school bus must be used for the daily transportation of public school students in the manner required by the school district.

3. Annual payment for each such school bus may not exceed 10 percent of the purchase price of the state pool bid.

4. The proposed expenditure of the funds for this purpose must have been included in the district school board's notice of proposed tax for school capital outlay as provided in s. 200.065(10).

(j) Payment of the cost of the opening day collection for the library media center of a new school.

(k) Payout of sick leave and annual leave accrued as of June 30, 2017, by individuals who are no longer employed by a school district that transfers to a charter school operator all day-to-day classroom instruction responsibility for all full-time equivalent students funded under s. 1011.62. This paragraph expires July 1, 2018.

Section 33. Subsection (4) of section 1012.2315, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1012.2315 Assignment of teachers.—

(4) COLLECTIVE BARGAINING.—

(a) Notwithstanding provisions of chapter 447 relating to district school board collective bargaining, collective bargaining provisions may not preclude a school district from providing incentives to high-quality teachers and assigning such teachers to low-performing schools.

(b) Before the start of the 2019-2020 school year, each school district and the certified collective bargaining unit for instructional personnel shall negotiate a memorandum of understanding that addresses the selection, placement, and expectations of instructional personnel and provides school principals with the autonomy described in s. 1012.28(8).

(c)1. In addition to the provisions under s. 447.305(2), an employee organization that has been certified as the bargaining agent for a unit of instructional personnel as defined in s. 1012.01(2) must include for each such certified bargaining unit the following information in its application for renewal of registration:

a. The number of employees in the bargaining unit who are eligible for representation by the employee organization.

b. The number of employees who are represented by the employee organization, specifying the number of members who pay dues and the number of members who do not pay dues.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 447 relating to collective bargaining, an employee organization whose dues paying membership is less than 50 percent of the employees eligible for representation in the unit, as identified in subparagraph 1., must petition the Public Employees Relations Commission pursuant to s. 447.307(2) and (3) for recertification as the exclusive representative of all employees in the unit within 1 month after the date on which the organization applies for renewal of registration pursuant to s. 447.305(2). The certification of an employee organization that does not comply with this paragraph is revoked.

Section 34. Subsection (8) of section 1012.28, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1012.28 Public school personnel; **duties of school principals.**—

(8) The principal of a school participating in the Principal Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative under s. 1011.6202 has the following additional authority and responsibilities:

(a) In addition to the authority provided in subsection (6), the authority to select qualified instructional personnel for placement or to refuse to accept the placement or transfer of instructional personnel by the district school superintendent. Placement of instructional personnel at a participating school in a participating school district does not affect the employee's status as a school district employee.

(b) The authority to deploy financial resources to school programs at the principal's discretion to help improve student achievement, as defined in s. 1008.34(1), and meet performance goals identified in the principal autonomy proposal submitted pursuant to s. 1011.6202.

(c) To annually provide to the district school superintendent and the district school board a budget for the operation of the participating school that identifies how funds provided pursuant to s. 1011.69(2) are allocated. ~~The school district shall include the budget in the annual report provided to the State Board of Education pursuant to s. 1011.6202(6).~~

Section 35. Section 1012.315, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1012.315 Disqualification from employment.—**A person is ineligible for educator certification, and instructional personnel and school administrators, as defined in s. 1012.01, are ineligible for employment in any position that requires direct contact with students in a district school system, charter school, or private school that accepts scholarship students who participate in a state scholarship program under chapter 1002** ~~under s. 1002.39 or s. 1002.395, if the person, instructional personnel, or school administrator has been convicted of:~~

(1) Any felony offense prohibited under any of the following statutes:

(a) Section 393.135, relating to sexual misconduct with certain developmentally disabled clients and reporting of such sexual misconduct.

(b) Section 394.4593, relating to sexual misconduct with certain mental health patients and reporting of such sexual misconduct.

(c) Section 415.111, relating to adult abuse, neglect, or exploitation of aged persons or disabled adults.

(d) Section 782.04, relating to murder.

(e) Section 782.07, relating to manslaughter, aggravated manslaughter of an elderly person or disabled adult, aggravated manslaughter of a child, or aggravated manslaughter of an officer, a firefighter, an emergency medical technician, or a paramedic.

(f) Section 784.021, relating to aggravated assault.

(g) Section 784.045, relating to aggravated battery.

(h) Section 784.075, relating to battery on a detention or commitment facility staff member or a juvenile probation officer.

(i) Section 787.01, relating to kidnapping.

(j) Section 787.02, relating to false imprisonment.

(k) Section 787.025, relating to luring or enticing a child.

(l) Section 787.04(2), relating to leading, taking, enticing, or removing a minor beyond the state limits, or concealing the location of a minor, with criminal intent pending custody proceedings.

(m) Section 787.04(3), relating to leading, taking, enticing, or removing a minor beyond the state limits, or concealing the location of a minor, with criminal intent pending dependency proceedings or proceedings concerning alleged abuse or neglect of a minor.

(n) Section 790.115(1), relating to exhibiting firearms or weapons at a school-sponsored event, on school property, or within 1,000 feet of a school.

(o) Section 790.115(2)(b), relating to possessing an electric weapon or device, destructive device, or other weapon at a school-sponsored event or on school property.

(p) Section 794.011, relating to sexual battery.

(q) Former s. 794.041, relating to sexual activity with or solicitation of a child by a person in familial or custodial authority.

(r) Section 794.05, relating to unlawful sexual activity with certain minors.

(s) Section 794.08, relating to female genital mutilation.

(t) Chapter 796, relating to prostitution.

(u) Chapter 800, relating to lewdness and indecent exposure.

(v) Section 806.01, relating to arson.

(w) Section 810.14, relating to voyeurism.

(x) Section 810.145, relating to video voyeurism.

- (y) Section 812.014(6), relating to coordinating the commission of theft in excess of \$3,000.
- (z) Section 812.0145, relating to theft from persons 65 years of age or older.
- (aa) Section 812.019, relating to dealing in stolen property.
- (bb) Section 812.13, relating to robbery.
- (cc) Section 812.131, relating to robbery by sudden snatching.
- (dd) Section 812.133, relating to carjacking.
- (ee) Section 812.135, relating to home-invasion robbery.
- (ff) Section 817.563, relating to fraudulent sale of controlled substances.
- (gg) Section 825.102, relating to abuse, aggravated abuse, or neglect of an elderly person or disabled adult.
- (hh) Section 825.103, relating to exploitation of an elderly person or disabled adult.
- (ii) Section 825.1025, relating to lewd or lascivious offenses committed upon or in the presence of an elderly person or disabled person.
- (jj) Section 826.04, relating to incest.
- (kk) Section 827.03, relating to child abuse, aggravated child abuse, or neglect of a child.
- (ll) Section 827.04, relating to contributing to the delinquency or dependency of a child.
- (mm) Section 827.071, relating to sexual performance by a child.
- (nn) Section 843.01, relating to resisting arrest with violence.
- (oo) Chapter 847, relating to obscenity.
- (pp) Section 874.05, relating to causing, encouraging, soliciting, or recruiting another to join a criminal street gang.
- (qq) Chapter 893, relating to drug abuse prevention and control, if the offense was a felony of the second degree or greater severity.
- (rr) Section 916.1075, relating to sexual misconduct with certain forensic clients and reporting of such sexual misconduct.
- (ss) Section 944.47, relating to introduction, removal, or possession of contraband at a correctional facility.

(tt) Section 985.701, relating to sexual misconduct in juvenile justice programs.

(uu) Section 985.711, relating to introduction, removal, or possession of contraband at a juvenile detention facility or commitment program.

(2) Any misdemeanor offense prohibited under any of the following statutes:

(a) Section 784.03, relating to battery, if the victim of the offense was a minor.

(b) Section 787.025, relating to luring or enticing a child.

(3) Any criminal act committed in another state or under federal law which, if committed in this state, constitutes an offense prohibited under any statute listed in subsection (1) or subsection (2).

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

Section 36. Subsection (2) of section 1012.32, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1012.32 Qualifications of personnel.—

(2)(a) Instructional and noninstructional personnel who are hired or contracted to fill positions that require direct contact with students in any district school system or university lab school must, upon employment or engagement to provide services, undergo background screening as required under s. 1012.465 or s. 1012.56, whichever is applicable.

(b) Instructional and noninstructional personnel who are hired or contracted to fill positions in any charter school and members of the governing board of any charter school, in compliance with s. 1002.33(12)(g), must, upon employment, engagement of services, or appointment, undergo background screening as required under s. 1012.465 or s. 1012.56, whichever is applicable, by filing with the district school board for the school district in which the charter school is located a complete set of fingerprints taken by an authorized law enforcement agency or an employee of the school or school district who is trained to take fingerprints.

(c) Instructional and noninstructional personnel who are hired or contracted to fill positions that require direct contact with students in an alternative school that operates under contract with a district school system must, upon employment or engagement to provide services, undergo background screening as required under s. 1012.465 or s. 1012.56, whichever is applicable, by filing with the district school board for the school district to which the alternative school is under contract a complete set of fingerprints

taken by an authorized law enforcement agency or an employee of the school or school district who is trained to take fingerprints.

(d) Student teachers and persons participating in a field experience pursuant to s. 1004.04(5) or s. 1004.85 in any district school system, lab school, or charter school must, upon engagement to provide services, undergo background screening as required under s. 1012.56.

Fingerprints shall be submitted to the Department of Law Enforcement for statewide criminal and juvenile records checks and to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for federal criminal records checks. A person subject to this subsection who is found ineligible for employment under s. 1012.315, or otherwise found through background screening to have been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude as defined by rule of the State Board of Education, shall not be employed, engaged to provide services, or serve in any position that requires direct contact with students. Probationary persons subject to this subsection terminated because of their criminal record have the right to appeal such decisions. The cost of the background screening may be borne by the district school board, the charter school, the employee, the contractor, or a person subject to this subsection. A district school board shall reimburse a charter school the cost of background screening if it does not notify the charter school of the eligibility of a governing board members or instructional or noninstructional personnel within the earlier of 14 days after receipt of the background screening results from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement or 30 days of submission of fingerprints by the governing board member or instructional or noninstructional personnel.

Section 37. Section 1012.562, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1012.562 Public accountability and state approval of school leader preparation programs.—The Department of Education shall establish a process for the approval of Level I and Level II school leader preparation programs that will enable aspiring school leaders to obtain their certificate in educational leadership under s. 1012.56. School leader preparation programs must be competency-based, aligned to the principal leadership standards adopted by the state board, and open to individuals employed by public schools, including charter schools and virtual schools. Level I programs may be offered by school districts or postsecondary institutions and lead to initial certification in educational leadership for the purpose of preparing individuals to serve as school administrators. Level II programs may be offered by school districts, build upon Level I training, and lead to renewal certification as a school principal.

(1) PURPOSE.—The purpose of school leader preparation programs are to:

(a) Increase the supply of effective school leaders in the public schools of this state.

(b) Produce school leaders who are prepared to lead the state's diverse student population in meeting high standards for academic achievement.

(c) Enable school leaders to facilitate the development and retention of effective and highly effective classroom teachers.

(d) Produce leaders with the competencies and skills necessary to achieve the state's education goals.

(e) Sustain the state system of school improvement and education accountability.

(2) LEVEL I PROGRAMS.—

(a) Initial approval of a Level I program shall be for a period of 5 years. A postsecondary institution, ~~or school district, charter school, or charter management organization~~ may submit to the department in a format prescribed by the department an application to establish a Level I school leader preparation program. To be approved, a Level I program must:

1. Provide competency-based training aligned to the principal leadership standards adopted by the State Board of Education.

2. If the program is provided by a postsecondary institution, partner with at least one school district.

3. Describe the qualifications that will be used to determine program admission standards, including a candidate's instructional expertise and leadership potential.

4. Describe how the training provided through the program will be aligned to the personnel evaluation criteria under s. 1012.34.

(b) Renewal of a Level I program's approval shall be for a period of 5 years and shall be based upon evidence of the program's continued ability to meet the requirements of paragraph (a). A postsecondary institution or school district must submit an institutional program evaluation plan in a format prescribed by the department for a Level I program to be considered for renewal. The plan must include:

1. The percentage of personnel who complete the program and are placed in school leadership positions in public schools within the state.

2. Results from the personnel evaluations required under s. 1012.34 for personnel who complete the program.

3. The passage rate of personnel who complete the program on the Florida Education Leadership Examination.

4. The impact personnel who complete the program have on student learning as measured by the formulas developed by the commissioner pursuant to s. 1012.34(7).

5. Strategies for continuous improvement of the program.

6. Strategies for involving personnel who complete the program, other school personnel, community agencies, business representatives, and other stakeholders in the program evaluation process.

7. Additional data included at the discretion of the postsecondary institution or school district.

(c) A Level I program must guarantee the high quality of personnel who complete the program for the first 2 years after program completion or the person's initial certification as a school leader, whichever occurs first. If a person who completed the program is evaluated at less than highly effective or effective under s. 1012.34 and the person's employer requests additional training, the Level I program must provide additional training at no cost to the person or his or her employer. The training must include the creation of an individualized plan agreed to by the employer that includes specific learning outcomes. The Level I program is not responsible for the person's employment contract with his or her employer.

(3) LEVEL II PROGRAMS.—Initial approval and subsequent renewal of a Level II program shall be for a period of 5 years. A school district, charter school, or charter management organization may submit to the department in a format prescribed by the department an application to establish a Level II school leader preparation program or for program renewal. To be approved or renewed, a Level II program must:

(a) Demonstrate that personnel accepted into the Level II program have:

1. Obtained their certificate in educational leadership under s. 1012.56.
2. Earned a highly effective or effective designation under s. 1012.34.
3. Satisfactorily performed instructional leadership responsibilities as measured by the evaluation system in s. 1012.34.

(b) Demonstrate that the Level II program:

1. Provides competency-based training aligned to the principal leadership standards adopted by the State Board of Education.

2. Provides training aligned to the personnel evaluation criteria under s. 1012.34 and professional development program in s. 1012.986.

3. Provides individualized instruction using a customized learning plan for each person enrolled in the program that is based on data from self-assessment, selection, and appraisal instruments.

4. Conducts program evaluations and implements program improvements using input from personnel who completed the program and employers and data gathered pursuant to paragraph (2)(b).

(c) Gather and monitor the data specified in paragraph (2)(b).

(4) RULES.—The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to administer this section.

Section 38. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 1012.586, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1012.586 Additions or changes to certificates; duplicate certificates.—A school district may process via a Department of Education website certificates for the following applications of public school employees:

(1) Addition of a subject coverage or endorsement to a valid Florida certificate on the basis of the completion of the appropriate subject area testing requirements of s. 1012.56(5)(a) or the completion of the requirements of an approved school district program or the inservice components for an endorsement.

(b) By July 1, 2018, and at least once every 5 years thereafter, the department shall conduct a review of existing subject coverage or endorsement requirements in the elementary, reading, and exceptional student educational areas. The review must include reciprocity requirements for out-of-state certificates and requirements for demonstrating competency in the reading instruction professional development topics listed in s. 1012.98(4)(b) 11. The review must also consider the award of an endorsement to an individual who holds a certificate issued by an internationally recognized organization that establishes standards for providing evidence-based interventions to struggling readers or who completes a postsecondary program that is accredited by such organization. Any such certificate or program must require an individual who completes the certificate or program to demonstrate competence in reading intervention strategies through clinical experience. At the conclusion of each review, the department shall recommend to the state board changes to the subject coverage or endorsement requirements based upon any identified instruction or intervention strategies proven to improve student reading performance. This paragraph does not authorize the state board to establish any new certification subject coverage.

The employing school district shall charge the employee a fee not to exceed the amount charged by the Department of Education for such services. Each district school board shall retain a portion of the fee as defined in the rules of the State Board of Education. The portion sent to the department shall be used for maintenance of the technology system, the web application, and posting and mailing of the certificate.

Section 39. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section 1012.731, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1012.731 The Florida Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship Program.

(3)

(b)1. In order to demonstrate eligibility for an award, an eligible classroom teacher must submit to the school district, no later than November 1, an official record of his or her qualifying assessment score and, beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, an official transcript demonstrating that he or she graduated cum laude or higher with a baccalaureate degree, if applicable. Once a classroom teacher is deemed eligible by the school district, the teacher shall remain eligible as long as he or she remains employed by the school district as a classroom teacher at the time of the award and receives an annual performance evaluation rating of highly effective pursuant to s. 1012.34 or is evaluated as highly effective based on a commissioner-approved student learning growth formula pursuant to s. 1012.34(8) for the 2019-2020 school year or thereafter.

2. A school district employee who is no longer a classroom teacher may receive an award if the employee was a classroom teacher in the prior school year, was rated highly effective, and met the requirements of this section as a classroom teacher.

Section 40. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of section 1012.796, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1012.796 Complaints against teachers and administrators; procedure; penalties.—

(1)

(e) If allegations arise against an employee who is certified under s. 1012.56 and employed in an educator-certificated position in any public school, charter school or governing board thereof, or private school that accepts scholarship students who participate in a state scholarship program under chapter 1002 under s. 1002.39 or s. 1002.395, the school shall file in writing with the department a legally sufficient complaint within 30 days after the date on which the subject matter of the complaint came to the attention of the school. A complaint is legally sufficient if it contains ultimate facts that show a violation has occurred as provided in s. 1012.795 and defined by rule of the State Board of Education. The school shall include all known information relating to the complaint with the filing of the complaint. This paragraph does not limit or restrict the power and duty of the department to investigate complaints, regardless of the school's untimely filing, or failure to file, complaints and followup reports.

Section 41. Subsection (11) of section 1012.98, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1012.98 School Community Professional Development Act.—

(11) The department shall disseminate to the school community proven model professional development programs that have demonstrated success in increasing rigorous and relevant content, increasing student achievement and engagement, meeting identified student needs, and providing effective

mentorship activities to new teachers and training to teacher mentors. The methods of dissemination must include a web-based statewide performance-support system including a database of exemplary professional development activities, a listing of available professional development resources, training programs, and available technical assistance. Professional development resources must include sample course-at-a-glance and unit overview templates that school districts may use when developing curriculum. The templates must provide an organized structure for addressing the Florida Standards, grade-level expectations, evidence outcomes, and 21st century skills that build to students' mastery of the standards at each grade level. Each template must support teaching to greater intellectual depth and emphasize transfer and application of concepts, content, and skills. At a minimum, each template must:

(a) Provide course or year-long sequencing of concept-based unit overviews based on the Florida Standards.

(b) Describe the knowledge and vocabulary necessary for comprehension.

(c) Promote the instructional shifts required within the Florida Standards.

(d) Illustrate the interdependence of grade level expectations within and across content areas within a grade.

Section 42. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 1013.28, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1013.28 Disposal of property.—

(2) TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY.—

(a) Tangible personal property that has been properly classified as surplus by a district school board or Florida College System institution board of trustees shall be disposed of in accordance with the procedure established by chapter 274. However, the provisions of chapter 274 shall not be applicable to a motor vehicle used in driver education to which title is obtained for a token amount from an automobile dealer or manufacturer. In such cases, the disposal of the vehicle shall be as prescribed in the contractual agreement between the automotive agency or manufacturer and the board. Tangible personal property that has been properly classified as surplus, marked for disposal, or otherwise unused by a district school board 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 school district may not sell or dispose of such property without the written permission of the school district.

Section 43. Present paragraphs (a) through (d) of subsection (1) of section 1013.31, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (b) through (e), respectively, and a new paragraph (a) is added to that subsection, to read:

1013.31 Educational plant survey; localized need assessment; PECO project funding.—

(1) At least every 5 years, each board shall arrange for an educational plant survey, to aid in formulating plans for housing the educational program and student population, faculty, administrators, staff, and auxiliary and ancillary services of the district or campus, including consideration of the local comprehensive plan. The Department of Education shall document the need for additional career and adult education programs and the continuation of existing programs before facility construction or renovation related to career or adult education may be included in the educational plant survey of a school district or Florida College System institution that delivers career or adult education programs. Information used by the Department of Education to establish facility needs must include, but need not be limited to, labor market data, needs analysis, and information submitted by the school district or Florida College System institution.

(a) Educational plant survey and localized need assessment for capital outlay purposes.—A district may only use funds from the following sources for educational, auxiliary, and ancillary plant capital outlay purposes without needing a survey recommendation:

1. The local capital outlay improvement fund, consisting of funds that come from and are a part of the district's basic operating budget;
2. If a board decides to build an educational, auxiliary, or ancillary facility without a survey recommendation and the taxpayers approve a bond referendum, the voted bond referendum;
3. **One-half cent sales surtax revenue;**
4. **One cent local governmental surtax revenue;**
5. Impact fees; and
6. Private gifts or donations.

Section 44. Paragraph (e) is added to subsection (2) of section 1013.385, Florida Statutes, to read:

1013.385 School district construction flexibility.—

(2) A resolution adopted under this section may propose implementation of exceptions to requirements of the uniform statewide building code for the planning and construction of public educational and ancillary plants adopted pursuant to ss. 553.73 and 1013.37 relating to:

(e) Any other provisions that limit the ability of a school to operate in a facility on the same basis as a charter school pursuant to s. 1002.33(18) so long as the regional planning council determines that there is sufficient

shelter capacity within the school district as documented in the Statewide Emergency Shelter Plan.

Section 45. Subsections (1), (3), and (5) of section 1013.62, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1013.62 Charter schools capital outlay funding.—

(1) For the 2018-2019 fiscal year, charter school capital outlay funding shall consist of revenue resulting from the discretionary millage authorized in s. 1011.71(2) and state funds when such funds are appropriated in the 2018-2019 General Appropriations Act. Beginning in fiscal year 2019-2020, charter school capital outlay funding shall consist of state funds when such funds are appropriated in the General Appropriations Act and revenue resulting from the discretionary millage authorized in s. 1011.71(2) if the amount of state funds appropriated for charter school capital outlay in any fiscal year is less than the average charter school capital outlay funds per unweighted full-time equivalent student for the 2018-2019 fiscal year, multiplied by the estimated number of charter school students for the applicable fiscal year, and adjusted by changes in the Consumer Price Index issued by the United States Department of Labor from the previous fiscal year. Nothing in this subsection prohibits a school district from distributing to charter schools funds resulting from the discretionary millage authorized in s. 1011.71(2).

- (a) To be eligible to receive capital outlay funds, a charter school must:
- 1.a. Have been in operation for 2 or more years;
 - b. Be governed by a governing board established in the state for 2 or more years which operates both charter schools and conversion charter schools within the state;
 - c. Be an expanded feeder chain of a charter school within the same school district that is currently receiving charter school capital outlay funds;
 - d. Have been accredited by a regional accrediting association as defined by State Board of Education rule; or
 - e. Serve students in facilities that are provided by a business partner for a charter school-in-the-workplace pursuant to s. 1002.33(15)(b).
2. Have an annual audit that does not reveal any of the financial emergency conditions provided in s. 218.503(1) for the most recent fiscal year for which such audit results are available.
3. Have satisfactory student achievement based on state accountability standards applicable to the charter school.
4. Have received final approval from its sponsor pursuant to s. 1002.33 for operation during that fiscal year.

5. Serve students in facilities that are not provided by the charter school's sponsor.

(b) A charter school is not eligible to receive capital outlay funds if it was created by the conversion of a public school and operates in facilities provided by the charter school's sponsor for a nominal fee, or at no charge, or if it is directly or indirectly operated by the school district.

(3) If the school board levies the discretionary millage authorized in s. 1011.71(2), and the state funds appropriated for charter school capital outlay in any fiscal year are less than the average charter school capital outlay funds per unweighted full-time equivalent student for the 2018-2019 fiscal year, multiplied by the estimated number of charter school students for the applicable fiscal year, and adjusted by changes in the Consumer Price Index issued by the United States Department of Labor from the previous fiscal year, the department shall use the following calculation methodology to determine the amount of revenue that a school district must distribute to each eligible charter school:

(a) Reduce the total discretionary millage revenue by the school district's annual debt service obligation incurred as of March 1, 2017, which has not been subsequently retired, and any amount of participation requirement pursuant to s. 1013.64(2)(a)8. that is being satisfied by revenues raised by the discretionary millage.

(b) Divide the school district's adjusted discretionary millage revenue by the district's total capital outlay full-time equivalent membership and the total number of unweighted full-time equivalent students of each eligible charter school to determine a capital outlay allocation per full-time equivalent student.

(c) Multiply the capital outlay allocation per full-time equivalent student by the total number of full-time equivalent students of each eligible charter school to determine the capital outlay allocation for each charter school.

(d) If applicable, reduce the capital outlay allocation identified in paragraph (c) by the total amount of state funds allocated to each eligible charter school in subsection (2) to determine the maximum calculated capital outlay allocation.

(e) School districts shall distribute capital outlay funds to charter schools no later than February 1 of each year, as required by this subsection, based on the amount of funds received by the district school board, beginning on February 1, 2018, for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. School districts shall distribute any remaining capital outlay funds, as required by this subsection, upon the receipt of such funds until the total amount calculated pursuant to this subsection is distributed.

By October 1 of each year, each school district shall certify to the department the amount of debt service and participation requirement that complies with

the requirement of paragraph (a) and can be reduced from the total discretionary millage revenue. The Auditor General shall verify compliance with the requirements of paragraph (a) and s. 1011.71(2)(e) during scheduled operational audits of school districts.

(5) If a charter school is nonrenewed or terminated, any unencumbered funds and all equipment and property purchased with district public funds shall revert to the ownership of the district school board, as provided for in s. 1002.33(8)(d) and (e) ~~s. 1002.33(8)(e) and (f)~~. In the case of a charter lab school, any unencumbered funds and all equipment and property purchased with university public funds shall revert to the ownership of the state university that issued the charter. The reversion of such equipment, property, and furnishings shall focus on recoverable assets, but not on intangible or irrecoverable costs such as rental or leasing fees, normal maintenance, and limited renovations. The reversion of all property secured with public funds is subject to the complete satisfaction of all lawful liens or encumbrances. If there are additional local issues such as the shared use of facilities or partial ownership of facilities or property, these issues shall be agreed to in the charter contract prior to the expenditure of funds.

Section 46. For the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the sum of \$13,750,000 in recurring funds from the General Revenue Fund and the sum of \$100,000 in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund are appropriated to the Department of Education to implement this act, except as provided in this section. Of the recurring funds, \$9,700,000 shall be used to fund reading scholarship accounts pursuant to s. 1002.411, Florida Statutes, \$300,000 shall be provided as an administrative fee pursuant to s. 1002.411(7)(g), Florida Statutes, \$2,000,000 shall be used to implement the provisions of s. 1002.40(8), Florida Statutes, \$950,000 shall be used to implement the additional oversight requirements pursuant to s. 1002.421, Florida Statutes, \$250,000 shall be used to issue a competitive grant award pursuant to s. 1002.395(9), Florida Statutes, and \$550,000 shall be used for instructional materials pursuant to s. 1007.271(13), Florida Statutes. Of the nonrecurring funds, and contingent upon HB 1279 or similar legislation in the 2018 regular session or an extension thereof becoming law, \$100,000 shall be used to implement the provisions of s. 1011.051(2)(b), Florida Statutes, as provided in HB 1279.

Section 47. For the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the sum of \$150,000 in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund are appropriated to the Department of Revenue to implement the creation of s. 212.099, Florida Statutes, by this act.

Section 48. The amendments made by this act to ss. 220.13, 220.1875, and 1002.395, Florida Statutes, apply to taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2018.

Section 49. (1) The Department of Revenue is authorized, and all conditions are deemed to be met, to adopt emergency rules pursuant to s.

120.54(4), Florida Statutes, for the purpose of administering the provisions of this act.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, emergency rules adopted pursuant to subsection (1) are effective for 6 months after adoption and may be renewed during the pendency of procedures to adopt permanent rules addressing the subject of the emergency rules.

(3) This section shall take effect upon this act becoming a law and shall expire January 1, 2022.

Section 50. For the 2017-2018 school year, students enrolled in Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School are exempt from taking the statewide standardized assessments administered pursuant to s. 1008.22, Florida Statutes, and the use of assessment results for course grades pursuant to s. 1003.4282, Florida Statutes; however, the school shall administer industry certification assessments, national assessments, and statewide standardized assessments for any student who chooses to take the assessment. Students who are in the 2017-2018 graduating class are exempt from the minimum hours of instruction requirement of s. 1003.436, Florida Statutes, and from being required to use certain assessments to earn a standard high school diploma pursuant to s. 1003.4282, Florida Statutes, and to earn standard high school diploma designations pursuant to s. 1003.4285, Florida Statutes. Notwithstanding s. 1008.34, Florida Statutes, the school grade of "A" earned by Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School for the 2016-2017 school year shall be used for the 2017-2018 school year to maintain eligibility for designation as a School of Excellence pursuant to s. 1003.631, Florida Statutes, and award of school recognition pursuant to s. 1008.36, Florida Statutes.

Section 51. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1, 2018.

Approved by the Governor March 11, 2018.

Filed in Office Secretary of State March 11, 2018.