

CHAPTER 2017-116

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 7069

An act relating to education; amending s. 11.45, F.S.; requiring the Auditor General to conduct annual audits of the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind; amending s. 1002.71, F.S.; revising the deadline for the amendment of a student enrollment count for specified purposes; amending s. 1003.52, F.S.; deleting provisions relating to the Florida School for Boys in Okeechobee; amending s. 1011.62, F.S.; revising requirements for the recalculation of specified funds; requiring that the lowest-performing elementary schools be determined by specified assessment results; deleting provisions relating to caps imposed on the amounts of bonuses awarded to teachers based on student performance on certain course examinations and certifications; requiring a specified amount of funds generated by a certain bonus be allocated to the school program that generated the funds; providing for the allocation of supplemental academic instruction funds; revising the requirements to be considered a small, isolated school; revising the requirements for an independent college or university to participate in specified programs; providing an alternate district sparsity index calculation for certain school districts; revising provisions relating to the research-based reading instruction allocation and the use of such funds; revising provisions relating to the Florida digital classrooms allocation and the use of such funds; deleting provisions relating to a required district digital classrooms plan; revising the federally connected student supplement; revising the calculation of the exempt property allocation; providing for the recalculation of the supplement; creating the safe schools allocation and providing the purpose of the allocation; providing that under allocations of state funds may not be the basis for a positive allocation adjustment in the current year; conforming provisions to changes by the act; amending s. 1013.738, F.S.; revising the purposes for which the High Growth District Capital Outlay Assistance Grant Program funds may be used; revising the school district qualification criteria for the grant; revising the funding methodology; amending s. 1011.78, F.S.; revising school district and charter school requirements to qualify for a standard student attire incentive payment; creating s. 1003.631, F.S.; creating the Schools of Excellence Program; providing for designation as a School of Excellence; providing requirements for a School of Excellence; providing for redesignation; authorizing Schools of Excellence to have specified administrative flexibilities; amending s. 1012.56, F.S.; requiring the Department of Education to issue a temporary educator certificate within a specified period; requiring the department to provide electronic notice of the issuance of a temporary certificate to specified entities; requiring the department to provide the applicant an official statement of status of eligibility upon issuance of a temporary certificate; providing content requirements for the statement of status of eligibility; revising the criteria instructional personnel must meet to be issued a professional certificate; requiring the department to provide

electronic notification of the expiration of a temporary educator certificate; requiring the State Board of Education to adopt rules providing for the extension of a temporary educator certificate for a specified period under certain circumstances; providing that an applicant for professional certification is not required to take or pass a specified examination under certain circumstances; authorizing charter schools and charter management organizations to develop a professional development certification and education competency program; revising program requirements; requiring the department to adopt standards for the approval of such programs by a specified date; providing requirements for such standards; requiring each school district and charter school to submit its program for approval by a specified date; providing that certification requirements may not be met in a program that is not approved by the department after a specified date; amending s. 1004.04, F.S.; revising core curricula requirements for certain teacher preparation programs to include certain reading instruction and interventions; amending s. 1004.85, F.S.; requiring certain educator preparation institutes to provide evidence of specified reading instruction as a condition of program approval and continued approval; amending s. 1012.585, F.S.; revising requirements for renewal of professional teaching certificates; amending s. 1012.586, F.S.; authorizing the department to recommend consolidation of endorsement areas and requirements for endorsements for teacher certificates; requiring the department to review and make recommendations regarding certain subject coverage or endorsement requirements; providing construction; amending s. 1012.98, F.S.; revising the activities designed to implement the school community professional development act to include specified training relating to a professional development certification and education competency program; revising requirements for school district professional development systems; requiring the department to disseminate professional development programs that meet specified criteria; creating s. 683.1455, F.S.; designating the month of September annually as “American Founders’ Month”; authorizing the Governor to annually issue a proclamation containing specified information; amending s. 1000.03, F.S.; revising the priorities of Florida’s K-20 education system to include civic literacy; amending s. 1001.215, F.S.; revising the duties of the Just Read, Florida! Office; amending s. 1003.44, F.S.; encouraging public schools to coordinate certain instruction with American Founders’ Month; amending s. 1007.25, F.S.; requiring postsecondary students to demonstrate competency in civic literacy and providing requirements therefor; providing for the appointment of a faculty committee; requiring the committee to develop or revise certain courses and establish specified course competencies; amending ss. 943.22 and 1001.64, F.S.; conforming cross-references; amending s. 1002.33, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes by the act; revising the charter school application process; revising the appeals process for a denied charter school application; requiring the use of the standard charter contract by specified entities; revising eligibility requirements for charter school students enrolled in blended learning courses; revising the criteria for certain charter schools that must follow corrective actions; authorizing a

charter school to be exempt from provisions relating to controlled open enrollment under certain circumstances; clarifying provisions relating to charter schools and tort liability; revising the purpose of charter school cooperatives; authorizing the use of unrestricted assets for specified charter schools; requiring such funds to be used in accordance with specified provisions; prohibiting the adoption or imposition of specified requirements by specified entities for charter schools; revising the public information disclosures of charter schools; authorizing certain entities to share facilities with charter schools without additional approval; providing charter schools are eligible for capital outlay funds pursuant to specified provisions; revising the administrative fees that a district may withhold from charter schools; requiring charter schools to complete and submit an annual survey; deleting a requirement that the Department of Education compare certain data; revising eligibility criteria for designated local educational agency status; authorizing the governing board of a charter school system to be designated a local educational agency for certain schools; revising State Board of Education duties; amending 1002.3305, F.S.; revising the definition for the term “eligible student” for purposes of the College-preparatory Boarding Academy Pilot Program; amending s. 1002.331, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; authorizing a high-performing charter school to establish more than one charter school in any year under certain circumstances; amending s. 1002.332, F.S.; authorizing a high-performing charter school system to replicate its schools in any school district and providing application requirements therefor; providing that certain procedures apply in specified circumstances; conforming cross-references; amending s. 1003.498, F.S.; revising eligibility requirements for students enrolled in blended learning courses; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 1007.35, F.S.; revising the name of an ACT assessment for specified purposes; amending s. 1008.34, F.S.; revising the student performance data to be included in school grades; amending s. 1008.341, F.S.; including concordant scores in the calculation of an alternative school’s school improvement rating; amending s. 1011.71, F.S.; providing that charter schools are eligible for school districts discretionary millage for specified purposes; revising the approved uses of the discretionary millage; authorizing the acquisition of enterprise resource software through specified means; amending s. 1013.54, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; amending s. 1013.62, F.S.; providing that charter school capital outlay funds shall consist of specified funds; revising charter school eligibility criteria for capital outlay funds; revising the calculation methodology for state funds appropriated for charter school capital outlay; providing the calculation methodology for the distribution of specified revenue to eligible charter schools; revising the authorized uses of charter school capital outlay funds; amending s. 1013.64, F.S.; revising the calculation of capital outlay membership for allocations to school districts from the Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund; authorizing a district school board to use funds from any source for the new construction of educational plant space under certain circumstances; amending s. 1003.4282, F.S.; deleting a provision requiring certain

students to take the Algebra II end-of-course assessment; revising the options that a district school board or charter school governing board may offer for a student to satisfy certain online course requirements; removing a requirement that a student participating in interscholastic sports pass a competency test on personal fitness to satisfy the physical education credit requirement for high school graduation; amending s. 1003.4285, F.S.; deleting a provision requiring students to pass the Algebra II end-of-course assessment in order to earn a Scholar designation; amending s. 1008.22, F.S.; deleting a provision requiring the Algebra II end-of-course assessment to be administered; revising requirements relating to the administration and format of assessments; providing requirements for administration of the statewide, standardized English Language Arts and mathematics assessments in specified grades; revising provisions relating to reporting requirements for school district-required local assessments; providing reporting requirements for certain student assessment results; requiring the Department of Education to publish certain assessments on its website; providing requirements for such publication; requiring the department to provide materials regarding assessment information on its website; conforming cross-references; defining the term “secondary education”; amending s. 1012.34, F.S.; revising personnel evaluation procedures and criteria; requiring independent analysis of student learning growth data; authorizing, rather than requiring, a school district to use certain formulas developed by the commissioner; requiring the Commissioner of Education to contract for an independent study to determine whether specified college entrance examinations may be administered in lieu of certain state-required assessments; requiring the commissioner to submit a report on the results of such study to the Governor, Legislature, and State Board of Education by a specified date; amending s. 1001.42, F.S.; revising provisions relating to school improvement plans; requiring only specified schools to submit a school improvement plan; deleting a requirement that certain information be included in the improvement plans of certain schools; revising the grade levels required to implement an early warning system; revising the required content of an early warning system; requiring a specified team to monitor specified data; authorizing a psychologist to be a member of the team; revising what constitutes an educational emergency and establishing duties of district school boards relating to such emergency; prohibiting a district school board from awarding specified contracts based on certain contingency or conditions; providing applicability; providing a directive to the Division of Law Revision and Information; creating s. 1001.4205, F.S.; authorizing an individual district school board member to visit any district school in his or her school district; authorizing an individual charter school governing board member to visit any charter school governed by the charter school’s governing board; providing requirements and restrictions; amending s. 1008.33, F.S.; providing requirements the intervention and support strategies must meet; providing for tailored intervention and support services for specified schools; revising the required timeline for the implementation of a district-managed turnaround plan; providing turnaround options available to school districts meeting specified criteria;

amending s. 1008.345, F.S.; revising reporting requirements of the Commissioner of Education relating to the state system of school improvement and education accountability; revising the criteria a school must meet to have a community assessment team; revising the duties of a community assessment team; creating s. 1002.333, F.S., relating to persistently low-performing schools; providing definitions; providing eligibility criteria for hope operators; providing for the designation and redesignation of a hope operator; authorizing hope operators to establish schools of hope in specified areas; providing the process for the establishment of a school of hope; providing the requirements for a performance-based agreement; authorizing a school of hope to be designated as a local education agency; providing that a sponsor is not liable for specified damages; providing that a school of hope may be a private or public employer; authorizing a school of hope to participate in the Florida Retirement System; authorizing a hope operator to employ certain staff; providing specific statutory exemptions for schools of hope; requiring a school of hope to report its students for specified purposes; requiring a school district to include specified students in the district's report of student enrollment; requiring certain schools to comply with specified reporting guidelines; requiring a school of hope to provide the school district with a financial statement summary sheet that meets certain requirements; providing requirements for facilities used by schools of hope; requiring districts to annually provide a list of specified property to the department; requiring certain school districts that do not enter into specified agreements within a certain timeframe to reduce specified fees; providing for attorney fees under certain circumstances; providing that schools of hope shall be funded through the Florida Education Finance Program; creating the Schools of Hope Program; providing that schools of hope are eligible for funds through the program; providing guidelines for the use of such funds; providing that certain traditional public schools are eligible for such funds; providing duties of the State Board of Education; providing a mechanism to address school district noncompliance; providing authority and obligations of the State Board of Education; providing a mechanism for the resolution of disputes; providing for rulemaking; creating s. 1001.291, F.S.; establishing the Schools of Hope Revolving Loan Program; providing criteria for administration of the program; amending s. 1011.69, F.S.; requiring school districts to provide specified funds directly to schools eligible to receive such funds; providing a definition; authorizing school districts to withhold certain funds for specified purposes; authorizing eligible schools to use funds to participate in certain services; amending s. 1012.731, F.S.; providing the scholarship amount for the Florida Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship Program; revising the future eligibility criteria for the program; providing additional scholarships to certain teachers for specified school years; providing for retention of a classroom teacher's scholarship eligibility under certain circumstances; requiring each school district to annually submit certain information to the Department of Education; deleting the scheduled expiration of the section; creating s. 1012.732, F.S.; creating the Florida Best and Brightest Principal Scholarship Program; providing legislative

intent; providing for funding of the program; providing for certain school principals to receive a scholarship under the program; providing eligibility requirements; providing scholarship amounts; requiring the department to annually identify eligible school principals and disburse funds to school districts by a specified date; requiring each eligible school principal to receive a scholarship; requiring school districts to annually award scholarships to eligible school principals by a specified date; requiring school districts to provide best and brightest principals with specified additional authority and responsibilities; defining the term “school district”; amending s. 1002.385, F.S.; revising a definition for the Gardiner Scholarship Program; defining the term “inactive” for the purposes of the program; authorizing program funds to be used for specified purposes and by specified entities; prohibiting billing of certain entities for services paid for through the program; revising private school eligibility requirements; providing that consecutive years of certain material exceptions constitutes program ineligibility for certain private schools; prohibiting certain students from receiving additional scholarship payments until certain conditions are met; revising funding calculations; amending s. 1003.455, F.S.; requiring district school boards to provide a specified amount of recess to certain students; amending s. 1002.37, F.S.; revising eligibility requirements for specified students to receive part-time instruction at the Florida Virtual School; removing provisions requiring the Auditor General to conduct an operational audit of the Florida Virtual School; amending s. 1002.455, F.S.; authorizing all students, including home education and private school students, to participate in specified virtual instruction options; deleting the eligibility criteria for a student to participate in virtual instruction; amending s. 1002.45, F.S.; revising student eligibility and participation requirements for virtual instruction programs; amending s. 1002.20, F.S.; revising requirements for notifying a parent of a student with a substantial reading deficiency; authorizing a parent to request and be granted permission for a student’s absence from school for treatment of autism spectrum disorder by a licensed health care practitioner; authorizing a student to possess and use a topical sunscreen while on school property or at a school-sponsored event or activity under certain circumstances; amending s. 1002.69, F.S.; requiring data from the statewide kindergarten screening to be used to identify certain students; amending s. 1008.25, F.S.; requiring district school boards to allocate certain instruction resources to certain students deficient in reading; revising criteria and requiring the State Board of Education to identify guidelines for determining whether certain students have a substantial deficiency in reading; providing that students with a substantial reading deficiency must be covered by certain plans; revising the parental notification requirements for students with a substantial deficiency in reading; requiring the Department of Education to develop or contract with another entity to develop a handbook containing specific information for parents of students with a substantial reading deficiency; defining the terms “dyslexia” and “dyscalculia”; requiring schools to provide certain instruction to students who received a good cause exemption from retention; revising grounds for such good cause exemption; revising

intervention requirements for certain retained students; revising provisions relating to the Intensive Acceleration Class for retained students in certain grades; revising student progress evaluation requirements; amending s. 1011.67, F.S.; revising the contents of a comprehensive staff development plan required for each school district to receive instructional materials funds; amending s. 1002.51, F.S.; defining the term “public school prekindergarten provider”; amending s. 1003.21, F.S.; requiring each district school board to adopt an attendance policy authorizing a student’s absence for treatment of autism spectrum disorder; amending s. 1003.24, F.S.; revising an exemption relating to parental responsibility for nonattendance of a student to include treatment for autism spectrum disorder; amending s. 1003.4156, F.S.; deleting requirements relating to the career and education planning course for middle grades promotion; amending s. 1003.57, F.S.; prohibiting certain school districts from declining to provide or contract for certain students’ educational instruction; providing for funding of such students; amending s. 1006.40, F.S.; providing an exception from the required uses of a specified allocation for certain school districts; amending s. 1009.60, F.S.; revising eligibility criteria for receipt of a minority teacher education scholarship; amending s. 1009.605, F.S.; revising the scholar awards on which the Florida Fund for Minority Teachers, Inc.’s, budget projection must be based; creating the Committee on Early Grade Success within the Department of Education; specifying committee purpose; requiring the committee to develop a proposal for specified purposes; providing proposal requirements; providing for membership of the committee; providing requirements for electing a committee chair and vice chair; providing committee meeting requirements; requiring the University of Florida Lastinger Center for Learning to provide necessary staff for the committee; requiring the committee to submit a report by a specified date; providing for the expiration of the committee; authorizing rulemaking; creating s. 1013.101, F.S.; providing legislative findings and intent; defining terms; requiring the Department of Education to provide specified assistance to school districts; creating the Shared Use Task Force within the department; specifying the purpose and membership of the task force; providing requirements for electing a task force chair and vice chair and conducting its meetings; requiring the department to provide the task force with necessary staff; requiring the task force to submit a report to the Legislature by a specified date; providing for expiration of the task force; amending s. 125.901, F.S.; providing that the membership of the governing body of certain independent special districts in specified counties may include the designee of the superintendent of schools in lieu of the superintendent; creating s. 1003.481, F.S.; creating the Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Pilot Program within the Department of Education for a specified period; providing for school district eligibility; providing comprehensive music education program requirements; providing for school district selection, funding, and program payments; requiring selected school districts to annually provide a specified certification to the Commissioner of Education; requiring a selected school district to return funds under certain circumstances;

requiring the University of Florida's College of Education to perform an evaluation; authorizing the State Board of Education to adopt rules; providing for expiration of the pilot program; providing for severability; providing appropriations; providing effective dates.

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

Section 1. Upon the expiration and reversion of the amendment to section 11.45, Florida Statutes, pursuant to section 36 of chapter 2016-62, Laws of Florida, paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section 11.45, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

(2) DUTIES.—The Auditor General shall:

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

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

Section 2. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section 1002.71, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.71 Funding; financial and attendance reporting.—

(3)

(c) The initial allocation shall be based on estimated student enrollment in each coalition service area. The Office of Early Learning shall reallocate funds among the coalitions based on actual full-time equivalent student enrollment in each coalition service area. Each coalition shall report student enrollment pursuant to subsection (2) on a monthly basis. A student enrollment count for the prior fiscal year may not be amended after September 30 ~~December 31~~ of the subsequent fiscal year.

Section 3. Subsection (21) of section 1003.52, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.52 Educational services in Department of Juvenile Justice programs.—

(21)—~~The education programs at the Florida School for Boys in Okeechobee shall be operated by the Department of Education, either directly or~~

~~through grants or contractual agreements with other public or duly accredited education agencies approved by the Department of Education.~~

Section 4. Upon the expiration and reversion of the amendments to section 1011.62, Florida Statutes, pursuant to section 23 of chapter 2016-62, Laws of Florida, subsections (15) and (16) are renumbered as subsections (16) and (17), respectively, paragraphs (e), (f), (h), and (i) and paragraphs (l) through (o) of subsection (1), paragraph (a) of subsection (4), paragraph (b) of subsection (7), paragraphs (a), (c), and (d) of subsection (9), subsections (11), (12), (13), and (14), and paragraph (b) of present subsection (15) of section 1011.62, Florida Statutes, are amended, and a new subsection (13) is added to that section, 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:

(e) *Funding model for exceptional student education programs.*—

1.a. The funding model uses basic, at-risk, support levels IV and V for exceptional students and career Florida Education Finance Program cost factors, and a guaranteed allocation for exceptional student education programs. Exceptional education cost factors are determined by using a matrix of services to document the services that each exceptional student will receive. The nature and intensity of the services indicated on the matrix shall be consistent with the services described in each exceptional student's individual educational plan. The Department of Education shall review and revise the descriptions of the services and supports included in the matrix of services for exceptional students and shall implement those revisions before the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year.

b. In order to generate funds using one of the two weighted cost factors, a matrix of services must be completed at the time of the student's initial placement into an exceptional student education program and at least once every 3 years by personnel who have received approved training. Nothing listed in the matrix shall be construed as limiting the services a school district must provide in order to ensure that exceptional students are provided a free, appropriate public education.

c. Students identified as exceptional, in accordance with chapter 6A-6, Florida Administrative Code, who do not have a matrix of services as specified in sub-subparagraph b. shall generate funds on the basis of full-time-equivalent student membership in the Florida Education Finance Program at the same funding level per student as provided for basic

students. Additional funds for these exceptional students will be provided through the guaranteed allocation designated in subparagraph 2.

2. For students identified as exceptional who do not have a matrix of services and students who are gifted in grades K through 8, there is created a guaranteed allocation to provide these students with a free appropriate public education, in accordance with s. 1001.42(4)(1) and rules of the State Board of Education, which shall be allocated initially to each school district in the amount provided in the General Appropriations Act. These funds shall be supplemental to the funds appropriated for the basic funding level, and the amount allocated for each school district shall be recalculated ~~one~~ during the year, based on actual student membership from the ~~October FTE surveys~~ survey. Upon recalculation, if the generated allocation is greater than the amount provided in the General Appropriations Act, the total shall be prorated to the level of the appropriation based on each district's share of the total recalculated amount. These funds shall be used to provide special education and related services for exceptional students and students who are gifted in grades K through 8. A district's expenditure of funds from the guaranteed allocation for students in grades 9 through 12 who are gifted may not be greater than the amount expended during the 2006-2007 fiscal year for gifted students in grades 9 through 12.

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

1. There is created 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 categorical fund is funds for supplemental academic instruction shall be allocated annually to each school district in the amount provided in the General Appropriations Act. These funds shall be 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. These funds shall be used to provide supplemental academic instruction to students enrolled in the K-12 program. For the 2014-2015 fiscal year, Each school district that has 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 are effective 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 are not limited to: use of a modified curriculum, reading instruction, after-school instruction, tutoring, mentoring, a reduction in class size ~~reduction~~, extended school year, intensive skills development in summer school, and other methods of ~~for~~ improving student achievement. Supplemental 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 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 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 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.

~~4.3.~~ 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 ~~categorical fund~~ 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.

5.4. 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.

6.5- 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.

(h) *Small, isolated high schools.*—Districts ~~that~~ which levy the maximum nonvoted discretionary millage, exclusive of millage for capital outlay purposes levied pursuant to s. 1011.71(2), may calculate full-time equivalent students for small, isolated ~~district-operated~~ high schools by multiplying the number of unweighted full-time equivalent students times 2.75; ~~provided the school has attained a grade of “C” or better, pursuant to s. 1008.34, for the previous school year. The following schools may be considered small, isolated schools under this paragraph:~~

1. ~~A~~ For the purpose of this section, the term “small, isolated high school” means Any high school that which is located at least no less than 28 miles by the shortest route from another high school; which has been serving students primarily in basic studies provided by sub-subparagraphs (c)1.b. and c. and may include subparagraph (c)4.; and which has a membership of at least 28, but no more than 100, students, but no fewer than 28 students, in grades 9 through 12; or-

2. A district elementary school with a grade configuration of kindergarten through grade 5, but which may also include prekindergarten, grade 6, grade 7, or grade 8, that is located at least 35 miles by the shortest route from another elementary school within the district; has been serving students primarily in basic studies provided by sub-subparagraphs (c)1.a. and b. and may include subparagraph (c)4.; has a student population in which 75 percent or greater of students are eligible for free and reduced-price school lunch; and has a membership of at least 28, but no more than 100, students.

(i) *Calculation of full-time equivalent membership with respect to dual enrollment instruction.*—Students enrolled in dual enrollment instruction pursuant to s. 1007.271 may be included in calculations of full-time equivalent student memberships for basic programs for grades 9 through 12 by a district school board. Instructional time for dual enrollment may vary from 900 hours; however, the full-time equivalent student membership value shall be subject to the provisions in s. 1011.61(4). Dual enrollment full-time equivalent student membership shall be calculated in an amount equal to the hours of instruction that would be necessary to earn the full-time equivalent student membership for an equivalent course if it were taught in the school district. Students in dual enrollment courses may also be calculated as the proportional shares of full-time equivalent enrollments they generate for a Florida College System institution or university conducting the dual enrollment instruction. Early admission students shall be considered dual enrollments for funding purposes. Students may be enrolled in dual enrollment instruction provided by an eligible independent college or university and may be included in calculations of full-time equivalent student memberships for basic programs for grades 9 through 12 by a district school board. However, those provisions of law which exempt dual enrolled and early admission students from payment of instructional

materials and tuition and fees, including laboratory fees, shall not apply to students who select the option of enrolling in an eligible independent institution. An independent college or university, which is ~~located and chartered in Florida~~, is not for profit, is accredited by a regional or national accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education ~~the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools or the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools~~, and confers degrees as defined in s. 1005.02 shall be eligible for inclusion in the dual enrollment or early admission program. Students enrolled in dual enrollment instruction shall be exempt from the payment of tuition and fees, including laboratory fees. No student enrolled in college credit mathematics or English dual enrollment instruction shall be funded as a dual enrollment unless the student has successfully completed the relevant section of the entry-level examination required pursuant to s. 1008.30.

(1) *Calculation of additional full-time equivalent membership based on International Baccalaureate examination scores of students.*—A value of 0.16 full-time equivalent student membership shall be calculated for each student enrolled in an International Baccalaureate course who receives a score of 4 or higher on a subject examination. A value of 0.3 full-time equivalent student membership shall be calculated for each student who receives an International Baccalaureate diploma. Such value shall be added to the total full-time equivalent student membership in basic programs for grades 9 through 12 in the subsequent fiscal year. Each school district shall allocate 80 percent of the funds received from International Baccalaureate bonus FTE funding to the school program whose students generate the funds and to school programs that prepare prospective students to enroll in International Baccalaureate courses. Funds shall be expended solely for the payment of allowable costs associated with the International Baccalaureate program. Allowable costs include International Baccalaureate annual school fees; International Baccalaureate examination fees; salary, benefits, and bonuses for teachers and program coordinators for the International Baccalaureate program and teachers and coordinators who prepare prospective students for the International Baccalaureate program; supplemental books; instructional supplies; instructional equipment or instructional materials for International Baccalaureate courses; other activities that identify prospective International Baccalaureate students or prepare prospective students to enroll in International Baccalaureate courses; and training or professional development for International Baccalaureate teachers. School districts shall allocate the remaining 20 percent of the funds received from International Baccalaureate bonus FTE funding for programs that assist academically disadvantaged students to prepare for more rigorous courses. The school district shall distribute to each classroom teacher who provided International Baccalaureate instruction:

1. A bonus in the amount of \$50 for each student taught by the International Baccalaureate teacher in each International Baccalaureate course who receives a score of 4 or higher on the International Baccalaureate examination.

2. An additional bonus of \$500 to each International Baccalaureate teacher in a school designated with a grade of “D” or “F” who has at least one student scoring 4 or higher on the International Baccalaureate examination, regardless of the number of classes taught or of the number of students scoring a 4 or higher on the International Baccalaureate examination.

~~Bonuses awarded to a teacher according to this paragraph may not exceed \$2,000 in any given school year. However, the maximum bonus shall be \$3,000 if at least 50 percent of the students enrolled in a teacher’s course earn a score of 4 or higher on the examination in a school designated with a grade of “A,” “B,” or “C”; or if at least 25 percent of the students enrolled in a teacher’s course earn a score of 4 or higher on the examination in a school designated with a grade of “D” or “F.” Bonuses awarded under this paragraph shall be in addition to any regular wage or other bonus the teacher received or is scheduled to receive. For such courses, the teacher shall earn an additional bonus of \$50 for each student who has a qualifying score up to the maximum of \$3,000 in any given school year.~~

(m) *Calculation of additional full-time equivalent membership based on Advanced International Certificate of Education examination scores of students.*—A value of 0.16 full-time equivalent student membership shall be calculated for each student enrolled in a full-credit Advanced International Certificate of Education course who receives a score of E or higher on a subject examination. A value of 0.08 full-time equivalent student membership shall be calculated for each student enrolled in a half-credit Advanced International Certificate of Education course who receives a score of E or higher on a subject examination. A value of 0.3 full-time equivalent student membership shall be calculated for each student who receives an Advanced International Certificate of Education diploma. Such value shall be added to the total full-time equivalent student membership in basic programs for grades 9 through 12 in the subsequent fiscal year. Each school district shall allocate at least 80 percent of the funds received from the Advanced International Certificate of Education bonus FTE funding, in accordance with this paragraph, to the school program that generated the funds. The school district shall distribute to each classroom teacher who provided Advanced International Certificate of Education instruction:

1. A bonus in the amount of \$50 for each student taught by the Advanced International Certificate of Education teacher in each full-credit Advanced International Certificate of Education course who receives a score of E or higher on the Advanced International Certificate of Education examination. A bonus in the amount of \$25 for each student taught by the Advanced International Certificate of Education teacher in each half-credit Advanced International Certificate of Education course who receives a score of E or higher on the Advanced International Certificate of Education examination.

2. An additional bonus of \$500 to each Advanced International Certificate of Education teacher in a school designated with a grade of “D” or “F” who has at least one student scoring E or higher on the full-credit Advanced International Certificate of Education examination, regardless of the

number of classes taught or of the number of students scoring an E or higher on the full-credit Advanced International Certificate of Education examination.

3. Additional bonuses of \$250 each to teachers of half-credit Advanced International Certificate of Education classes in a school designated with a grade of “D” or “F” which has at least one student scoring an E or higher on the half-credit Advanced International Certificate of Education examination in that class. ~~The maximum additional bonus for a teacher awarded in accordance with this subparagraph shall not exceed \$500 in any given school year.~~ Teachers receiving an award under subparagraph 2. are not eligible for a bonus under this subparagraph.

Bonuses awarded to a teacher according to this paragraph shall ~~not exceed \$2,000 in any given school year~~ and shall be in addition to any regular wage or other bonus the teacher received or is scheduled to receive.

(n) *Calculation of additional full-time equivalent membership based on college board advanced placement scores of students.*—A value of 0.16 full-time equivalent student membership shall be calculated for each student in each advanced placement course who receives a score of 3 or higher on the College Board Advanced Placement Examination for the prior year and added to the total full-time equivalent student membership in basic programs for grades 9 through 12 in the subsequent fiscal year. Each district must allocate at least 80 percent of the funds provided to the district for advanced placement instruction, in accordance with this paragraph, to the high school that generates the funds. The school district shall distribute to each classroom teacher who provided advanced placement instruction:

1. A bonus in the amount of \$50 for each student taught by the Advanced Placement teacher in each advanced placement course who receives a score of 3 or higher on the College Board Advanced Placement Examination.

2. An additional bonus of \$500 to each Advanced Placement teacher in a school designated with a grade of “D” or “F” who has at least one student scoring 3 or higher on the College Board Advanced Placement Examination, regardless of the number of classes taught or of the number of students scoring a 3 or higher on the College Board Advanced Placement Examination.

~~Bonuses awarded to a teacher according to this paragraph shall not exceed \$2,000 in any given school year. However, the maximum bonus shall be \$3,000 if at least 50 percent of the students enrolled in a teacher’s course earn a score of 3 or higher on the examination in a school with a grade of “A,” “B,” or “C” or if at least 25 percent of the students enrolled in a teacher’s course earn a score of 3 or higher on the examination in a school with a grade of “D” or “F.”~~ Bonuses awarded under this paragraph shall be in addition to any regular wage or other bonus the teacher received or is scheduled to receive. For such courses, the teacher shall earn an additional bonus of \$50

for each student who has a qualifying score ~~up to the maximum of \$3,000 in any given school year.~~

(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 under this paragraph may not exceed ~~\$3,000 in any given school year~~ and is in

addition to any regular wage or other bonus the teacher received or is scheduled to receive.

(4) COMPUTATION OF DISTRICT REQUIRED LOCAL EFFORT.— The Legislature shall prescribe the aggregate required local effort for all school districts collectively as an item in the General Appropriations Act for each fiscal year. The amount that each district shall provide annually toward the cost of the Florida Education Finance Program for kindergarten through grade 12 programs shall be calculated as follows:

(a) *Estimated taxable value calculations.*—

1.a. Not later than 2 working days before July 19, the Department of Revenue shall certify to the Commissioner of Education its most recent estimate of the taxable value for school purposes in each school district and the total for all school districts in the state for the current calendar year based on the latest available data obtained from the local property appraisers. The value certified shall be the taxable value for school purposes for that year, and no further adjustments shall be made, except those made pursuant to paragraphs (c) and (d), or an assessment roll change required by final judicial decisions as specified in paragraph (16)(b) ~~(15)(b)~~. Not later than July 19, the Commissioner of Education shall compute a millage rate, rounded to the next highest one one-thousandth of a mill, which, when applied to 96 percent of the estimated state total taxable value for school purposes, would generate the prescribed aggregate required local effort for that year for all districts. The Commissioner of Education shall certify to each district school board the millage rate, computed as prescribed in this subparagraph, as the minimum millage rate necessary to provide the district required local effort for that year.

b. The General Appropriations Act shall direct the computation of the statewide adjusted aggregate amount for required local effort for all school districts collectively from ad valorem taxes to ensure that no school district's revenue from required local effort millage will produce more than 90 percent of the district's total Florida Education Finance Program calculation as calculated and adopted by the Legislature, and the adjustment of the required local effort millage rate of each district that produces more than 90 percent of its total Florida Education Finance Program entitlement to a level that will produce only 90 percent of its total Florida Education Finance Program entitlement in the July calculation.

2. On the same date as the certification in sub-subparagraph 1.a., the Department of Revenue shall certify to the Commissioner of Education for each district:

a. Each year for which the property appraiser has certified the taxable value pursuant to s. 193.122(2) or (3), if applicable, since the prior certification under sub-subparagraph 1.a.

b. For each year identified in sub-subparagraph a., the taxable value certified by the appraiser pursuant to s. 193.122(2) or (3), if applicable, since the prior certification under sub-subparagraph 1.a. This is the certification that reflects all final administrative actions of the value adjustment board.

(7) DETERMINATION OF SPARSITY SUPPLEMENT.—

(b) The district sparsity index shall be computed by dividing the total number of full-time equivalent students in all programs in the district by the number of senior high school centers in the district, not in excess of three, which centers are approved as permanent centers by a survey made by the Department of Education. For districts with a full-time equivalent student membership of at least 20,000, but no more than 24,000, the index shall be computed by dividing the total number of full-time equivalent students in all programs by the number of permanent senior high school centers in the district, not in excess of four.

(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. ~~For the 2014-2015 fiscal year, in~~ Each school district that has one or more of the 300 lowest-performing elementary schools based on the state reading assessment, ~~priority shall give priority be given~~ 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 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 have level 5 assessment scores may participate in the additional hour of instruction on an optional basis. Exceptional student education centers may ~~shall~~ 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 development in 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. ~~For the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 fiscal years, a school district may not hire more reading coaches than were hired during the 2011-2012 fiscal year unless all students in kindergarten through grade 5 who demonstrate a reading deficiency, as determined by district and state assessments, including students scoring Level 1 or Level 2 on the statewide, standardized reading assessment or, upon implementation, the English Language Arts assessment, are provided an additional hour per day of intensive reading instruction beyond the normal school day for each day of the entire school year.~~

(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 are effective in teaching reading.

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 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.

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 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 allow courses in core, career, and alternative programs that deliver intensive reading remediation through integrated curricula, provided that the teacher is 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.

(11) VIRTUAL EDUCATION CONTRIBUTION.—The Legislature may annually provide in the Florida Education Finance Program a virtual education contribution. The amount of the virtual education contribution shall be the difference between the amount per FTE established in the General Appropriations Act for virtual education and the amount per FTE for each district and the Florida Virtual School, which may be calculated by taking the sum of the base FEFP allocation, the discretionary local effort, the state-funded discretionary contribution, the discretionary millage compression supplement, the research-based reading instruction allocation, and the instructional materials allocation, and then dividing by the total unweighted FTE. This difference shall be multiplied by the virtual education unweighted FTE for programs and options identified in s. 1002.455 s. 1002.455(3) and the Florida Virtual School and its franchises to equal the virtual education contribution and shall be included as a separate allocation in the funding formula.

(12) FLORIDA DIGITAL CLASSROOMS ALLOCATION.—

(a) The Florida digital classrooms allocation is created to support the efforts of school districts district and schools, including charter schools, school efforts and strategies to integrate improve outcomes related to student performance by integrating technology in classroom teaching and learning to ensure students have access to high-quality electronic and digital instructional materials and resources, and empower classroom teachers to help their students succeed. Each school district shall receive a minimum

digital classrooms allocation in the amount provided in the General Appropriations Act. The remaining balance of the digital classrooms allocation shall be allocated based on each school district's proportionate share of the state's total unweighted full-time equivalent student enrollment.

(b) Funds allocated under this subsection must be used for costs associated with:

1. Acquiring and maintaining the items on the eligible services list authorized by the Universal Service Administrative Company for the Schools and Libraries Program, more commonly referred to as the federal E-rate program.

2. Acquiring computer and device hardware and associated operating system software that complies with the requirements of s. 1001.20(4)(a)1.b.

3. Providing professional development, including in-state conference attendance or online coursework, to enhance the use of technology for digital instructional strategies. The outcomes must be measurable and may also be unique to the needs of individual schools and school districts within the general parameters established by the Department of Education.

~~(b) Each district school board shall adopt a district digital classrooms plan that meets the unique needs of students, schools, and personnel and submit the plan for approval to the Department of Education. In addition, each district school board must, at a minimum, seek input from the district's instructional, curriculum, and information technology staff to develop the district digital classrooms plan. The district's plan must be within the general parameters established in the Florida digital classrooms plan pursuant to s. 1001.20. In addition, if the district participates in federal technology initiatives and grant programs, the district digital classrooms plan must include a plan for meeting requirements of such initiatives and grant programs. Funds allocated under this subsection must be used to support implementation of district digital classrooms plans. By October 1, 2014, and by March 1 of each year thereafter, on a date determined by the department, each district school board shall submit to the department, in a format prescribed by the department, a digital classrooms plan. At a minimum, such plan must include, and be annually updated to reflect, the following:~~

~~1. Measurable student performance outcomes. Outcomes related to student performance, including outcomes for students with disabilities, must be tied to the efforts and strategies to improve outcomes related to student performance by integrating technology in classroom teaching and learning. Results of the outcomes shall be reported at least annually for the current school year and subsequent 3 years and be accompanied by an independent evaluation and validation of the reported results.~~

~~2.— Digital learning and technology infrastructure purchases and operational activities. Such purchases and activities must be tied to the measurable outcomes under subparagraph 1., including, but not limited to, connectivity, broadband access, wireless capacity, Internet speed, and data security, all of which must meet or exceed minimum requirements and protocols established by the department. For each year that the district uses funds for infrastructure, a third-party, independent evaluation of the district's technology inventory and infrastructure needs must accompany the district's plan.~~

~~3.— Professional development purchases and operational activities. Such purchases and activities must be tied to the measurable outcomes under subparagraph 1., including, but not limited to, using technology in the classroom and improving digital literacy and competency.~~

~~4.— Digital tool purchases and operational activities. Such purchases and activities must be tied to the measurable outcomes under subparagraph 1., including, but not limited to, competency-based credentials that measure and demonstrate digital competency and certifications; third-party assessments that demonstrate acquired knowledge and use of digital applications; and devices that meet or exceed minimum requirements and protocols established by the department.~~

~~5.— Online assessment-related purchases and operational activities. Such purchases and activities must be tied to the measurable outcomes under subparagraph 1., including, but not limited to, expanding the capacity to administer assessments and compatibility with minimum assessment protocols and requirements established by the department.~~

~~(e) The Legislature shall annually provide in the General Appropriations Act the FEFP allocation for implementation of the Florida digital classrooms plan to be calculated in an amount up to 1 percent of the base student allocation multiplied by the total K-12 full-time equivalent student enrollment included in the FEFP calculations for the legislative appropriation or as provided in the General Appropriations Act. Each school district shall be provided a minimum of \$250,000, with the remaining balance of the allocation to be distributed based on each district's proportion of the total K-12 full-time equivalent student enrollment. Distribution of funds for the Florida digital classrooms allocation shall begin following submittal of each district's digital classrooms plan, which must include formal verification of the superintendent's approval of the digital classrooms plan of each charter school in the district, and approval of the plan by the department. Prior to the distribution of the Florida digital classrooms allocation funds, each district school superintendent shall certify to the Commissioner of Education that the district school board has approved a comprehensive district digital classrooms plan that supports the fidelity of implementation of the Florida digital classrooms allocation. District allocations shall be recalculated during the fiscal year consistent with the periodic recalculation of the FEFP. School districts shall provide a proportionate share of the digital classrooms allocation to each charter school in the district, as required for~~

~~category~~ programs in s. 1002.33(17)(b). A school district may use a competitive process to distribute funds for the Florida digital classrooms allocation to the schools within the school district.

~~(d) To facilitate the implementation of the district digital classrooms plans and charter school digital classrooms plans, the commissioner shall support statewide, coordinated partnerships and efforts of this state's education practitioners in the field, including, but not limited to, superintendents, principals, and teachers, to identify and share best practices, corrective actions, and other identified needs.~~

~~(e) Beginning in the 2015-2016 fiscal year and each year thereafter, each district school board shall report to the department its use of funds provided through the Florida digital classrooms allocation and student performance outcomes in accordance with the district's digital classrooms plan. The department may contract with an independent third party entity to conduct an annual independent verification of the district's use of Florida digital classrooms allocation funds in accordance with the district's digital classrooms plan. In the event an independent third party verification is not conducted, the Auditor General shall, during scheduled operational audits of the school districts, verify compliance of the use of Florida digital classrooms allocation funds in accordance with the district's digital classrooms plan. No later than October 1 of each year, beginning in the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the commissioner shall provide to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a summary of each district's use of funds, student performance outcomes, and progress toward meeting statutory requirements and timelines.~~

~~(f) Each school district shall provide teachers, administrators, students, and parents with access to:~~

~~1. Instructional materials in digital or electronic format, as defined in s. 1006.29.~~

~~2. Digital materials, including those digital materials that enable students to earn certificates and industry certifications pursuant to ss. 1003.4203 and 1008.44.~~

~~3. Teaching and learning tools and resources, including the ability for teachers and administrators to manage, assess, and monitor student performance data.~~

~~(g) For the 2016-2017 fiscal year, notwithstanding paragraph (c), each school district shall be provided a minimum of \$500,000, with the remaining balance of the allocation to be distributed based on each district's proportion of the total K-12 full-time equivalent enrollment. Each district's digital classrooms allocation plan must give preference to funding the number of devices that comply with the requirements of s. 1001.20(4)(a)1.b. and that are needed to allow each school to administer the Florida Standards Assessments to an entire grade at the same time. If the district's digital~~

~~classrooms allocation plan does not include the purchase of devices, the district must certify in the plan that the district currently has sufficient devices to allow each school to administer the Florida Standards Assessments in the manner described in this paragraph. This paragraph expires July 1, 2017.~~

(13) **FEDERALLY CONNECTED STUDENT SUPPLEMENT.**—The federally connected student supplement is created to provide supplemental funding for school districts to support the education of students connected with federally owned military installations, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) real property, and Indian lands. To be eligible for this supplement, the district must be eligible for federal Impact Aid Program funds under s. 8003 of Title VIII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. The supplement shall be allocated annually to each eligible school district in the ~~amount provided in the~~ General Appropriations Act. The supplement shall be the sum of the student allocation and an exempt property allocation.

(a) The student allocation shall be calculated based on the number of students reported for federal Impact Aid Program funds, including students with disabilities, who meet one of the following criteria:

1. The student has a parent who is on active duty in the uniformed services or is an accredited foreign government official and military officer. Students with disabilities shall also be reported separately for this category.
2. The student resides on eligible federally owned Indian land. Students with disabilities shall also be reported separately for this category.
3. The student resides with a civilian parent who lives or works on eligible federal property connected with a military installation or NASA. The number of these students shall be multiplied by a factor of 0.5.

(b) The total number of federally connected students calculated under paragraph (a) shall be multiplied by a percentage of the base student allocation as provided in the General Appropriations Act. The total of the number of students with disabilities as reported separately under subparagraphs (a)1. and 2. shall be multiplied by an additional percentage of the base student allocation as provided in the General Appropriations Act. The base amount and the amount for students with disabilities shall be summed to provide the student allocation.

(c) The exempt property allocation shall be equal to the tax-exempt value of federal impact aid lands reserved as military installations, real property owned by NASA, or eligible federally owned Indian lands located in the district, ~~as of January 1 of the previous year,~~ multiplied by the millage authorized and levied under s. 1011.71(2).

(d) The amount allocated for each eligible school district shall be recalculated during the year using actual student membership, as amended,

from the most recent February survey and the tax-exempt valuation from the most recent assessment roll. Upon recalculation, if the total allocation is greater than the amount provided in the General Appropriations Act, it must be prorated to the level of the appropriation based on each district's share of the total recalculated amount.

(14) **QUALITY ASSURANCE GUARANTEE.**—The Legislature may annually in the General Appropriations Act determine a percentage increase in funds per K-12 unweighted FTE as a minimum guarantee to each school district. The guarantee shall be calculated from prior year base funding per unweighted FTE student which shall include the adjusted FTE dollars as provided in subsection (16) ~~(15)~~, quality guarantee funds, and actual nonvoted discretionary local effort from taxes. From the base funding per unweighted FTE, the increase shall be calculated for the current year. The current year funds from which the guarantee shall be determined shall include the adjusted FTE dollars as provided in subsection (16) ~~(15)~~ and potential nonvoted discretionary local effort from taxes. A comparison of current year funds per unweighted FTE to prior year funds per unweighted FTE shall be computed. For those school districts which have less than the legislatively assigned percentage increase, funds shall be provided to guarantee the assigned percentage increase in funds per unweighted FTE student. Should appropriated funds be less than the sum of this calculated amount for all districts, the commissioner shall prorate each district's allocation. This provision shall be implemented to the extent specifically funded.

(15) **SAFE SCHOOLS ALLOCATION.**—A safe schools allocation is created to provide funding to assist school districts in their compliance with ss. 1006.07-1006.148, with priority given to establishing a school resource officer program pursuant to s. 1006.12. Each school district shall receive a minimum safe schools allocation in an amount provided in the General Appropriations Act. Of the remaining balance of the safe schools allocation, two-thirds shall be allocated to school districts based on the most recent official Florida Crime Index provided by the Department of Law Enforcement and one-third shall be allocated based on each school district's proportionate share of the state's total unweighted full-time equivalent student enrollment.

~~(16)~~(15) **TOTAL ALLOCATION OF STATE FUNDS TO EACH DISTRICT FOR CURRENT OPERATION.**—The total annual state allocation to each district for current operation for the FEFP shall be distributed periodically in the manner prescribed in the General Appropriations Act.

(b) The amount thus obtained shall be the net annual allocation to each school district. However, if it is determined that any school district received an under allocation or over allocation ~~underallocation or overallocation~~ for any prior year because of an arithmetical error, assessment roll change required by final judicial decision, full-time equivalent student membership error, or any allocation error revealed in an audit report, the allocation to that district shall be appropriately adjusted. An under allocation in a prior

year caused by a school district's error may not be the basis for a positive allocation adjustment for the current year. Beginning with the 2011-2012 fiscal year, if a special program cost factor is less than the basic program cost factor, an audit adjustment may not result in the reclassification of the special program FTE to the basic program FTE. If the Department of Education audit adjustment recommendation is based upon controverted findings of fact, the Commissioner of Education is authorized to establish the amount of the adjustment based on the best interests of the state.

Section 5. Section 1013.738, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1013.738 High Growth District Capital Outlay Assistance Grant Program.—

(1) Subject to funds provided in the General Appropriations Act, the High Growth District Capital Outlay Assistance Grant Program is hereby established. Funds provided pursuant to this section may only be used for the purposes identified in s. 1011.71(2) ~~to construct new student stations.~~

(2) In order to qualify for a grant, a school district must meet the following criteria:

(a) The district must have levied the maximum ~~full 1.5~~ mills of nonvoted discretionary capital outlay millage authorized in s. 1011.71(2) for each of the prior 5 ~~past 4~~ fiscal years.

(b) The district must receive revenue from a current voted school capital outlay sales surtax or a portion of the local government infrastructure surtax as authorized in s. 212.055.

~~(c)(b) Fifty percent of~~ The revenue derived from the ~~2-mill~~ nonvoted discretionary capital outlay millage ~~for the past 4 fiscal years~~, when divided by the district's ~~growth in~~ capital outlay FTE students ~~over this period~~, produces a value that is less than the statewide average maximum potential funds cost per capital outlay FTE student station ~~calculated pursuant to s. 1013.64(6)(b)1.~~, and weighted by ~~statewide growth in capital outlay FTE students in elementary, middle, and high schools for the most recent past 4 fiscal year~~ years.

~~(d)(e)~~ The district must have equaled or exceeded the greater of 1 percent average growth or twice the statewide average of growth in capital outlay FTE students over the prior 5-year ~~this same 4-year~~ period.

~~(d) The Commissioner of Education must have released all funds allocated to the district from the Classrooms First Program authorized in s. 1013.68, and these funds were fully expended by the district as of February 1 of the current fiscal year.~~

(e) The total capital outlay FTE students of the district is greater than 24,000 ~~15,000~~ students.

(3) The funds provided in the General Appropriations Act shall be allocated pursuant to the following methodology:

(a) For each eligible district, the Department of Education shall sum calculate the calculated value of 50 percent of the revenue derived from the maximum potential 2-mill nonvoted discretionary capital outlay millage and the revenue received from the voted sales surtax as provided in paragraph (2)(b) and divide that sum for the past 4 fiscal years divided by the number of ~~increase in~~ capital outlay FTE students for the same period.

(b) The Department of Education shall determine, for each eligible district, the amount that must be added to the funds per capital outlay FTE value calculated pursuant to paragraph (a) to produce the statewide weighted average value per capital outlay FTE for the revenues identified ~~student station calculated~~ pursuant to paragraph (a) ~~(2)(b)~~.

(c) The value calculated for each eligible district pursuant to paragraph (b) shall be ~~multiplied by the average increase in capital outlay FTE students for the past 4 fiscal years to determine the maximum amount of a grant that may be awarded to a district pursuant to this section.~~

(d) In the event the funds provided in the General Appropriations Act are insufficient to fully fund the maximum grants calculated pursuant to this section ~~paragraph (e)~~, the Department of Education shall allocate the funds based on each district's prorated share of the total maximum award amount calculated for all eligible districts.

Section 6. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section 1011.78, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1011.78 Standard student attire incentive payments.—There is created an incentive payment for school districts and charter schools that implement a standard student attire policy for all students in kindergarten through grade 8 in accordance with this section.

(3) QUALIFICATIONS.—To qualify for the incentive payment, a school district or charter school must, at a minimum, implement a standard attire policy that:

(b) Prohibits certain types or styles of clothing and requires solid-colored clothing and fabrics for pants, skirts, shorts, or similar clothing and short- or long-sleeved shirts with collars.

Section 7. Section 1003.631, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1003.631 Schools of Excellence.—The Schools of Excellence Program is established to provide administrative flexibility to the state's top schools so that the instructional personnel and administrative staff at such schools can continue to serve their communities and increase student learning to the best of their professional ability.

(1) DESIGNATION.—

(a) The State Board of Education shall designate a school as a School of Excellence if the school's percentage of possible points earned in its school grade calculation is in the 80th percentile or higher for schools comprised of the same grade groupings, including elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, and schools with a combination of grade levels, for at least 2 of the last 3 school years. The school must have data for each applicable school grade component pursuant to s. 1008.34(3) to be eligible for designation as a School of Excellence. A qualifying school shall retain the designation as a School of Excellence for up to 3 years, at the end of which time the school may renew the designation, if:

1. The school was in the 80th percentile or higher pursuant to this subsection for 2 of the previous 3 years; and

2. The school did not receive a school grade lower than "B" pursuant to s. 1008.34 during any of the previous 3 years.

(b) A school that earns a school grade lower than "B" pursuant to s. 1008.34 during the 3-year period may not continue to be designated as a School of Excellence during the remainder of that 3-year period and loses the administrative flexibilities provided in subsection (2).

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE FLEXIBILITIES.—A School of Excellence must be provided the following administrative flexibilities:

(a) Exemption from any provision of law or rule that expressly requires a minimum period of daily or weekly instruction in reading.

(b) Principal autonomy as provided under s. 1012.28(8).

(c) For instructional personnel, the substitution of 1 school year of employment at a School of Excellence for 20 inservice points toward the renewal of a professional certificate, up to 60 inservice points in a 5-year cycle, pursuant to s. 1012.585(3).

(d) Exemption from compliance with district policies or procedures that establish times for the start and completion of the school day.

(e) Calculation for compliance with maximum class size pursuant to s. 1003.03(4) based on the average number of students at the school level.

Section 8. Paragraph (c) of subsection (8) of section 1012.56, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph (d), subsections (1) and (7), and paragraph (a) of subsection (8) are amended, and a new paragraph (c) is added to subsection (8) of that section, to read:

1012.56 Educator certification requirements.—

(1) APPLICATION.—Each person seeking certification pursuant to this chapter shall submit a completed application containing the applicant's social security number to the Department of Education and remit the fee required pursuant to s. 1012.59 and rules of the State Board of Education. Pursuant to the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, each party is required to provide his or her social security number in accordance with this section. Disclosure of social security numbers obtained through this requirement is limited to the purpose of administration of the Title IV-D program of the Social Security Act for child support enforcement.

(a) Pursuant to s. 120.60, the department shall issue within 90 calendar days after ~~receipt~~ the stamped-receipted date of the completed application:

(a) ~~If the applicant meets the requirements,~~ a professional certificate to a qualifying applicant covering the classification, level, and area for which the applicant is deemed qualified and a document explaining the requirements for renewal of the professional certificate.;

(b) ~~The department shall issue a temporary certificate to a qualifying applicant within 14 calendar days after receipt of a request from if the applicant meets the requirements and if requested by an employer employing school district or an employing private school with a professional education competence demonstration program pursuant to paragraphs (6)(f) and (8)(b). The,~~ a temporary certificate must cover ~~covering~~ the classification, level, and area for which the applicant is deemed qualified. The department shall electronically notify the applicant's employer that the temporary certificate has been issued and provide the applicant an official statement of status of eligibility at the time the certificate is issued. ~~and an official statement of status of eligibility; or~~

(c) Pursuant to s. 120.60, the department shall issue within 90 calendar days after receipt of the completed application, if an applicant does not meet the requirements for either certificate, an official statement of status of eligibility.

The statement of status of eligibility must be provided electronically and must advise the applicant of any qualifications that must be completed to qualify for certification. Each method by which an applicant can complete the qualifications for a professional certificate must be included in the statement of status of eligibility. Each statement of status of eligibility is valid for 3 years after its date of issuance, except as provided in paragraph (2)(d).

(7) TYPES AND TERMS OF CERTIFICATION.—

(a) The Department of Education shall issue a professional certificate for a period not to exceed 5 years to any applicant who fulfills one of the following:

1. Meets all the requirements outlined in subsection (2).

2. ~~or, For a professional certificate covering grades 6 through 12, any applicant who:~~

a.1. Meets the requirements of paragraphs (2)(a)-(h).

b.2. Holds a master’s or higher degree in the area of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics.

c.3. Teaches a high school course in the subject of the advanced degree.

d.4. Is rated highly effective as determined by the teacher’s performance evaluation under s. 1012.34, based in part on student performance as measured by a statewide, standardized assessment or an Advanced Placement, Advanced International Certificate of Education, or International Baccalaureate examination.

e.5. Achieves a passing score on the Florida professional education competency examination required by state board rule.

3. Meets the requirements of paragraphs (2)(a)-(h) and completes a professional preparation and education competence program approved by the department pursuant to paragraph (8)(c). An applicant who completes the program and is rated highly effective as determined by his or her performance evaluation under s. 1012.34 is not required to take or achieve a passing score on the professional education competency examination in order to be awarded a professional certificate.

(b) The department shall issue a temporary certificate to any applicant who completes the requirements outlined in paragraphs (2)(a)-(f) and completes the subject area content requirements specified in state board rule or demonstrates mastery of subject area knowledge pursuant to subsection (5) and holds an accredited degree or a degree approved by the Department of Education at the level required for the subject area specialization in state board rule.

(c) The department shall issue one nonrenewable 2-year temporary certificate and one nonrenewable 5-year professional certificate to a qualified applicant who holds a bachelor’s degree in the area of speech-language impairment to allow for completion of a master’s degree program in speech-language impairment.

Each temporary certificate is valid for 3 school fiscal years and is nonrenewable. However, the requirement in paragraph (2)(g) must be met within 1 calendar year of the date of employment under the temporary certificate. Individuals who are employed under contract at the end of the 1 calendar year time period may continue to be employed through the end of the school year in which they have been contracted. A school district shall not employ, or continue the employment of, an individual in a position for which a temporary certificate is required beyond this time period if the

individual has not met the requirement of paragraph (2)(g). At least 1 year before an individual's temporary certificate is set to expire, the department shall electronically notify the individual of the date on which his or her certificate will expire and provide a list of each method by which the qualifications for a professional certificate can be completed. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to allow the department to extend the validity period of a temporary certificate for 2 years when the requirements for the professional certificate, not including the requirement in paragraph (2)(g), were not completed due to the serious illness or injury of the applicant or other extraordinary extenuating circumstances or for 1 year if the temporary certificateholder is rated effective or highly effective based solely on a student learning growth formula approved by the Commissioner of Education pursuant to s. 1012.34(8). The department shall reissue the temporary certificate for 2 additional years upon approval by the Commissioner of Education. A written request for reissuance of the certificate shall be submitted by the district school superintendent, the governing authority of a university lab school, the governing authority of a state-supported school, or the governing authority of a private school.

(8) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATION AND EDUCATION COMPETENCY PROGRAM.—

(a) The Department of Education shall develop and each school district, charter school, and charter management organization may provide a cohesive competency-based professional development certification and education competency program by which ~~members of a school district's~~ instructional staff may satisfy the mastery of professional preparation and education competence requirements specified in subsection (6) and rules of the State Board of Education. Participants must hold a state-issued temporary certificate. A school district, charter school, or charter management organization that implements the program shall provide a competency-based certification program developed by the Department of Education or developed by the district, charter school, or charter management organization and approved by the Department of Education. The program shall include the following:

1. A minimum period of initial preparation before assuming duties as the teacher of record.

2. An option for collaboration with ~~between school districts and other supporting agencies or educational entities for implementation.~~

3. A teacher mentorship and induction ~~An experienced peer mentor component.~~

a. Each individual selected by the district as a ~~peer~~ mentor:

I. Must hold a valid professional certificate issued pursuant to this section;

II. Must have earned at least 3 years of teaching experience in prekindergarten through grade 12;~~and~~

III. Must have completed specialized training in clinical supervision and participate in ongoing mentor training provided through the coordinated system of professional development under s. 1012.98(3)(e);

IV. Must have earned an effective or highly effective rating on the prior year’s performance evaluation under s. 1012.34; and

V. May ~~or~~ be a peer evaluator under the district’s evaluation system approved under s. 1012.34.

b. The teacher mentorship and induction component must, at a minimum, provide weekly opportunities for mentoring and induction activities, including common planning time, ongoing professional development targeted to a teacher’s needs, opportunities for a teacher to observe other teachers, co-teaching experiences, and reflection and followup discussions. Mentorship and induction activities must be provided for an applicant’s first year in the program and may be provided until the applicant attains his or her professional certificate in accordance with this section. A principal who is rated highly effective as determined by his or her performance evaluation under s. 1012.34 must be provided flexibility in selecting professional development activities under this paragraph; however, the activities must be approved by the department as part of the district’s, charter school’s, or charter management organization’s program.

4. An assessment of teaching performance aligned to the district’s system for personnel evaluation under s. 1012.34 which provides for:

a. An initial evaluation of each educator’s competencies to determine an appropriate individualized professional development plan.

b. A summative evaluation to assure successful completion of the program.

5. Professional education preparation content knowledge, which must be included in the mentoring and induction activities under subparagraph 3., that includes, but is not limited to, the following:

a. The state standards provided under s. 1003.41, including scientifically based reading instruction, content literacy, and mathematical practices, for each subject identified on the temporary certificate.

b. The educator-accomplished practices approved by the state board.

c. A variety of data indicators for monitoring student progress.

d. Methodologies for teaching students with disabilities.

e. Methodologies for teaching students of limited English proficiency appropriate for each subject area identified on the temporary certificate.

f. Techniques and strategies for operationalizing the role of the teacher in assuring a safe learning environment for students.

6. Required achievement of passing scores on the subject area and professional education competency examination required by State Board of Education rule. Mastery of general knowledge must be demonstrated as described in subsection (3).

(c) No later than December 31, 2017, the department shall adopt standards for the approval of professional development certification and education competency programs, including standards for the teacher mentorship and induction component, under paragraph (a). Standards for the teacher mentorship and induction component must include program administration and evaluation; mentor roles, selection, and training; beginning teacher assessment and professional development; and teacher content knowledge and practices aligned to the Florida Educator Accomplished Practices. Each school district or charter school with a program under this subsection must submit its program, including the teacher mentorship and induction component, to the department for approval no later than June 30, 2018. After December 31, 2018, a teacher may not satisfy requirements for a professional certificate through a professional development certification and education competency program under paragraph (a) unless the program has been approved by the department pursuant to this paragraph.

Section 9. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 1004.04, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

(2) UNIFORM CORE CURRICULA AND CANDIDATE ASSESSMENT.

(b) The rules to establish uniform core curricula for each state-approved teacher preparation program must include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. The Florida Educator Accomplished Practices.

2. The state-adopted content standards.

3. Scientifically researched and evidence-based reading instructional strategies that improve reading performance for all students, including explicit, systematic, and sequential approaches to teaching phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and text comprehension and multisensory intervention strategies instruction.

4. Content literacy and mathematics practices.

- 5. Strategies appropriate for the instruction of English language learners.
- 6. Strategies appropriate for the instruction of students with disabilities.
- 7. School safety.

Section 10. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section 1004.85, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1004.85 Postsecondary educator preparation institutes.—

(3) Educator preparation institutes approved pursuant to this section may offer competency-based certification programs specifically designed for noneducation major baccalaureate degree holders to enable program participants to meet the educator certification requirements of s. 1012.56. An educator preparation institute choosing to offer a competency-based certification program pursuant to the provisions of this section must implement a program previously approved by the Department of Education for this purpose or a program developed by the institute and approved by the department for this purpose. Approved programs shall be available for use by other approved educator preparation institutes.

(a) Within 90 days after receipt of a request for approval, the Department of Education shall approve a preparation program pursuant to the requirements of this subsection or issue a statement of the deficiencies in the request for approval. The department shall approve a certification program if the institute provides evidence of the institute’s capacity to implement a competency-based program that includes each of the following:

1.a. Participant instruction and assessment in the Florida Educator Accomplished Practices.

b. The state-adopted student content standards.

c. Scientifically researched and evidence-based reading instructional strategies that improve reading performance for all students, including explicit, systematic, and sequential approaches to teaching phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and text comprehension and multisensory intervention strategies instruction.

d. Content literacy and mathematical practices.

e. Strategies appropriate for instruction of English language learners.

f. Strategies appropriate for instruction of students with disabilities.

g. School safety.

2. An educational plan for each participant to meet certification requirements and demonstrate his or her ability to teach the subject area

for which the participant is seeking certification, which is based on an assessment of his or her competency in the areas listed in subparagraph 1.

3. Field experiences appropriate to the certification subject area specified in the educational plan with a diverse population of students in a variety of settings under the supervision of qualified educators.

4. A certification ombudsman to facilitate the process and procedures required for participants who complete the program to meet any requirements related to the background screening pursuant to s. 1012.32 and educator professional or temporary certification pursuant to s. 1012.56.

Section 11. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section 1012.585, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (f) is added to that subsection, to read:

1012.585 Process for renewal of professional certificates.—

(3) For the renewal of a professional certificate, the following requirements must be met:

(a) The applicant must earn a minimum of 6 college credits or 120 inservice points or a combination thereof. For each area of specialization to be retained on a certificate, the applicant must earn at least 3 of the required credit hours or equivalent inservice points in the specialization area. Education in “clinical educator” training pursuant to s. 1004.04(5)(b); participation in mentorship and induction activities, including as a mentor, pursuant to s. 1012.56(8)(a); and credits or points that provide training in the area of scientifically researched, knowledge-based reading literacy, including explicit, systematic, and sequential approaches to reading instruction, developing phonemic awareness, and implementing multi-sensory intervention strategies, and computational skills acquisition, exceptional student education, normal child development, and the disorders of development may be applied toward any specialization area. Credits or points that provide training in the areas of drug abuse, child abuse and neglect, strategies in teaching students having limited proficiency in English, or dropout prevention, or training in areas identified in the educational goals and performance standards adopted pursuant to ss. 1000.03(5) and 1008.345 may be applied toward any specialization area, except specialization areas identified by State Board of Education rule that include reading instruction or intervention for any students in kindergarten through grade 6. Credits or points earned through approved summer institutes may be applied toward the fulfillment of these requirements. Inservice points may also be earned by participation in professional growth components approved by the State Board of Education and specified pursuant to s. 1012.98 in the district’s approved master plan for inservice educational training; however, such points may not be used to satisfy the specialization requirements of this paragraph, including, but not limited to, serving as a trainer in an approved teacher training activity, serving on an instructional materials committee or a state board or commission that deals

with educational issues, or serving on an advisory council created pursuant to s. 1001.452.

(f) An applicant for renewal of a professional certificate in any area of certification identified by State Board of Education rule that includes reading instruction or intervention for any students in kindergarten through grade 6, with a beginning validity date of July 1, 2020, or thereafter, must earn a minimum of 2 college credits or the equivalent inservice points in the use of explicit, systematic, and sequential approaches to reading instruction, developing phonemic awareness, and implementing multisensory intervention strategies. Such training must be provided by teacher preparation programs under s. 1004.04 or s. 1004.85 or approved school district professional development systems under s. 1012.98. The requirements in this paragraph may not add to the total hours required by the department for continuing education or inservice training.

Section 12. 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.

(a) To reduce duplication, the department may recommend the consolidation of endorsement areas and requirements to the State Board of Education.

(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. 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 13. Paragraph (e) is added to subsection (3) of section 1012.98, Florida Statutes, and paragraph (b) of subsection (4) and subsections (10) and (11) of that section are amended, to read:

1012.98 School Community Professional Development Act.—

(3) The activities designed to implement this section must:

(e) Provide training to teacher mentors as part of the professional development certification and education competency program under s. 1012.56(8)(a). The training must include components on teacher development, peer coaching, time management, and other related topics as determined by the Department of Education.

(4) The Department of Education, school districts, schools, Florida College System institutions, and state universities share the responsibilities described in this section. These responsibilities include the following:

(b) Each school district shall develop a professional development system as specified in subsection (3). The system shall be developed in consultation with teachers, teacher-educators of Florida College System institutions and state universities, business and community representatives, and local education foundations, consortia, and professional organizations. The professional development system must:

1. Be approved by the department. All substantial revisions to the system shall be submitted to the department for review for continued approval.

2. Be based on analyses of student achievement data and instructional strategies and methods that support rigorous, relevant, and challenging curricula for all students. Schools and districts, in developing and refining the professional development system, shall also review and monitor school discipline data; school environment surveys; assessments of parental satisfaction; performance appraisal data of teachers, managers, and administrative personnel; and other performance indicators to identify school and student needs that can be met by improved professional performance.

3. Provide inservice activities coupled with followup support appropriate to accomplish district-level and school-level improvement goals and standards. The inservice activities for instructional personnel shall focus on analysis of student achievement data, ongoing formal and informal assessments of student achievement, identification and use of enhanced and differentiated instructional strategies that emphasize rigor, relevance, and reading in the content areas, enhancement of subject content expertise, integrated use of classroom technology that enhances teaching and learning, classroom management, parent involvement, and school safety.

4. Provide inservice activities and support targeted to the individual needs of new teachers participating in the professional development certification and education competency program under s. 1012.56(8)(a).

5.4. Include a master plan for inservice activities, pursuant to rules of the State Board of Education, for all district employees from all fund sources. The master plan shall be updated annually by September 1, must be based on input from teachers and district and school instructional leaders, and must use the latest available student achievement data and research to enhance rigor and relevance in the classroom. Each district inservice plan must be aligned to and support the school-based inservice plans and school improvement plans pursuant to s. 1001.42(18). Each district inservice plan must provide a description of the training that middle grades instructional personnel and school administrators receive on the district's code of student conduct adopted pursuant to s. 1006.07; integrated digital instruction and competency-based instruction and CAPE Digital Tool certificates and CAPE industry certifications; classroom management; student behavior and interaction; extended learning opportunities for students; and instructional leadership. District plans must be approved by the district school board annually in order to ensure compliance with subsection (1) and to allow for dissemination of research-based best practices to other districts. District school boards must submit verification of their approval to the Commissioner of Education no later than October 1, annually. Each school principal may establish and maintain an individual professional development plan for each instructional employee assigned to the school as a seamless component to the school improvement plans developed pursuant to s. 1001.42(18). An individual professional development plan must be related to specific performance data for the students to whom the teacher is assigned, define the inservice objectives and specific measurable improvements expected in student performance as a result of the inservice activity, and include an evaluation component that determines the effectiveness of the professional development plan.

6.5. Include inservice activities for school administrative personnel that address updated skills necessary for instructional leadership and effective school management pursuant to s. 1012.986.

7.6. Provide for systematic consultation with regional and state personnel designated to provide technical assistance and evaluation of local professional development programs.

8.7. Provide for delivery of professional development by distance learning and other technology-based delivery systems to reach more educators at lower costs.

9.8. Provide for the continuous evaluation of the quality and effectiveness of professional development programs in order to eliminate ineffective programs and strategies and to expand effective ones. Evaluations must consider the impact of such activities on the performance of participating educators and their students' achievement and behavior.

10.9. For middle grades, emphasize:

- a. Interdisciplinary planning, collaboration, and instruction.
- b. Alignment of curriculum and instructional materials to the state academic standards adopted pursuant to s. 1003.41.
- c. Use of small learning communities; problem-solving, inquiry-driven research and analytical approaches for students; strategies and tools based on student needs; competency-based instruction; integrated digital instruction; and project-based instruction.

Each school that includes any of grades 6, 7, or 8 must include in its school improvement plan, required under s. 1001.42(18), a description of the specific strategies used by the school to implement each item listed in this subparagraph.

11. Provide training to reading coaches, classroom teachers, and school administrators in effective methods of identifying characteristics of conditions such as dyslexia and other causes of diminished phonological processing skills; incorporating instructional techniques into the general education setting which are proven to improve reading performance for all students; and using predictive and other data to make instructional decisions based on individual student needs. The training must help teachers integrate phonemic awareness; phonics, word study, and spelling; reading fluency; vocabulary, including academic vocabulary; and text comprehension strategies into an explicit, systematic, and sequential approach to reading instruction, including multisensory intervention strategies. Each district must provide all elementary grades instructional personnel access to training sufficient to meet the requirements of s. 1012.585(3)(f).

(10) For instructional personnel and administrative personnel who have been evaluated as less than effective, a district school board shall require participation in specific professional development programs as provided in subparagraph ~~(4)(b)5.~~ ~~(4)(b)4.~~ as part of the improvement prescription.

(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, and 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.

Section 14. Section 683.1455, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

683.1455 American Founders' Month.—

(1) The month of September of each year is designated as “American Founders’ Month.”

(2) The Governor may annually issue a proclamation designating the month of September as “American Founders’ Month” and urging all civic, fraternal, and religious organizations and public and private educational institutions to recognize and observe this occasion through appropriate programs, meetings, services, or celebrations in which state, county, and local governmental officials are invited to participate.

Section 15. Paragraphs (c) through (g) of subsection (5) of section 1000.03, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (d) through (h), respectively, and a new paragraph (c) is added to that subsection to read:

1000.03 Function, mission, and goals of the Florida K-20 education system.—

(5) The priorities of Florida’s K-20 education system include:

(c) Civic literacy.—Students are prepared to become civically engaged and knowledgeable adults who make positive contributions to their communities.

Section 16. Section 1001.215, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1001.215 Just Read, Florida! Office.—There is created in the Department of Education the Just Read, Florida! Office. The office ~~is~~ shall be fully accountable to the Commissioner of Education and shall:

(1) Train ~~highly effective~~ reading coaches.

(2) Create multiple designations of effective reading instruction, with accompanying credentials, to ~~enable which encourage~~ all teachers to integrate reading instruction into their content areas.

(3) Work with the Lastinger Center for Learning at the University of Florida to develop training for ~~train~~ K-12 teachers, reading coaches, and school principals on effective content-area-specific reading strategies; the integration of content-rich curriculum from other core subject areas into reading instruction; and evidence-based reading strategies identified in subsection (7) to improve student reading performance. For secondary teachers, emphasis shall be on technical text. These strategies must be developed for all content areas in the K-12 curriculum.

(4) Develop and provide access to sequenced, content-rich curriculum programming, instructional practices, and resources that help elementary schools use state-adopted instructional materials to increase students’ background knowledge and literacy skills, including student attainment of the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for social studies, science, and the arts.

(5)(4) Provide parents with information and strategies for assisting their children in reading, including reading in the content areas area.

(6)(5) Provide technical assistance to school districts in the development and implementation of district plans for use of the research-based reading instruction allocation provided in s. 1011.62(9) and annually review and approve such plans.

(7)(6) Review, evaluate, and provide technical assistance to school districts' implementation of the K-12 comprehensive reading plan required in s. 1011.62(9).

(8)(7) Work with the Florida Center for Reading Research to identify scientifically researched and evidence-based reading instructional and intervention programs that incorporate explicit, systematic, and sequential approaches to teaching phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and text comprehension and incorporate decodable or phonetic text instructional provide information on research-based reading programs and effective reading in the content area strategies. Reading intervention includes evidence-based strategies frequently used to remediate reading deficiencies and includes, but is not limited to, individual instruction, multisensory approaches, tutoring, mentoring, or the use of technology that targets specific reading skills and abilities.

(9)(8) Periodically review the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for English Language Arts to determine their appropriateness at each grade level reading at all grade levels.

(10)(9) Periodically review teacher certification requirements and examinations, including alternative certification requirements and examinations exams, to ascertain whether the examinations measure the skills needed for evidence-based research-based reading instruction and instructional strategies for teaching reading, including reading in the content areas.

(11)(10) Work with teacher preparation programs approved pursuant to ss. s. 1004.04 and 1004.85 to integrate effective, research-based and evidence-based reading instructional and intervention strategies, including explicit, systematic, and sequential and reading strategies, multisensory intervention strategies, and reading in the content area instructional strategies into teacher preparation programs.

(12)(11) Administer grants and perform other functions as necessary to help meet the goal that all students read at their highest potential grade level.

Section 17. Subsection (3) is added to section 1003.44, Florida Statutes, to read:

1003.44 Patriotic programs; rules.—

(3) All public schools in the state are encouraged to coordinate, at all grade levels, instruction related to our nation’s founding fathers with “American Founders’ Month” pursuant to s. 683.1455.

Section 18. Subsections (4) through (11) of section 1007.25, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (5) through (12), respectively, and a new subsection (4) is added to that section to read:

1007.25 General education courses; common prerequisites; other degree requirements.—

(4) Beginning with students initially entering a Florida College System institution or state university in the 2018-2019 school year and thereafter, each student must demonstrate competency in civic literacy. Students must have the option to demonstrate competency through successful completion of a civic literacy course or by achieving a passing score on an assessment. The State Board of Education must adopt in rule and the Board of Governors must adopt in regulation at least one existing assessment that measures competencies consistent with the required course competencies outlined in paragraph (b). The chair of the State Board of Education and the chair of the Board of Governors, or their respective designees, shall jointly appoint a faculty committee to:

(a) Develop a new course in civic literacy or revise an existing general education core course in American History or American Government to include civic literacy.

(b) Establish course competencies and identify outcomes that include, at a minimum, an understanding of the basic principles of American democracy and how they are applied in our republican form of government, an understanding of the United States Constitution, knowledge of the founding documents and how they have shaped the nature and functions of our institutions of self-governance, and an understanding of landmark Supreme Court cases and their impact on law and society.

Section 19. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section 943.22, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

943.22 Salary incentive program for full-time officers.—

(1) For the purpose of this section, the term:

(c) “Community college degree or equivalent” means graduation from an accredited community college or having been granted a degree pursuant to s. 1007.25(11) ~~s. 1007.25(10)~~ or successful completion of 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours and eligibility to receive an associate degree from an accredited college, university, or community college.

Section 20. Subsection (7) and paragraph (d) of subsection (8) of section 1001.64, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1001.64 Florida College System institution boards of trustees; powers and duties.—

(7) Each board of trustees has responsibility for: ensuring that students have access to general education courses as identified in rule; requiring no more than 60 semester hours of degree program coursework, including 36 semester hours of general education coursework, for an associate in arts degree; notifying students that earned hours in excess of 60 semester hours may not be accepted by state universities; notifying students of unique program prerequisites; and ensuring that degree program coursework beyond general education coursework is consistent with degree program prerequisite requirements adopted pursuant to s. 1007.25(6) ~~s. 1007.25(5)~~.

(8) Each board of trustees has authority for policies related to students, enrollment of students, student records, student activities, financial assistance, and other student services.

(d) Boards of trustees shall identify their general education curricula pursuant to s. 1007.25(7) ~~s. 1007.25(6)~~.

Section 21. Subsection (1), paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (h) of subsection (6), subsection (7), paragraph (b) of subsection (8), paragraph (n) of subsection (9), paragraph (a) of subsection (10), paragraph (h) of subsection (12), subsection (13), paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (17), paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (18), subsections (19) and (20), paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (21), and subsections (25) and (28) of section 1002.33, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1002.33 Charter schools.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION.—~~Charter schools shall be part of the state's program of public education. All charter schools in Florida are public schools and shall be part of the state's program of public education. A charter school may be formed by creating a new school or converting an existing public school to charter status. A charter school may operate a virtual charter school pursuant to s. 1002.45(1)(d) to provide full-time online instruction to eligible students, pursuant to s. 1002.455, in kindergarten through grade 12. The school district in which the student enrolls in the virtual charter school shall report the student for funding pursuant to s. 1011.61(1)(c)1.b.(VI), and the home school district shall not report the student for funding. An existing charter school that is seeking to become a virtual charter school must amend its charter or submit a new application pursuant to subsection (6) to become a virtual charter school. A virtual charter school is subject to the requirements of this section; however, a virtual charter school is exempt from subsections (18) and (19), subparagraphs (20)(a)2., 4., 5., and 7., paragraph (20)(c), and s. 1003.03. A public school may not use the term charter in its name unless it has been approved under this section.~~

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

(a) A person or entity seeking to open a charter school shall prepare and submit an application on the standard ~~a model~~ application form prepared by the Department of Education which:

1. Demonstrates how the school will use the guiding principles and meet the statutorily defined purpose of a charter school.

2. Provides a detailed curriculum plan that illustrates how students will be provided services to attain the Sunshine State Standards.

3. Contains goals and objectives for improving student learning and measuring that improvement. These goals and objectives must indicate how much academic improvement students are expected to show each year, how success will be evaluated, and the specific results to be attained through instruction.

4. Describes the reading curriculum and differentiated strategies that will be used for students reading at grade level or higher and a separate curriculum and strategies for students who are reading below grade level. A sponsor shall deny an application if the school does not propose a reading curriculum that is consistent with effective teaching strategies that are grounded in scientifically based reading research.

5. Contains an annual financial plan for each year requested by the charter for operation of the school for up to 5 years. This plan must contain anticipated fund balances based on revenue projections, a spending plan based on projected revenues and expenses, and a description of controls that will safeguard finances and projected enrollment trends.

6. Discloses the name of each applicant, governing board member, and all proposed education services providers; the name and sponsor of any charter school operated by each applicant, each governing board member, and each proposed education services provider that has closed and the reasons for the closure; and the academic and financial history of such charter schools, which the sponsor shall consider in deciding whether to approve or deny the application.

7. Contains additional information a sponsor may require, which shall be attached as an addendum to the charter school application described in this paragraph.

8. For the establishment of a virtual charter school, documents that the applicant has contracted with a provider of virtual instruction services pursuant to s. 1002.45(1)(d).

(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 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. In order to facilitate greater collaboration in the application process, an applicant may submit a draft charter school application on or before May 1 with an application fee of \$500. If a draft application is timely submitted, the sponsor shall review and provide feedback as to material deficiencies in the application by July 1. The applicant shall then have until August 1 to resubmit a revised and final application. The sponsor may approve the draft application. Except as provided for a draft application, 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 final 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 ~~60~~ 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 does not materially comply with the requirements in paragraph (a);

(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 directly to the State Board of Education and, if an appeal is filed, must provide a copy of the appeal to the sponsor pursuant to 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 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.

(c)1. An applicant may appeal any denial of that applicant's application or failure to act on an application to the State Board of Education no later than 30 calendar days after receipt of the sponsor's decision or failure to act and shall notify the sponsor of its appeal. Any response of the sponsor shall be submitted to the State Board of Education within 30 calendar days after notification of the appeal. Upon receipt of notification from the State Board of Education that a charter school applicant is filing an appeal, the Commissioner of Education shall convene a meeting of the Charter School Appeal Commission to study and make recommendations to the State Board of Education regarding its pending decision about the appeal. The commission shall forward its recommendation to the state board at least 7 calendar days before the date on which the appeal is to be heard. ~~An appeal regarding the denial of an application submitted by a high-performing charter school pursuant to s. 1002.331 shall be conducted by the State Board of Education in accordance with this paragraph, except that the commission shall not convene to make recommendations regarding the appeal. However, the Commissioner of Education shall review the appeal and make a recommendation to the state board.~~

2. The Charter School Appeal Commission ~~or, in the case of an appeal regarding an application submitted by a high-performing charter school, the State Board of Education~~ may reject an appeal submission for failure to comply with procedural rules governing the appeals process. The rejection shall describe the submission errors. The appellant shall have 15 calendar days after notice of rejection in which to resubmit an appeal that meets the requirements set forth in State Board of Education rule. An appeal submitted subsequent to such rejection is considered timely if the original appeal was filed within 30 calendar days after receipt of notice of the specific reasons for the sponsor's denial of the charter application.

3.a. The State Board of Education shall by majority vote accept or reject the decision of the sponsor no later than 90 calendar days after an appeal is filed in accordance with State Board of Education rule. The State Board of Education shall remand the application to the sponsor with its written decision that the sponsor approve or deny the application. The sponsor shall implement the decision of the State Board of Education. The decision of the State Board of Education is not subject to the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, chapter 120.

b. If an appeal concerns 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, the State Board of Education shall determine whether the sponsor's denial was in accordance with sub-subparagraph (b)3.b. ~~sponsor has shown, by clear and convincing evidence, that:~~

~~(I) The application does not materially comply with the requirements in paragraph (a);~~

~~(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.~~

~~The State Board of Education shall approve or reject the sponsor's denial of an application no later than 90 calendar days after an appeal is filed in accordance with State Board of Education rule. The State Board of Education shall remand the application to the sponsor with its written decision that the sponsor approve or deny the application. The sponsor shall implement the decision of the State Board of Education. The decision of the State Board of Education is not subject to the Administrative Procedure Act, chapter 120.~~

~~(h) 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 may not impose unreasonable rules or regulations that violate the intent of giving charter schools greater flexibility to meet educational goals. The sponsor has 30 days after approval of the application to provide an initial proposed charter contract to the charter school. The applicant and the sponsor have 40 days thereafter to negotiate and notice the charter contract for final approval by the sponsor unless both parties agree to an extension. The proposed charter contract shall be provided to the charter school at least 7 calendar days prior to the date of the meeting at which the charter is scheduled to be voted upon by the sponsor. The Department of Education shall provide mediation services for any dispute regarding this section subsequent to the approval of a charter application and for any dispute relating to the approved charter, except disputes regarding charter school application denials. If the Commissioner of Education determines that the dispute cannot be settled through~~

~~mediation, the dispute may be appealed to an administrative law judge appointed by the Division of Administrative Hearings. The administrative law judge has final order authority to rule on issues of equitable treatment of the charter school as a public school, whether proposed provisions of the charter violate the intended flexibility granted charter schools by statute, or on any other matter regarding this section except a charter school application denial, a charter termination, or a charter nonrenewal and shall award the prevailing party reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred to be paid by the losing party. The costs of the administrative hearing shall be paid by the party whom the administrative law judge rules against.~~

(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 major issues involving the operation of a charter school shall be considered in advance and written into the charter. 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. ~~and receive the online instruction in a classroom setting at the charter school.~~ 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. 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.

(b) The sponsor has 30 days after approval of the application to provide an initial proposed charter contract to the charter school. The applicant and the sponsor have 40 days thereafter to negotiate and notice the charter contract for final approval by the sponsor unless both parties agree to an

extension. The proposed charter contract shall be provided to the charter school at least 7 calendar days before the date of the meeting at which the charter is scheduled to be voted upon by the sponsor. The Department of Education shall provide mediation services for any dispute regarding this section subsequent to the approval of a charter application and for any dispute relating to the approved charter, except a dispute regarding a charter school application denial. If the Commissioner of Education determines that the dispute cannot be settled through mediation, the dispute may be appealed to an administrative law judge appointed by the Division of Administrative Hearings. The administrative law judge has final order authority to rule on issues of equitable treatment of the charter school as a public school, whether proposed provisions of the charter violate the intended flexibility granted charter schools by statute, or any other matter regarding this section, except a dispute regarding charter school application denial, a charter termination, or a charter nonrenewal. 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.

~~(c)~~^(b)1. A charter may be renewed provided that a program review demonstrates that the criteria in paragraph (a) have been successfully accomplished and that none of the grounds for nonrenewal established by paragraph (8)(a) has been documented. In order to facilitate long-term financing for charter school construction, charter schools operating for a minimum of 3 years and demonstrating exemplary academic programming and fiscal management are eligible for a 15-year charter renewal. Such long-term charter is subject to annual review and may be terminated during the term of the charter.

2. The 15-year charter renewal that may be granted pursuant to subparagraph 1. shall be granted to a charter school that has received a school grade of “A” or “B” pursuant to s. 1008.34 in 3 of the past 4 years and is not in a state of financial emergency or deficit position as defined by this section. Such long-term charter is subject to annual review and may be terminated during the term of the charter pursuant to subsection (8).

~~(d)~~^(e) 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 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.

~~(e)~~^(d) 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)(e)-(g) and (9)(o).

(8) CAUSES FOR NONRENEWAL OR TERMINATION OF CHARTER.

(b) At least 90 days ~~before~~ ~~prior to~~ 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 60 days after receipt of the request for a hearing and in accordance with chapter 120. The administrative law judge's recommended order shall be submitted to the sponsor. 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.

(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" ~~of "D,"~~ ~~two consecutive grades of "D" followed by a grade of "F,"~~ or two nonconsecutive grades of "F" within a 3-year period, 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” or “D,” a grade of “F” following two consecutive grades of “D,” or a second nonconsecutive grade of “F” within a 3-year period.

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. 4.

d. A charter school is no longer required to implement a corrective action if it improves to a “C” or higher by at least one letter grade. 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. 5.

e. A charter school implementing a corrective action that does not improve to a “C” or higher by at least one letter grade 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 a letter grade 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. 4.

~~3.—A charter school with a grade of “D” or “F” that improves by at least one letter grade must continue to implement the 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 5.~~

~~3.4.~~ 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~~. ~~1008.33(4)(b)3~~. 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) that earned a grade of “F” in the year before the charter school opened 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)(e)-(g) and (9)(o).

~~4.5.~~ 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.

~~5.6.~~ Notwithstanding any provision of this paragraph except sub-subparagraphs ~~3.a.-c.~~ ~~4.a.-e.~~, the sponsor may terminate the charter at any time pursuant to subsection (8).

(10) ELIGIBLE STUDENTS.—

(a) A charter school may be exempt from the requirements of s. 1002.31 if the school is ~~shall be open to any student covered in an interdistrict agreement and any student~~ ~~or~~ residing in the school district in which the charter school is located.; However, in the case of a charter lab school, the charter lab school shall be open to any student eligible to attend the lab school as provided in s. 1002.32 or who resides in the school district in which the charter lab school is located. Any eligible student shall be allowed

interdistrict transfer to attend a charter school when based on good cause. Good cause shall include, but is not limited to, geographic proximity to a charter school in a neighboring school district.

(12) EMPLOYEES OF CHARTER SCHOOLS.—

(h) For the purposes of tort liability, the charter school, including its governing body and employees, of a charter school shall be governed by s. 768.28. This paragraph does not include any for-profit entity contracted by the charter school or its governing body.

(13) CHARTER SCHOOL COOPERATIVES.—Charter schools may enter into cooperative agreements to form charter school cooperative organizations that may provide the following services to further educational, operational, and administrative initiatives in which the participating charter schools share common interests: charter school planning and development, direct instructional services, and contracts with charter school governing boards to provide personnel administrative services, payroll services, human resource management, evaluation and assessment services, teacher preparation, and professional development.

(17) FUNDING.—Students enrolled in a charter school, regardless of the sponsorship, shall be funded as if they are in a basic program or a special program, the same as students enrolled in other public schools in the school district. Funding for a charter lab school shall be as provided in s. 1002.32.

(b) The basis for the agreement for funding students enrolled in a charter school shall be the sum of the school district's operating funds from the Florida Education Finance Program as provided in s. 1011.62 and the General Appropriations Act, including gross state and local funds, discretionary lottery funds, and funds from the school district's current operating discretionary millage levy; divided by total funded weighted full-time equivalent students in the school district; multiplied by the weighted full-time equivalent students for the charter school. Charter schools whose students or programs meet the eligibility criteria in law are entitled to their proportionate share of categorical program funds included in the total funds available in the Florida Education Finance Program by the Legislature, including transportation, the research-based reading allocation, and the Florida digital classrooms allocation. Total funding for each charter school shall be recalculated during the year to reflect the revised calculations under the Florida Education Finance Program by the state and the actual weighted full-time equivalent students reported by the charter school during the full-time equivalent student survey periods designated by the Commissioner of Education. For charter schools operated by a not-for-profit or municipal entity, any unrestricted current and capital assets identified in the charter school's annual financial audit may be used for other charter schools operated by the not-for-profit or municipal entity within the school district. Unrestricted current assets shall be used in accordance with s. 1011.62 and any unrestricted capital assets shall be used in accordance with s. 1013.62(2).

~~(c) If the district school board is providing programs or services to students funded by federal funds, any eligible students enrolled in charter schools in the school district shall be provided federal funds for the same level of service provided students in the schools operated by the district school board. Pursuant to provisions of 20 U.S.C. 8061 s. 10306, all charter schools shall receive all federal funding for which the school is otherwise eligible, including Title I funding, not later than 5 months after the charter school first opens and within 5 months after any subsequent expansion of enrollment. Unless otherwise mutually agreed to by the charter school and its sponsor, and consistent with state and federal rules and regulations governing the use and disbursement of federal funds, the sponsor shall reimburse the charter school on a monthly basis for all invoices submitted by the charter school for federal funds available to the sponsor for the benefit of the charter school, the charter school's students, and the charter school's students as public school students in the school district. Such federal funds include, but are not limited to, Title I, Title II, and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) funds. To receive timely reimbursement for an invoice, the charter school must submit the invoice to the sponsor at least 30 days before the monthly date of reimbursement set by the sponsor. In order to be reimbursed, any expenditures made by the charter school must comply with all applicable state rules and federal regulations, including, but not limited to, the applicable federal Office of Management and Budget Circulars; the federal Education Department General Administrative Regulations; and program-specific statutes, rules, and regulations. Such funds may not be made available to the charter school until a plan is submitted to the sponsor for approval of the use of the funds in accordance with applicable federal requirements. The sponsor has 30 days to review and approve any plan submitted pursuant to this paragraph.~~

(18) FACILITIES.—

(a) A startup charter school shall utilize facilities which comply with the Florida Building Code pursuant to chapter 553 except for the State Requirements for Educational Facilities. Conversion charter schools shall utilize facilities that comply with the State Requirements for Educational Facilities provided that the school district and the charter school have entered into a mutual management plan for the reasonable maintenance of such facilities. The mutual management plan shall contain a provision by which the district school board agrees to maintain charter school facilities in the same manner as its other public schools within the district. Charter schools, with the exception of conversion charter schools, are not required to comply, but may choose to comply, with the State Requirements for Educational Facilities of the Florida Building Code adopted pursuant to s. 1013.37. The local governing authority shall not adopt or impose any local building requirements or site-development restrictions, such as parking and site-size criteria, student enrollment, and occupant load, that are addressed by and more stringent than those found in the State Requirements for Educational Facilities of the Florida Building Code. A local governing authority must treat charter schools equitably in comparison to similar

requirements, restrictions, and site planning processes imposed upon public schools that are not charter schools. The agency having jurisdiction for inspection of a facility and issuance of a certificate of occupancy or use shall be the local municipality or, if in an unincorporated area, the county governing authority. If an official or employee of the local governing authority refuses to comply with this paragraph, the aggrieved school or entity has an immediate right to bring an action in circuit court to enforce its rights by injunction. An aggrieved party that receives injunctive relief may be awarded attorney fees and court costs.

(c) Any facility, or portion thereof, used to house a charter school whose charter has been approved by the sponsor and the governing board, pursuant to subsection (7), shall be exempt from ad valorem taxes pursuant to s. 196.1983. Library, community service, museum, performing arts, theatre, cinema, church, Florida College System institution, college, and university facilities may provide space to charter schools within their facilities under their preexisting zoning and land use designations without obtaining a special exception, rezoning, or a land use change.

(19) CAPITAL OUTLAY FUNDING.—Charter schools are eligible for capital outlay funds pursuant to ss. 1011.71(2) and s. 1013.62. Capital outlay funds authorized in ss. 1011.71(2) and 1013.62 which have been shared with a charter school-in-the-workplace prior to July 1, 2010, are deemed to have met the authorized expenditure requirements for such funds.

(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 federal 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 federal Lunch Program be paid to the charter school as soon as the charter school begins serving food under the National School federal Lunch Program, and that the charter school is paid at the same time and in the same manner under the National School federal 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. A total administrative fee for the provision of such services shall be calculated based upon up to 5 percent of the available funds defined in paragraph (17)(b) for all students, except that when 75 percent or more of the students enrolled in the charter school are exceptional students as defined in s. 1003.01(3), the 5 percent of those available funds shall be calculated based on unweighted full-time equivalent students. However, a sponsor may only withhold up to a 5-percent administrative fee for enrollment for up to and including 250 students. For charter schools with a population of 251 or more students, the difference between the total administrative fee calculation and the amount of the administrative fee withheld may only be used for capital outlay purposes specified in s. 1013.62(3).

~~3. For high-performing charter schools, as defined in s. 1002.331, a sponsor may withhold a total administrative fee of up to 2 percent for enrollment up to and including 250 students per school.~~

~~4. In addition, a sponsor may withhold only up to a 5-percent administrative fee for enrollment for up to and including 500 students within a system of charter schools which meets all of the following:~~

~~a. Includes both conversion charter schools and nonconversion charter schools;~~

~~b. Has all 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; and~~

~~e. Does not contract with a for-profit service provider for management of school operations.~~

~~5. The difference between the total administrative fee calculation and the amount of the administrative fee withheld pursuant to subparagraph 4. may be used for instructional and administrative purposes as well as for capital outlay purposes specified in s. 1013.62(3).~~

~~6. For a high-performing charter school system that also meets the requirements in subparagraph 4., a sponsor may withhold a 2-percent administrative fee for enrollments up to and including 500 students per system.~~

~~7. Sponsors shall not charge charter schools any additional fees or surcharges for administrative and educational services in addition to the maximum 5-percent administrative fee withheld pursuant to this paragraph.~~

~~8. The sponsor of a virtual charter school may withhold a fee of up to 5 percent. The funds shall be used to cover the cost of services provided under subparagraph 1. and implementation of the school district's digital classrooms plan pursuant to s. 1011.62.~~

(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 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.

(c) Transportation of charter school students shall be provided by the charter school consistent with the requirements of subpart I.E. of chapter 1006 and s. 1012.45. The governing body of the charter school may provide transportation through an agreement or contract with the district school board, a private provider, or parents. The charter school and the sponsor shall cooperate in making arrangements that ensure that transportation is not a barrier to equal access for all students residing within a reasonable distance of the charter school as determined in its charter.

(d) Each charter school shall annually complete and submit a survey, provided in a format specified by the Department of Education, to rate the timeliness and quality of services provided by the district in accordance with this section. The department shall compile the results, by district, and include the results in the report required under sub-sub-subparagraph (5)(b) 1.k.(III).

(21) PUBLIC INFORMATION ON CHARTER SCHOOLS.—

(a) The Department of Education shall provide information to the public, directly and through sponsors, on how to form and operate a charter school and how to enroll in a charter school once it is created. This information shall include the standard ~~a model~~ application form, standard charter contract, standard evaluation instrument, and standard charter renewal contract, which shall include the information specified in subsection (7) and shall be developed by consulting and negotiating with both school districts and charter schools before implementation. The charter and charter renewal contracts shall be used by charter school sponsors.

(b)1. The Department of Education shall report to each charter school receiving a school grade pursuant to s. 1008.34 or a school improvement rating pursuant to s. 1008.341 the school’s student assessment data.

2. The charter school shall report the information in subparagraph 1. to each parent of a student at the charter school, the parent of a child on a waiting list for the charter school, the district in which the charter school is located, and the governing board of the charter school. This paragraph does not abrogate the provisions of s. 1002.22, relating to student records, or the requirements of 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

~~3.a.— Pursuant to this paragraph, the Department of Education shall compare the charter school student performance data for each charter school in subparagraph 1. with the student performance data in traditional public schools in the district in which the charter school is located and other charter schools in the state. For alternative charter schools, the department shall compare the student performance data described in this paragraph with all alternative schools in the state. The comparative data shall be provided by the following grade groupings:~~

~~(I) Grades 3 through 5;~~

~~(II) — Grades 6 through 8; and~~

~~(III) — Grades 9 through 11.~~

~~b. Each charter school shall provide the information specified in this paragraph on its Internet website and also provide notice to the public at large in a manner provided by the rules of the State Board of Education. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to administer the notice requirements of this subparagraph pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54. The website shall include, through links or actual content, other information related to school performance.~~

(25) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY STATUS FOR CERTAIN CHARTER SCHOOL SYSTEMS.—

(a) A charter school system’s governing board shall be designated a local educational agency for the purpose of receiving federal funds, the same as though the charter school system were a school district, if the governing board of the charter school system has adopted and filed a resolution with its sponsoring district school board and the Department of Education in which the governing board of the charter school system accepts the full responsibility for all local education agency requirements and the charter school system meets all of the following:

~~(a) — Includes both conversion charter schools and nonconversion charter schools;~~

1.(b) Has all schools located in the same county;

2.(e) Has a total enrollment exceeding the total enrollment of at least one school district in the state; and

3.(d) Has the same governing board; ~~and~~

(b) A charter school system’s governing board may be designated a local educational agency for the purpose of receiving federal funds for all schools within a school district that are established pursuant to s. 1008.33 and are under the jurisdiction of the governing board. The governing board must adopt and file a resolution with its sponsoring district school board and the Department of Education and accept full responsibility for all local educational agency requirements.

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

Such designation does not apply to other provisions unless specifically provided in law.

(28) RULEMAKING.—The Department of Education, after consultation with school districts and charter school directors, shall recommend that the State Board of Education adopt rules to implement specific subsections of

this section. Such rules shall require minimum paperwork and shall not limit charter school flexibility authorized by statute. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules, pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54, to implement a standard charter model application form, standard application form for the replication of charter schools in a high-performing charter school system, standard evaluation instrument, and standard charter and charter renewal contracts in accordance with this section.

Section 22. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 1002.3305, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.3305 College-preparatory Boarding Academy Pilot Program for at-risk students.—

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

(b) “Eligible student” means a student who is a resident of the state and entitled to attend school in a participating school district, is at risk of academic failure, is currently enrolled in grades 5 through 12, if it is determined by the operator that a seat is available ~~grade 5 or 6~~, is from a family whose gross income is at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines, is eligible for benefits or services funded by Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, and meets at least one of the following additional risk factors:

1. The child is in foster care or has been declared an adjudicated dependent by a court.
2. The student’s head of household is not the student’s custodial parent.
3. The student resides in a household that receives a housing voucher or has been determined eligible for public housing assistance.
4. A member of the student’s immediate family has been incarcerated.
5. The child is covered under the terms of the state’s Child Welfare Waiver Demonstration project with the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

Section 23. Subsection (3) of section 1002.331, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.331 High-performing charter schools.—

(3)(a)1. A high-performing charter school may submit an application pursuant to s. 1002.33(6) in any school district in the state to establish and operate a new charter school that will substantially replicate its educational program. An application submitted by a high-performing charter school must state that the application is being submitted pursuant to this paragraph and must include the verification letter provided by the Commissioner of Education pursuant to subsection (4).

2. If the sponsor fails to act on the application within 90 60 days after receipt, the application is deemed approved and the procedure in s. ~~1002.33(7)~~ 1002.33(6)(h) applies. ~~If the sponsor denies the application, the high-performing charter school may appeal pursuant to s. 1002.33(6).~~

(b) A high-performing charter school may not establish more than one charter 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 24. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 1002.332, Florida Statutes are amended, and paragraph (c) is added to subsection (2), to read:

1002.332 High-performing charter school system.—

(1) For purposes of this section, the term:

(b) “High-performing charter school system” means an entity that:

1. Operated at least three high-performing charter schools in the state during each of the previous 3 school years;

2. Operated a system of charter schools in which at least 50 percent of the charter schools were high-performing charter schools pursuant to s. 1002.331 and no charter school earned a school grade of “D” or “F” pursuant to s. 1008.34 in any of the previous 3 school years regardless of whether the entity currently operates the charter school, except that:

a. If the entity assumed operation of a public school pursuant to s. ~~1008.33(4)(b)2.~~ 1008.33(4)(b)3. with a school grade of “F,” that school’s grade may not be considered in determining high-performing charter school system status for a period of 3 years.

b. If the entity established a new charter school that served a student population the majority of which resided in a school zone served by a public school that earned a grade of “F” or three consecutive grades of “D” pursuant to s. 1008.34, that charter school’s grade may not be considered in determining high-performing charter school system status if it attained and maintained a school grade that was higher than that of the public school serving that school zone within 3 years after establishment; and

3. Did not receive a financial audit that revealed one or more of the financial emergency conditions set forth in s. 218.503(1) for any charter school assumed or established by the entity in the most recent 3 fiscal years for which such audits are available.

(2)

(b) A high-performing charter school system may replicate its high-performing charter schools in any school district in the state. The applicant must submit an application using the standard application form prepared by the Department of Education which:

1. Contains goals and objectives for improving student learning and a process for measuring student improvement. These goals and objectives must indicate how much academic improvement students are expected to demonstrate each year, how success will be evaluated, and the specific results to be attained through instruction.

2. Contains an annual financial plan for each year requested by the charter for operation of the school for up to 5 years. This plan must contain anticipated fund balances based on revenue projections, a spending plan based on projected revenue and expenses, and a description of controls that will safeguard finances and projected enrollment trends.

3. Discloses the name of each applicant, governing board member, and all proposed education services providers; the name and sponsor of any charter school operated by each applicant, each governing board member, and each proposed education services provider that has closed and the reasons for the closure; and the academic and financial history of such charter schools, which the sponsor shall consider when deciding whether to approve or deny the application.

(c) An application submitted by a high-performing charter school system must state that the application is being submitted pursuant to this section and must include the verification letter provided by the Commissioner of Education pursuant to this subsection. If the sponsor fails to act on the application within 90 days after receipt, the application is deemed approved and the procedure in s. 1002.33(7) applies pursuant to s. 1002.33(3).

Section 25. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 1003.498, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1003.498 School district virtual course offerings.—

(1) School districts may deliver courses in the traditional school setting by personnel certified pursuant to s. 1012.55 who provide direct instruction through virtual instruction or through blended learning courses consisting of both traditional classroom and online instructional techniques. Students in a blended learning course must be full-time students of the school pursuant to s. 1011.61(1)(a)1. ~~and receive the online instruction in a classroom setting at the school.~~ The funding, performance, and accountability requirements for blended learning courses are the same as those for traditional courses. To facilitate the delivery and coding of blended learning courses, the department shall provide identifiers for existing courses to designate that they are being used for blended learning courses for the

purpose of ensuring the efficient reporting of such courses. A district may report full-time equivalent student membership for credit earned by a student who is enrolled in a virtual education course provided by the district which is completed after the end of the regular school year if the FTE is reported no later than the deadline for amending the final student membership report for that year.

(2) School districts may offer virtual courses for students enrolled in the school district. These courses must be identified in the course code directory. Students ~~who meet the eligibility requirements of s. 1002.455~~ may participate in these virtual course offerings pursuant to s. 1002.455.

(a) Any ~~eligible~~ student who is enrolled in a school district may register and enroll in an online course offered by his or her school district.

(b)1. Any ~~eligible~~ student who is enrolled in a school district may register and enroll in an online course offered by any other school district in the state. The school district in which the student completes the course shall report the student's completion of that course for funding pursuant to s. 1011.61(1)(c) 1.b.(VI), and the home school district shall not report the student for funding for that course.

2. The full-time equivalent student membership calculated under this subsection is subject to the requirements in s. 1011.61(4). The Department of Education shall establish procedures to enable interdistrict coordination for the delivery and funding of this online option.

Section 26. Subsection (5), paragraph (j) of subsection (6), and paragraph (a) of subsection (8) of section 1007.35, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1007.35 Florida Partnership for Minority and Underrepresented Student Achievement.—

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

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

(b) Funding for the PSAT/NMSQT or the preliminary ACT Aspire for all 10th grade students shall be contingent upon annual funding in the General Appropriations Act.

(c) Public school districts must choose either the PSAT/NMSQT or the preliminary ACT Aspire for districtwide administration.

(6) The partnership shall:

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

1. Test administration dates and times.

2. That participation in the PSAT/NMSQT or the preliminary ACT Aspire is open to all 10th grade students.

3. The value of such tests in providing diagnostic feedback on student skills.

4. The value of student scores in predicting the probability of success on AP or other advanced course examinations.

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

Section 27. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section 1008.34, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1008.34 School grading system; school report cards; district grade.—

(3) DESIGNATION OF SCHOOL GRADES.—

(d) The data performance of students attending alternative schools, and students designated as hospital or homebound, and students who transfer to a private school shall be factored into a school grade as follows:

1. The student performance data for eligible students attending alternative schools that provide dropout prevention and academic intervention services pursuant to s. 1003.53 shall be included in the calculation of the home school's grade. The term "eligible students" in this subparagraph does not include students attending an alternative school who are subject to district school board policies for expulsion for repeated or serious offenses,

who are in dropout retrieval programs serving students who have officially been designated as dropouts, or who are in programs operated or contracted by the Department of Juvenile Justice. As used in this subparagraph, the term “home school” means the school to which the student would be assigned if the student were not assigned to an alternative school. If an alternative school chooses to be graded under this section, student performance data for eligible students identified in this subparagraph shall not be included in the home school’s grade but shall be included only in the calculation of the alternative school’s grade. A school district that fails to assign statewide, standardized end-of-course assessment scores of each of its students to his or her home school or to the alternative school that receives a grade shall forfeit Florida School Recognition Program funds for one fiscal year. School districts must require collaboration between the home school and the alternative school in order to promote student success. This collaboration must include an annual discussion between the principal of the alternative school and the principal of each student’s home school concerning the most appropriate school assignment of the student.

2. Student performance data for students designated as hospital or homebound shall be assigned to their home school for the purposes of school grades. As used in this subparagraph, the term “home school” means the school to which a student would be assigned if the student were not assigned to a hospital or homebound program.

3. A high school must include a student in its graduation rate if the student transfers from the high school to a private school with which the school district has a contractual relationship.

Section 28. Subsection (3) of section 1008.341, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1008.341 School improvement rating for alternative schools.—

(3) DESIGNATION OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT RATING.—Student Learning Gains based on statewide, standardized assessments, including retakes, administered under s. 1008.22 for all eligible students who were assigned to and enrolled in the school during the October or February FTE count and who have assessment scores, concordant scores, or comparable scores for the preceding school year shall be used in determining an alternative school’s school improvement rating. An alternative school’s rating shall be based on the following components:

(a) The percentage of eligible students who make Learning Gains in English Language Arts as measured by statewide, standardized assessments under s. 1008.22(3).

(b) The percentage of eligible students who make Learning Gains in mathematics as measured by statewide, standardized assessments under s. 1008.22(3).

Student performance results of students who are subject to district school board policies for expulsion for repeated or serious offenses, who are in dropout retrieval programs serving students who have officially been designated as dropouts, or who are in programs operated or contracted by the Department of Juvenile Justice may not be included in an alternative school's school improvement rating.

Section 29. 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 ~~district schools, including charter schools pursuant to s. 1013.62(3) and for district schools at the discretion of the school board,~~ to fund:

(a) New construction and remodeling projects, as set forth in s. 1013.64(3)(d) and (6)(b) ~~s. 1013.64(3)(b) 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, ~~including electronic hardware and other hardware devices~~ necessary for gaining access to or enhancing the use of electronic and digital instructional content and resources ~~or to facilitate the access to and the use of a school district's digital classrooms plan pursuant to s. 1011.62, excluding software other than the operating system necessary to operate the hardware or device;~~ 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.

(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 30. Subsection (2) of section 1013.54, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1013.54 Cooperative development and use of satellite facilities by private industry and district school boards.—

(2) The commissioner shall appoint a review committee to make recommendations and prioritize requests. If the project is approved by the commissioner, the commissioner shall include up to one-fourth of the cost of the project in the legislative capital outlay budget request, as provided in s. 1013.60, for the funding of capital outlay projects involving both educational and private industry. The commissioner shall prioritize any such projects for each fiscal year and, notwithstanding the provisions of ~~s. 1013.64(3)(e)~~ ~~s. 1013.64(3)(e)~~, limit the recommended state funding amount not to exceed 5

percent off the top of the total funds recommended pursuant to s. 1013.64(2) and (3).

Section 31. Section 1013.62, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1013.62 Charter schools capital outlay funding.—

(1) 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 General Appropriations Act.

~~(1) In each year in which funds are appropriated for charter school capital outlay purposes, the Commissioner of Education shall allocate the funds among eligible charter schools as specified in this section.~~

(a) To be eligible to receive capital outlay funds for a funding allocation, 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 ~~3~~ 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 ~~the Commission on Schools of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools;~~ 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 for a funding allocation ~~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.

(2)(e) The department shall use the following calculation methodology to allocate state funds appropriated in the General Appropriations Act to eligible charter schools. ~~The funding allocation for eligible charter schools shall be calculated as follows:~~

(a)1. Eligible charter schools shall be grouped into categories based on their student populations according to the following criteria:

1.a. Seventy-five percent or greater who are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals under the National School Lunch Program or, for schools operating programs under the Community Eligibility Provision of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, an equivalent percentage of the student population eligible for free and reduced-price meals as determined by applying the multiplier authorized under the National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. s. 1759a(a)(1)(F)(vii), to the number of students reported for direct certification lunch.

2.b. Twenty-five percent or greater with disabilities as defined in state board rule and consistent with the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

(b)2. If an eligible charter school does not meet the criteria for either category under paragraph (a) subparagraph 1., its FTE shall be provided as the base amount of funding and shall be assigned a weight of 1.0. An eligible charter school that meets the criteria under subparagraph (a)1. or subparagraph (a)2. sub-subparagraph 1.a. or sub-subparagraph 1.b. shall be provided an additional 25 percent above the base funding amount, and the total FTE shall be multiplied by a weight of 1.25. An eligible charter school that meets the criteria under both subparagraphs (a)1. and (a)2. sub-subparagraphs 1.a. and b. shall be provided an additional 50 percent above the base funding amount, and the FTE for that school shall be multiplied by a weight of 1.5.

(c)3. The state appropriation for charter school capital outlay shall be divided by the total weighted FTE for all eligible charter schools to determine the base charter school per weighted FTE allocation amount. The per weighted FTE allocation amount shall be multiplied by the weighted FTE to determine each charter school's capital outlay allocation.

(d)(2)(a) The department shall calculate the eligible charter school funding allocations. Funds shall be allocated using full-time equivalent membership from the second and third enrollment surveys and free and reduced-price school lunch data. The department shall recalculate the allocations periodically based on the receipt of revised information, on a schedule established by the Commissioner of Education.

(e)(b) The department shall distribute capital outlay funds monthly, beginning in the first quarter of the fiscal year, based on one-twelfth of the amount the department reasonably expects the charter school to receive during that fiscal year. The commissioner shall adjust subsequent distributions as necessary to reflect each charter school’s recalculated allocation.

(3) If the school board levies the discretionary millage authorized in s. 1011.71(2), 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, 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, beginning on February 1, 2018, for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

~~(4)(3)~~ A charter school’s governing body may use charter school capital outlay funds for the following purposes:

(a) Purchase of real property.

(b) Construction of school facilities.

(c) Purchase, lease-purchase, or lease of permanent or relocatable school facilities.

(d) Purchase of vehicles to transport students to and from the charter school.

(e) Renovation, repair, and maintenance of school facilities that the charter school owns or is purchasing through a lease-purchase or long-term lease of 5 years or longer.

~~(f)~~—Effective July 1, 2008, purchase, lease-purchase, or lease of new and replacement equipment, 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 schoolwide administration or state-mandated reporting requirements.

~~(f)(g)~~ Payment of the cost of premiums for property and casualty insurance necessary to insure the school facilities.

~~(g)(h)~~ Purchase, lease-purchase, or lease of driver's education vehicles; motor vehicles used for the maintenance or operation of plants and equipment; security vehicles; or vehicles used in storing or distributing materials and equipment.

(h) Purchase, lease-purchase, or lease of 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 schoolwide administration or state-mandated reporting requirements. Enterprise resource software may be acquired by annual license fees, maintenance fees, or lease agreement.

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

Conversion charter schools may use capital outlay funds received through the reduction in the administrative fee provided in s. 1002.33(20) for renovation, repair, and maintenance of school facilities that are owned by the sponsor.

~~(5)(4)~~ 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)(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.

~~(6)~~(5) The Commissioner of Education shall specify procedures for submitting and approving requests for funding under this section and procedures for documenting expenditures.

~~(7)~~(6) The annual legislative budget request of the Department of Education shall include a request for capital outlay funding for charter schools. The request shall be based on the projected number of students to be served in charter schools who meet the eligibility requirements of this section.

Section 32. Effective upon this act becoming a law, paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of subsection (3) and paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (6) of section 1013.64, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1013.64 Funds for comprehensive educational plant needs; construction cost maximums for school district capital projects.—Allocations from the Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund to the various boards for capital outlay projects shall be determined as follows:

(3)(a) Each district school board shall receive an amount from the Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund to be calculated by computing the capital outlay membership as determined by the department. Such membership must include, but is not limited to, prekindergarten through grade 12:

~~1. K-12 students whose instruction is funded by the Florida Education Finance Program and prekindergarten exceptional students for whom the school district provides the educational facility, except hospital- and home-bound part-time students; and~~

~~2. Students who are career education students, and adult disabled students and who are enrolled in school district career centers.~~

(b) The capital outlay full-time equivalent membership shall be determined for ~~prekindergarten exceptional education students, kindergarten through the 12th grade, and for career centers~~ by counting the reported unweighted full-time equivalent student membership for the second and third surveys with each survey limited to 0.5 full-time equivalent student membership per student and comparing the results on a school-by-school basis with the Florida Inventory of School Houses. ~~If the prior academic year's third survey count is higher than the current year's second survey count when comparing the results on a school-by-school basis with the Florida Inventory of School Houses, the prior year's third survey count shall be used on a school-by-school basis for determining the current capital outlay membership. The Florida Inventory of School Houses shall be updated with the current capital outlay membership count as soon as practicable after verification of the capital outlay membership.~~

(c) The capital outlay full-time equivalent membership by grade level organization shall be used in making calculations. The capital outlay

membership by grade level organization for the 4th prior year must be used to compute the base-year allocation. The capital outlay full-time equivalent membership by grade-level organization for the prior year must be used to compute the growth over the highest of the 3 years preceding the prior year. From the total amount appropriated by the Legislature pursuant to this subsection, 40 percent shall be allocated among the base capital outlay full-time equivalent membership and 60 percent among the growth capital outlay full-time equivalent membership. The allocation within each of these groups shall be prorated to the districts based upon each district's percentage of base and growth capital outlay full-time equivalent membership. The most recent 4-year capital outlay full-time equivalent membership data shall be used in each subsequent year's calculation for the allocation of funds pursuant to this subsection. If a change, correction, or recomputation of data during any year results in a reduction or increase of the calculated amount previously allocated to a district, the allocation to that district shall be adjusted accordingly. If such recomputation results in an increase or decrease of the calculated amount, such additional or reduced amounts shall be added to or reduced from the district's future appropriations. However, no change, correction, or recomputation of data shall be made subsequent to 2 years following the initial annual allocation.

(6)

(b)1. A district school board may not use funds from the following sources: Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund; School District and Community College District Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund; Classrooms First Program funds provided in s. 1013.68; nonvoted 1.5-mill levy of ad valorem property taxes provided in s. 1011.71(2); Classrooms for Kids Program funds provided in s. 1013.735; District Effort Recognition Program funds provided in s. 1013.736; or High Growth District Capital Outlay Assistance Grant Program funds provided in s. 1013.738 for any new construction of educational plant space with a total cost per student station, including change orders, that equals more than:

- a. \$17,952 for an elementary school,
- b. \$19,386 for a middle school, or
- c. \$25,181 for a high school,

(January 2006) as adjusted annually to reflect increases or decreases in the Consumer Price Index.

2. School districts shall maintain accurate documentation related to the costs of all new construction of educational plant space reported to the Department of Education pursuant to paragraph (d). The Auditor General shall review the documentation maintained by the school districts and verify compliance with the limits under this paragraph during its scheduled operational audits of the school district. The department shall make the final

determination on district compliance based on the recommendation of the Auditor General.

3. The Office of Economic and Demographic Research, in consultation with the department, shall conduct a study of the cost per student station amounts using the most recent available information on construction costs. In this study, the costs per student station should represent the costs of classroom construction and administrative offices as well as the supplemental costs of core facilities, including required media centers, gymnasiums, music rooms, cafeterias and their associated kitchens and food service areas, vocational areas, and other defined specialty areas, including exceptional student education areas. The study must take into account appropriate cost-effectiveness factors in school construction and should include input from industry experts. The Office of Economic and Demographic Research must provide the results of the study and recommendations on the cost per student station to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives no later than January 31, 2017.

4. The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) shall conduct a study of the State Requirements for Education Facilities (SREF) to identify current requirements that can be eliminated or modified in order to decrease the cost of construction of educational facilities while ensuring student safety. OPPAGA must provide the results of the study, and an overall recommendation as to whether SREF should be retained, to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives no later than January 31, 2017.

5. Effective July 1, 2017, in addition to the funding sources listed in subparagraph 1., a district school board may not use funds from any sources for new construction of educational plant space with a total cost per student station, including change orders, which equals more than the current adjusted amounts provided in sub-subparagraphs 1.a.-c. which shall subsequently be adjusted annually to reflect increases or decreases in the Consumer Price Index. However, if a contract has been executed for architectural and design services or for construction management services before July 1, 2017, a district school board may use funds from any source for the new construction of educational plant space and such funds are exempt from the total cost per student station requirements.

6. A district school board must not use funds from the Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund or the School District and Community College District Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund for any new construction of an ancillary plant that exceeds 70 percent of the average cost per square foot of new construction for all schools.

(c) Except as otherwise provided, new construction for which a contract has been executed for architectural and design services or for construction management services initiated by a district school board on or after July 1, 2017, may not exceed the cost per student station as provided in paragraph

(b). A school district that exceeds the cost per student station provided in paragraph (b), as determined by the Auditor General, shall be subject to sanctions. If the Auditor General determines that the cost per student station overage is de minimus or due to extraordinary circumstances outside the control of the district, the sanctions shall not apply. The sanctions are as follows:

1. The school district shall be ineligible for allocations from the Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund for the next 3 years in which the school district would have received allocations had the violation not occurred.

2. The school district shall be subject to the supervision of a district capital outlay oversight committee. The oversight committee is authorized to approve all capital outlay expenditures of the school district, including new construction, renovations, and remodeling, for 3 fiscal years following the violation.

a. Each oversight committee shall be composed of the following:

(I) One appointee of the Commissioner of Education who has significant financial management, school facilities construction, or related experience.

(II) One appointee of the office of the state attorney with jurisdiction over the district.

(III) One appointee of the Chief Financial Officer who is a licensed certified public accountant.

b. An appointee to the oversight committee may not be employed by the school district; be a relative, as defined in s. 1002.33(24)(a)2., of any school district employee; or be an elected official. Each appointee must sign an affidavit attesting to these conditions and affirming that no conflict of interest exists in his or her oversight role.

Section 33. Paragraphs (b) and (f) of subsection (3) and subsection (4) of section 1003.4282, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1003.4282 Requirements for a standard high school diploma.—

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

(b) *Four credits in mathematics.*—A student must earn one credit in Algebra I and one credit in Geometry. A student's performance on the statewide, standardized Algebra I end-of-course (EOC) assessment constitutes 30 percent of the student's final course grade. A student must pass the statewide, standardized Algebra I EOC assessment, or earn a comparative score, in order to earn a standard high school diploma. A student's performance on the statewide, standardized Geometry EOC assessment constitutes 30 percent of the student's final course grade. ~~If the state~~

~~administers a statewide, standardized Algebra II assessment, a student selecting Algebra II must take the assessment, and the student's performance on the assessment constitutes 30 percent of the student's final course grade. A student who earns an industry certification for which there is a statewide college credit articulation agreement approved by the State Board of Education may substitute the certification for one mathematics credit. Substitution may occur for up to two mathematics credits, except for Algebra I and Geometry.~~

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

(4) **ONLINE COURSE REQUIREMENT.**—At least one course within the 24 credits required under this section must be completed through online learning.

(a) An online course taken in grade 6, grade 7, or grade 8 fulfills the requirements of this subsection. The requirement is met through an online course offered by the Florida Virtual School, a virtual education provider approved by the State Board of Education, a high school, or an online dual enrollment course. A student who is enrolled in a full-time or part-time virtual instruction program under s. 1002.45 meets the requirement.

(b) A district school board or a charter school governing board, as applicable, may allow a student ~~offer students the following options to satisfy the online course requirements of this subsection by completing a blended learning course or:~~

1.—~~Completion of a course in which the a student earns a nationally recognized industry certification in information technology that is identified on the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List pursuant to s. 1008.44 or passing passage of the information technology certification examination~~

without enrolling ~~enrollment~~ in or completing ~~completion~~ of the corresponding course or courses, as applicable.

~~2. Passage of an online content assessment, without enrollment in or completion of the corresponding course or courses, as applicable, by which the student demonstrates skills and competency in locating information and applying technology for instructional purposes.~~

For purposes of this subsection, a school district may not require a student to take the online or blended learning course outside the school day or in addition to a student's courses for a given semester. This subsection does not apply to a student who has an individual education plan under s. 1003.57 which indicates that an online or blended learning course would be inappropriate or to an out-of-state transfer student who is enrolled in a Florida high school and has 1 academic year or less remaining in high school.

Section 34. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 1003.4285, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.4285 Standard high school diploma designations.—

(1) Each standard high school diploma shall include, as applicable, the following designations if the student meets the criteria set forth for the designation:

(a) *Scholar designation*.—In addition to the requirements of s. 1003.4282, in order to earn the Scholar designation, a student must satisfy the following requirements:

1. Mathematics.—Earn one credit in Algebra II and one credit in statistics or an equally rigorous course. Beginning with students entering grade 9 in the 2014-2015 school year, pass the ~~Algebra II and Geometry statewide, standardized assessment~~ assessments.

2. Science.—Pass the statewide, standardized Biology I EOC assessment and earn one credit in chemistry or physics and one credit in a course equally rigorous to chemistry or physics. However, a student enrolled in an Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), or Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) Biology course who takes the respective AP, IB, or AICE Biology assessment and earns the minimum score necessary to earn college credit as identified pursuant to s. 1007.27(2) meets the requirement of this subparagraph without having to take the statewide, standardized Biology I EOC assessment.

3. Social studies.—Pass the statewide, standardized United States History EOC assessment. However, a student enrolled in an AP, IB, or AICE course that includes United States History topics who takes the respective AP, IB, or AICE assessment and earns the minimum score necessary to earn college credit as identified pursuant to s. 1007.27(2) meets the requirement of this subparagraph without having to take the statewide, standardized United States History EOC assessment.

4. Foreign language.—Earn two credits in the same foreign language.

5. Electives.—Earn at least one credit in an Advanced Placement, an International Baccalaureate, an Advanced International Certificate of Education, or a dual enrollment course.

Section 35. Paragraphs (c) through (f) and paragraph (g) of subsection (7) of section 1008.22, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (d) through (g) and paragraph (i), respectively, subsections (8) through (12) are renumbered as subsections (9) through (13), respectively, paragraphs (a), (b), and (d) of subsection (3), paragraphs (a) and (b) and present paragraph (f) of subsection (7), and paragraph (e) of present subsection (11) are amended, new paragraphs (c) and (i) are added to subsection (7), and a new subsection (8) is added to that section, 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. ELA assessments shall 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)~~.

(b) *End-of-course (EOC) assessments.*—EOC assessments must be statewide, standardized, and developed or approved by the Department of Education as follows:

1. EOC assessments for Algebra I, Geometry, ~~Algebra II~~, Biology I, United States History, and Civics shall be administered to students enrolled in such courses as specified in the course code directory.

2. Students enrolled in a course, as specified in the course code directory, with an associated statewide, standardized EOC assessment must take the EOC assessment for such course and may not take the corresponding subject or grade-level statewide, standardized assessment pursuant to paragraph (a). Sections 1003.4156 and 1003.4282 govern the use of statewide, standardized EOC assessment results for students.

3. The commissioner may select one or more nationally developed comprehensive examinations, which may include examinations for a College Board Advanced Placement course, International Baccalaureate course, or Advanced International Certificate of Education course, or industry-approved examinations to earn national industry certifications identified in the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List, for use as EOC assessments under this paragraph if the commissioner determines that the content knowledge and skills assessed by the examinations meet or exceed the grade-level expectations for the core curricular content established for the course in the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards. Use of any such examination as an EOC assessment must be approved by the state board in rule.

4. Contingent upon funding provided in the General Appropriations Act, including the appropriation of funds received through federal grants, the commissioner may establish an implementation schedule for the development and administration of additional statewide, standardized EOC assessments that must be approved by the state board in rule. If approved by the state board, student performance on such assessments constitutes 30 percent of a student's final course grade.

5. All statewide, standardized EOC assessments must be administered online except as otherwise provided in paragraph (c).

(d) *Implementation schedule.*—

1. The Commissioner of Education shall establish and publish on the department's website an implementation schedule to transition from the statewide, standardized Reading and Writing assessments to the ELA

assessments and to the revised Mathematics assessments, including the Algebra I and Geometry EOC assessments. The schedule must take into consideration funding, sufficient field and baseline data, access to assessments, instructional alignment, and school district readiness to administer the assessments online. All such assessments must be delivered through computer-based testing, however, the following assessments must be delivered in a computer-based format, as follows: ~~the grade 3 ELA assessment, beginning in the 2017-2018 school year; the grade 3 Mathematics assessment beginning in the 2016-2017 school year; the grade 4 ELA assessment, beginning in the 2015-2016 school year; and the grade 4 Mathematics assessment, beginning in the 2016-2017 school year.~~ Notwithstanding the requirements of this subparagraph, statewide, standardized ELA and mathematics assessments in grades 3 through 6 must be delivered only in a paper-based format, beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, and all such assessments must be paper-based no later than the 2018-2019 school year.

2. The Department of Education shall publish minimum and recommended technology requirements that include specifications for hardware, software, networking, security, and broadband capacity to facilitate school district compliance with the requirements of this section ~~requirement that assessments be administered online.~~

(7) ASSESSMENT SCHEDULES AND REPORTING OF RESULTS.—

(a) The Commissioner of Education shall establish schedules for the administration of statewide, standardized assessments and the reporting of student assessment results. The commissioner shall consider the observance of religious and school holidays when developing the schedules. The assessment and reporting schedules must provide the earliest possible reporting of student assessment results to the school districts, consistent with the requirements of paragraph (3)(g). Assessment results for the statewide, standardized ELA and mathematics assessments and all statewide, standardized EOC assessments must be made available no later than ~~the week of June 30~~ 8, except for results for the grade 3 statewide, standardized ELA assessment, which must be made available no later than May 31 of assessments administered in the 2014-2015 school year. School districts shall administer statewide, standardized assessments in accordance with the schedule established by the commissioner.

(b) By January ~~August~~ of each year, beginning in 2018 ~~2016~~, the commissioner shall publish on the department's website a uniform calendar that includes the assessment and reporting schedules for, at a minimum, the next 2 school years. The uniform calendar must be provided to school districts in an electronic format that allows each school district and public school to populate the calendar with, at minimum, the following information for reporting the district assessment schedules under paragraph (d) (e):

1. Whether the assessment is a district-required assessment or a state-required assessment.

2. The specific date or dates that each assessment will be administered.
3. The time allotted to administer each assessment.
4. Whether the assessment is a computer-based assessment or a paper-based assessment.
5. The grade level or subject area associated with the assessment.
6. The date that the assessment results are expected to be available to teachers and parents.
7. The type of assessment, the purpose of the assessment, and the use of the assessment results.
8. A glossary of assessment terminology.
9. Estimates of average time for administering state-required and district-required assessments, by grade level.

(c) Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, the spring administration of the statewide, standardized assessments in paragraphs (3)(a) and (b), excluding assessment retakes, must be in accordance with the following schedule:

1. The grade 3 statewide, standardized ELA assessment and the writing portion of the statewide, standardized ELA assessment for grades 4 through 10 must be administered no earlier than April 1 each year within an assessment window not to exceed 2 weeks.

2. With the exception of assessments identified in subparagraph 1., any statewide, standardized assessment that is delivered in a paper-based format must be administered no earlier than May 1 each year within an assessment window not to exceed 2 weeks.

3. With the exception of assessments identified in subparagraphs 1. and 2., any statewide, standardized assessment must be administered within a 4-week assessment window that opens no earlier than May 1 each year.

Each school district shall administer the assessments identified under subparagraphs 2. and 3. no earlier than 4 weeks before the last day of school for the district.

(g)(f) A school district must provide a student's performance results on district-required local assessments to the student's teachers within 1 week and to the student's parents no later than 30 days after administering such assessments, unless the superintendent determines in writing that extenuating circumstances exist and reports the extenuating circumstances to the district school board.

(h) The results of statewide, standardized ELA and mathematics assessments, including assessment retakes, shall be reported in an easy-

to-read and understandable format and delivered in time to provide useful, actionable information to students, parents, and each student's current teacher of record and teacher of record for the subsequent school year; however, in any case, the district shall provide the results pursuant to this paragraph within 1 week after receiving the results from the department. A report of student assessment results must, at a minimum, contain:

1. A clear explanation of the student's performance on the applicable statewide, standardized assessments.

2. Information identifying the student's areas of strength and areas in need of improvement.

3. Specific actions that may be taken, and the available resources that may be used, by the student's parent to assist his or her child based on the student's areas of strength and areas in need of improvement.

4. Longitudinal information, if available, on the student's progress in each subject area based on previous statewide, standardized assessment data.

5. Comparative information showing the student's score compared to other students in the school district, in the state, or, if available, in other states.

6. Predictive information, if available, showing the linkage between the scores attained by the student on the statewide, standardized assessments and the scores he or she may potentially attain on nationally recognized college entrance examinations.

(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.

(b) The initial publication of assessments must occur no later than June 30, 2021, subject to appropriation, and must include, at a minimum, the grade 3 ELA and mathematics assessments, the grade 10 ELA assessment, and the Algebra I EOC assessment.

(c) The department must provide materials on its website to help the public interpret assessment information published pursuant to this subsection.

~~(12)~~(11) REPORTS.—The Department of Education shall annually provide a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives which shall include the following:

(e) The number of students who after 8th grade enroll in adult education rather than other secondary education, which is defined as grades 9 through 12.

Section 36. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1), paragraph (a) of subsection (3), and subsections (7), (8), and (9) of section 1012.34, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1012.34 Personnel evaluation procedures and criteria.—

(1) EVALUATION SYSTEM APPROVAL AND REPORTING.—

(c) Annually, by February 1, the Commissioner of Education shall publish on the department's website the status of each school district's instructional personnel and school administrator evaluation systems. This information must include:

1. performance evaluation results for the prior school year for instructional personnel and school administrators using the four levels of performance specified in paragraph (2)(e). The performance evaluation results for instructional personnel shall be disaggregated by classroom teachers, as defined in s. 1012.01(2)(a), excluding substitute teachers, and all other instructional personnel, as defined in s. 1012.01(2)(b)-(d).

~~2.—An analysis that compares performance evaluation results calculated by each school district to indicators of performance calculated by the department using the standards for performance levels adopted by the state board under subsection (8).~~

~~3.—Data reported under s. 1012.341.~~

(3) EVALUATION PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA.—Instructional personnel and school administrator performance evaluations must be based upon the performance of students assigned to their classrooms or schools, as provided in this section. Pursuant to this section, a school district's performance evaluation system is not limited to basing unsatisfactory performance of instructional personnel and school administrators solely upon student performance, but may include other criteria to evaluate instructional personnel and school administrators' performance, or any combination of student performance and other criteria. Evaluation procedures and criteria must comply with, but are not limited to, the following:

(a) A performance evaluation must be conducted for each employee at least once a year, except that a classroom teacher, as defined in s. 1012.01(2)(a), excluding substitute teachers, who is newly hired by the district school board must be observed and evaluated at least twice in the first year of teaching in the school district. The performance evaluation must

be based upon sound educational principles and contemporary research in effective educational practices. The evaluation criteria must include:

1. Performance of students.—At least one-third of a performance evaluation must be based upon data and indicators of student performance, as determined by each school district in accordance with subsection (7). This portion of the evaluation must include growth or achievement data of the teacher's students or, for a school administrator, the students attending the school over the course of at least 3 years. If less than 3 years of data are available, the years for which data are available must be used. The proportion of growth or achievement data may be determined by instructional assignment.

2. Instructional practice.—For instructional personnel, at least one-third of the performance evaluation must be based upon instructional practice. Evaluation criteria used when annually observing classroom teachers, as defined in s. 1012.01(2)(a), excluding substitute teachers, must include indicators based upon each of the Florida Educator Accomplished Practices adopted by the State Board of Education. For instructional personnel who are not classroom teachers, evaluation criteria must be based upon indicators of the Florida Educator Accomplished Practices and may include specific job expectations related to student support.

3. Instructional leadership.—For school administrators, at least one-third of the performance evaluation must be based on instructional leadership. Evaluation criteria for instructional leadership must include indicators based upon each of the leadership standards adopted by the State Board of Education under s. 1012.986, including performance measures related to the effectiveness of classroom teachers in the school, the administrator's appropriate use of evaluation criteria and procedures, recruitment and retention of effective and highly effective classroom teachers, improvement in the percentage of instructional personnel evaluated at the highly effective or effective level, and other leadership practices that result in student learning growth. The system may include a means to give parents and instructional personnel an opportunity to provide input into the administrator's performance evaluation.

4. Other indicators of performance.—For instructional personnel and school administrators, the remainder of a performance evaluation may include, but is not limited to, professional and job responsibilities as recommended by the State Board of Education or identified by the district school board and, for instructional personnel, peer reviews, objectively reliable survey information from students and parents based on teaching practices that are consistently associated with higher student achievement, and other valid and reliable measures of instructional practice.

(7) MEASUREMENT OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE.—

(a) The Commissioner of Education shall approve a formula to measure individual student learning growth on the statewide, standardized

assessments in English Language Arts and mathematics administered under s. 1008.22. A third party, independent of the assessment developer, must analyze student learning growth data calculated using the formula and provide access to a data visualization tool that enables teachers to understand and evaluate the data and school administrators to improve instruction, evaluate programs, allocate resources, plan professional development, and communicate with stakeholders. The formula must take into consideration each student's prior academic performance. The formula must not set different expectations for student learning growth based upon a student's gender, race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status. In the development of the formula, the commissioner shall consider other factors such as a student's attendance record, disability status, or status as an English language learner. The commissioner may select additional formulas to measure student performance as appropriate for the remainder of the statewide, standardized assessments included under s. 1008.22 and continue to select formulas as new assessments are implemented in the state system. ~~After the commissioner approves the formula to measure individual student learning growth, the State Board of Education shall adopt these formulas in rule.~~

~~(b) Each school district may, but is not required to, shall measure student learning growth using the formulas approved by the commissioner under paragraph (a) and the standards for performance levels adopted by the state board under subsection (8) for courses associated with the statewide, standardized assessments administered under s. 1008.22 no later than the school year immediately following the year the formula is approved by the commissioner. For grades and subjects not assessed by statewide, standardized assessments, each school district shall measure student performance using a methodology determined by the district.~~

~~(8) RULEMAKING.—No later than August 1, 2015, The State Board of Education shall adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 which establish uniform procedures and format for the submission, review, and approval of district evaluation systems and reporting requirements for the annual evaluation of instructional personnel and school administrators; specific, discrete standards for each performance level required under subsection (2), based on student learning growth models approved by the commissioner, to ensure clear and sufficient differentiation in the performance levels and to provide consistency in meaning across school districts; the measurement of student learning growth and associated implementation procedures required under subsection (7); and a process for monitoring school district implementation of evaluation systems in accordance with this section.~~

~~(9) TRANSITION TO NEW STATEWIDE, STANDARDIZED ASSESSMENTS.—Standards for each performance level required under subsection (2) shall be established by the State Board of Education beginning with the 2015-2016 school year.~~

Section 37. The Commissioner of Education shall contract for an independent study to determine whether the SAT and ACT may be

administered in lieu of the grade 10 statewide, standardized ELA assessment and the Algebra I end-of-course assessment for high school students consistent with federal requirements under 20 U.S.C. s. 6311(b)(2)(H). The commissioner shall submit a report containing the results of such review and any recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the State Board of Education by January 1, 2018.

Section 38. Effective upon this act becoming a law, subsections (18), (21), and (24) of section 1001.42, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1001.42 Powers and duties of district school board.—The district school board, acting as a board, shall exercise all powers and perform all duties listed below:

(18) IMPLEMENT SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY.—Maintain a system of school improvement and education accountability as provided by statute and State Board of Education rule. This system of school improvement and education accountability shall be consistent with, and implemented through, the district’s continuing system of planning and budgeting required by this section and ss. 1008.385, 1010.01, and 1011.01. This system of school improvement and education accountability shall comply with the provisions of ss. 1008.33, 1008.34, 1008.345, and 1008.385 and include the following:

(a) *School improvement plans.*—

1. The district school board shall annually approve and require implementation of a new, amended, or continuation school improvement plan for each school in the district which has a school grade of “D” or “F”; ~~If a school~~ has a significant gap in achievement on statewide, standardized assessments administered pursuant to s. 1008.22 by one or more student subgroups, as defined in the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), 20 U.S.C. s. 6311(b)(2)(C)(v)(II); has not significantly increased the percentage of students passing statewide, standardized assessments; has not significantly increased the percentage of students demonstrating Learning Gains, as defined in s. 1008.34 and as calculated under s. 1008.34(3)(b), who passed statewide, standardized assessments; or has significantly lower graduation rates for a subgroup when compared to the state’s graduation rate. The, that school’s improvement plan of a school that meets the requirements of this paragraph shall include strategies for improving these results. The state board shall adopt rules establishing thresholds and for determining compliance with this subparagraph.

2. ~~A school that includes any of grades 6, 7, or 8 shall include annually in its school improvement plan information and data on the school’s early warning system required under paragraph (b), including a list of the early warning indicators used in the system, the number of students identified by the system as exhibiting two or more early warning indicators, the number of students by grade level that exhibit each early warning indicator, and a~~

description of all intervention strategies employed by the school to improve the academic performance of students identified by the early warning system. In addition, a school that includes any of grades 6, 7, or 8 shall describe in its school improvement plan the strategies used by the school to implement the instructional practices for middle grades emphasized by the district's professional development system pursuant to s. 1012.98(4)(b)9.

(b) *Early warning system.*—

1. A school that serves any students in kindergarten through grade 6, 7, or 8 shall implement an early warning system to identify students in such grades 6, 7, and 8 who need additional support to improve academic performance and stay engaged in school. The early warning system must include the following early warning indicators:

a. Attendance below 90 percent, regardless of whether absence is excused or a result of out-of-school suspension.

b. One or more suspensions, whether in school or out of school.

c. Course failure in English Language Arts or mathematics during any grading period.

d. A Level 1 score on the statewide, standardized assessments in English Language Arts or mathematics or, for students in kindergarten through grade 3, a substantial reading deficiency under s. 1008.25(5)(a).

A school district may identify additional early warning indicators for use in a school's early warning system. The system must include data on the number of students identified by the system as exhibiting two or more early warning indicators, the number of students by grade level who exhibit each early warning indicator, and a description of all intervention strategies employed by the school to improve the academic performance of students identified by the early warning system.

2. A school-based team responsible for implementing the requirements of this paragraph shall monitor the data from the early warning system. The team may include a school psychologist. When a student exhibits two or more early warning indicators, the team, in consultation with the student's parent, shall school's child study team under s. 1003.02 or a school-based team formed for the purpose of implementing the requirements of this paragraph shall convene to determine appropriate intervention strategies for the student unless the student is already being served by an intervention program at the direction of a school-based, multidisciplinary team. Data and information relating to a student's early warning indicators must be used to inform any intervention strategies provided to the student. The school shall provide at least 10 days' written notice of the meeting to the student's parent, indicating the meeting's purpose, time, and location, and provide the parent the opportunity to participate.

(21) ~~EDUCATIONAL AUTHORITY TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.~~ May declare an emergency in cases in which one or more schools in the district are failing or are in danger of failing and Negotiate special provisions of its contract with the appropriate bargaining units to free these schools with a school grade of “D” or “F” from contract restrictions that limit the school’s ability to implement programs and strategies needed to improve student performance. The negotiations shall result in a memorandum of understanding that addresses the selection, placement, and expectations of instructional personnel and provides principals with the autonomy described in s. 1012.28(8). For purposes of this subsection, an educational emergency exists in a school district if one or more schools in the district have a school grade of “D” or “F.”

(24) EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS.—

(a) If a school district enters into a contract or employment agreement, or renewal or renegotiation of an existing contract or employment agreement, with an officer, agent, employee, or contractor which contains a provision for severance pay, the contract or employment agreement must include the provisions of s. 215.425.

(b) A district school board may not award an annual contract on the basis of any contingency or condition not expressly authorized in law by the Legislature or alter or limit its authority to award or not award an annual contract as provided in s. 1012.335. This paragraph applies only to a collective bargaining agreement entered into or renewed by a district school board on or after the effective date of this act.

Section 39. Section 1001.4205, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1001.4205 Visitation of schools by an individual school board or charter school governing board member.—An individual member of a district school board may, on any day and at any time at his or her pleasure, visit any district school in his or her school district. An individual charter school governing board member may, on any day and at any time at his or her pleasure, visit any charter school governed by the charter school’s governing board. The board member must sign in and sign out at the school’s main office and wear his or her board identification badge at all times while present on school premises. The board, the school, or any other person or entity, including, but not limited to, the principal of the school, the school superintendent, or any other board member, may not require the visiting board member to provide notice before visiting the school. The school may offer, but may not require, an escort to accompany a visiting board member during the visit. Another board member or a district employee, including, but not limited to, the superintendent, the school principal, or his or her designee, may not limit the duration or scope of the visit or direct a visiting board member to leave the premises. A board, district, or school administrative policy or practice may not prohibit or limit the authority granted to a board member under this section.

Section 40. The Division of Law Revision and Information is directed to replace the phrase “the effective date of this act” wherever it occurs in this act with the date the act becomes a law.

Section 41. Subsections (3), (4), and (5) of section 1008.33, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1008.33 Authority to enforce public school improvement.—

(3)(a) The academic performance of all students has a significant effect on the state school system. Pursuant to Art. IX of the State Constitution, which prescribes the duty of the State Board of Education to supervise Florida’s public school system, the state board shall equitably enforce the accountability requirements of the state school system and may impose state requirements on school districts in order to improve the academic performance of all districts, schools, and students based upon the provisions of the Florida K-20 Education Code, chapters 1000-1013; the federal ESEA and its implementing regulations; and the ESEA flexibility waiver approved for Florida by the United States Secretary of Education.

~~(b) Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, The Department of Education shall annually identify each public school in need of intervention and support to improve student academic performance. All schools earning a grade of “D” or “F” pursuant to s. 1008.34 are schools in need of intervention and support.~~

~~(c) The state board shall adopt by rule a differentiated matrix of intervention and support strategies for assisting traditional public schools identified under this section and rules for implementing s. 1002.33(9)(n), relating to charter schools. The intervention and support strategies must address student performance and may include improvement planning; leadership quality improvement; educator quality improvement; professional development; curriculum review, alignment and pacing, and alignment across grade levels to improve background knowledge in social studies, science, and the arts; and the use of continuous improvement and monitoring plans and processes. In addition, the state board may prescribe reporting requirements to review and monitor the progress of the schools. The rule must define the intervention and support strategies for school improvement for schools earning a grade of “D” or “F” and the roles for the district and department. ~~The rule shall differentiate among schools earning consecutive grades of “D” or “F,” or a combination thereof, and provide for more intense monitoring, intervention, and support strategies for these schools.~~~~

(4)(a) The state board shall apply intensive the most intense intervention and support strategies tailored to the needs of schools earning two consecutive grades of “D” or a grade of “F.” In the first full school year after a school initially earns two consecutive grades of “D” or a grade of “F,” the school district must immediately implement intervention and support strategies prescribed in rule under paragraph (3)(c) and, by September 1,

~~provide, select a turnaround option from those provided in subparagraphs (b)1.-5., and submit a plan for implementing the turnaround option to the department with the memorandum of understanding negotiated pursuant to s. 1001.42(21) and, by October 1, a district-managed turnaround plan for approval by the state board. Upon approval by the state board, the school district must implement the plan for the remainder of the school year and continue the plan for 1 full school year. The state board may allow a school an additional year of implementation before the school must implement a turnaround option required under paragraph (b) if it determines that the school is likely to improve to a grade of "C" or higher after the first full school year of implementation for approval by the state board. Upon approval by the state board, the turnaround option must be implemented in the following school year.~~

~~(b) Unless an additional year of implementation is provided pursuant to paragraph (a), The turnaround options available to a school district to address a school that earns three consecutive grades below a "C" must implement one of the following a grade of "F" are:~~

- ~~1. Convert the school to a district-managed turnaround school;~~
- ~~1.2. Reassign students to another school and monitor the progress of each reassigned student;~~
- ~~2.3. Close the school and reopen the school as one or more charter schools, each with a governing board that has a demonstrated record of effectiveness; or~~
- ~~3.4. Contract with an outside entity that has a demonstrated record of effectiveness to operate the school. An outside entity may include a district-managed charter school in which all instructional personnel are not employees of the school district, but are employees of an independent governing board composed of members who did not participate in the review or approval of the charter; or~~
- ~~5. Implement a hybrid of turnaround options set forth in subparagraphs 1.-4. or other turnaround models that have a demonstrated record of effectiveness.~~

~~(c) A school earning a grade of "F" shall have a planning year followed by 2 full school years to implement the initial turnaround option selected by the school district and approved by the state board. Implementation of the turnaround option is no longer required if the school improves to a grade of "C" or higher by at least one letter grade.~~

~~(d) A school earning a grade of "F" that improves its letter grade must continue to implement strategies identified in its school improvement plan pursuant to s. 1001.42(18)(a). The department must annually review implementation of the school improvement plan for 3 years to monitor the school's continued improvement.~~

~~(d)~~(e) If a school earning two consecutive grades of “D” or a grade of “F” does not improve to a grade of “C” or higher by at least one letter grade after 2 full school years of implementing the turnaround option selected by the school district under paragraph (b), the school district must implement select a different option and submit another turnaround option implementation plan to the department for approval by the state board. Implementation of the turnaround option approved plan must begin the school year following the implementation period of the existing turnaround option, unless the state board determines that the school is likely to improve to a grade of “C” or higher a letter grade if additional time is provided to implement the existing turnaround option.

~~(5)~~ A school that earns a grade of “D” for 3 consecutive years must implement the district-managed turnaround option pursuant to subparagraph (4)(b)1. The school district must submit an implementation plan to the department for approval by the state board.

Section 42. Subsection (5) and paragraph (d) of subsection (6) of section 1008.345, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1008.345 Implementation of state system of school improvement and education accountability.—

(5) The commissioner shall annually report to the State Board of Education and the Legislature and recommend changes in state policy necessary to foster school improvement and education accountability. The report shall include:

(a) For each school district:

1. The percentage of students, by school and grade level, demonstrating learning growth in English Language Arts and mathematics.

2. The percentage of students, by school and grade level, in both the highest and lowest quartiles demonstrating learning growth in English Language Arts and mathematics.

3. The information contained in the school district’s annual report required pursuant to s. 1008.25(8).

(b) Intervention and support strategies used by school ~~districts~~ boards whose students in both the highest and lowest quartiles exceed the statewide average learning growth for students in those quartiles.

(c) Intervention and support strategies used by school ~~districts~~ boards whose schools provide educational services to youth in Department of Juvenile Justice programs that demonstrate learning growth in English Language Arts and mathematics that exceeds the statewide average learning growth for students in those subjects.

(d) Based upon a review of each school district's reading plan submitted pursuant to s. 1011.62(9), intervention and support strategies used by school districts that were effective in improving the reading performance of students, as indicated by student performance data, who are identified as having a substantial reading deficiency pursuant to s. 1008.25(5)(a).

School reports shall be distributed pursuant to this subsection and s. 1001.42(18)(c) and according to rules adopted by the State Board of Education.

(6)

(d) The commissioner shall assign a community assessment team to each school district or governing board with a school that earned a grade of "D" or "F" or three consecutive grades of "D" pursuant to s. 1008.34 to review the school performance data and determine causes for the low performance, including the role of school, area, and district administrative personnel. The community assessment team shall review a high school's graduation rate calculated without high school equivalency diploma recipients for the past 3 years, disaggregated by student ethnicity. The team shall make recommendations to the school board or the governing board and to the State Board of Education based on the interventions and support strategies identified pursuant to subsection (5) to which address the causes of the school's low performance and to incorporate the strategies and may be incorporated into the school improvement plan. The assessment team shall include, but not be limited to, a department representative, parents, business representatives, educators, representatives of local governments, and community activists, and shall represent the demographics of the community from which they are appointed.

Section 43. Effective upon this act becoming a law, section 1002.333, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1002.333 Persistently low-performing schools.—

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

(a) "Hope operator" means an entity identified by the department pursuant to subsection (2).

(b) "Persistently low-performing school" means a school that has earned three consecutive grades lower than a "C," pursuant to s. 1008.34, and a school that was closed pursuant to s. 1008.33(4) within 2 years after the submission of a notice of intent.

(c) "School of hope" means:

1. A charter school operated by a hope operator which serves students from one or more persistently low-performing schools; is located in the attendance zone of a persistently low-performing school or within a 5-mile radius of such school, whichever is greater; and is a Title I eligible school; or

2. A school operated by a hope operator pursuant to s. 1008.33(4)(b)3.

(2) HOPE OPERATOR.—A hope operator is a nonprofit organization with tax exempt status under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code that operates three or more charter schools that serve students in grades K-12 in Florida or other states with a record of serving students from low-income families and is designated by the State Board of Education as a hope operator based on a determination that:

(a) The past performance of the hope operator meets or exceeds the following criteria:

1. The achievement of enrolled students exceeds the district and state averages of the states in which the operator's schools operate;

2. The average college attendance rate at all schools currently operated by the operator exceeds 80 percent, if such data is available;

3. The percentage of students eligible for a free or reduced price lunch under the National School Lunch Act enrolled at all schools currently operated by the operator exceeds 70 percent;

4. The operator is in good standing with the authorizer in each state in which it operates;

5. The audited financial statements of the operator are free of material misstatements and going concern issues; and

6. Other outcome measures as determined by the State Board of Education;

(b) The operator was awarded a United States Department of Education Charter School Program grant for Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools within the preceding 3 years before applying to be a hope operator;

(c) The operator receives funding through the National Fund of the Charter School Growth Fund to accelerate the growth of the nation's best charter schools; or

(d) The operator is selected by a district school board in accordance with s. 1008.33.

An entity that meets the requirements of paragraph (b), paragraph (c), or paragraph (d) before the adoption by the state board of measurable criteria pursuant to paragraph (a) shall be designated as a hope operator. After the adoption of the measurable criteria, an entity, including a governing board that operates a school established pursuant to s. 1008.33(4)(b)3., shall be designated as a hope operator if it meets the criteria of paragraph (a).

(3) DESIGNATION OF HOPE OPERATOR.—Initial status as a hope operator is valid for 5 years from the opening of a school of hope. If a hope operator seeks the renewal of its status, such renewal shall solely be based upon the academic and financial performance of all schools established by the operator in the state since its initial designation.

(4) ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOOLS OF HOPE.—A hope operator seeking to open a school of hope must submit a notice of intent to the school district in which a persistently low-performing school has been identified by the State Board of Education pursuant to subsection (10).

(a) The notice of intent must include:

1. An academic focus and plan.
2. A financial plan.
3. Goals and objectives for increasing student achievement for the students from low-income families.
4. A completed or planned community outreach plan.
5. The organizational history of success in working with students with similar demographics.
6. The grade levels to be served and enrollment projections.
7. The proposed location or geographic area proposed for the school and its proximity to the persistently low-performing school.
8. A staffing plan.

(b) Notwithstanding the requirements of s. 1002.33, a school district shall enter into a performance-based agreement with a hope operator to open schools to serve students from persistently low-performing schools.

(5) PERFORMANCE-BASED AGREEMENT.—The following shall comprise the entirety of the performance-based agreement:

(a) The notice of intent, which is incorporated by reference and attached to the agreement.

(b) The location or geographic area proposed for the school of hope and its proximity to the persistently low-performing school.

(c) An enumeration of the grades to be served in each year of the agreement and whether the school will serve children in the school readiness or prekindergarten programs.

(d) A plan of action and specific milestones for student recruitment and the enrollment of students from persistently low-performing schools, including enrollment preferences and procedures for conducting transparent

admissions lotteries that are open to the public. Students from persistently low-performing schools shall be exempt from any enrollment lottery to the extent permitted by federal grant requirements.

(e) A delineation of the current incoming baseline standard of student academic achievement, the outcomes to be achieved, and the method of measurement that will be used.

(f) A description of the methods of involving parents and expected levels for such involvement.

(g) The grounds for termination, including failure to meet the requirements for student performance established pursuant to paragraph (e), generally accepted standards of fiscal management, or material violation of terms of the agreement. The nonrenewal or termination of a performance-based agreement must comply with the requirements of s. 1002.33(8).

(h) A provision allowing the hope operator to open additional schools to serve students enrolled in or zoned for a persistently low-performing school if the hope operator maintains its status under subsection (3).

(i) A provision establishing the initial term as 5 years. The agreement shall be renewed, upon the request of the hope operator, unless the school fails to meet the requirements for student performance established pursuant to paragraph (e) or generally accepted standards of fiscal management or the school of hope materially violates the law or the terms of the agreement.

(j) A requirement to provide transportation consistent with the requirements of ss. 1006.21-1006.27 and s. 1012.45. The governing body of the school of hope may provide transportation through an agreement or contract with the district school board, a private provider, or parents of enrolled students. Transportation may not be a barrier to equal access for all students residing within reasonable distance of the school.

(k) A requirement that any arrangement entered into to borrow or otherwise secure funds for the school of hope from a source other than the state or a school district shall indemnify the state and the school district from any and all liability, including, but not limited to, financial responsibility for the payment of the principal or interest.

(l) A provision that any loans, bonds, or other financial agreements are not obligations of the state or the school district but are obligations of the school of hope and are payable solely from the sources of funds pledged by such agreement.

(m) A prohibition on the pledge of credit or taxing power of the state or the school district.

(6) STATUTORY AUTHORITY.—

(a) A school of hope may be designated as a local education agency, if requested, for the purposes of receiving federal funds and, in doing so, accepts the full responsibility for all local education agency requirements and the schools for which it will perform local education agency responsibilities. Students enrolled in a school established by a hope operator designated as a local educational agency are not eligible students for purposes of calculating the district grade pursuant to s. 1008.34(5).

(b) For the purposes of tort liability, the hope operator, the school of hope, and its employees or agents shall be governed by s. 768.28. The sponsor shall not be liable for civil damages under state law for the employment actions or personal injury, property damage, or death resulting from an act or omission of a hope operator, the school of hope, or its employees or agents. This paragraph does not include any for-profit entity contracted by the charter school or its governing body.

(c) A school of hope may be either a private or a public employer. As a public employer, the school of hope may participate in the Florida Retirement System upon application and approval as a covered group under s. 121.021(34). If a school of hope participates in the Florida Retirement System, the school of hope's employees shall be compulsory members of the Florida Retirement System.

(d) A hope operator may employ school administrators and instructional personnel who do not meet the requirements of s. 1012.56 if the school administrators and instructional personnel are not ineligible for such employment under s. 1012.315.

(e) Compliance with s. 1003.03 shall be calculated as the average at the school level.

(f) Schools of hope operated by a hope operator shall be exempt from chapters 1000-1013 and all school board policies. However, a hope operator shall be in compliance with the laws in chapters 1000-1013 relating to:

1. The student assessment program and school grading system.
2. Student progression and graduation.
3. The provision of services to students with disabilities.
4. Civil rights, including s. 1000.05, relating to discrimination.
5. Student health, safety, and welfare.
6. Public meetings and records, public inspection, and criminal and civil penalties pursuant to s. 286.011. The governing board of a school of hope must hold at least two public meetings per school year in the school district in which the school of hope is located. Any other meetings of the governing board may be held in accordance with s. 120.54(5)(b)2.

7. Public records pursuant to chapter 119.

8. The code of ethics for public officers and employees pursuant to ss. 112.313(2), (3), (7), and (12) and 112.3143(3).

(g) Each school of hope shall report its students to the school district as required in s. 1011.62, and in accordance with the definitions in s. 1011.61. The school district shall include each charter school's enrollment in the district's report of student enrollment. All charter schools submitting student record information required by the department shall comply with the department's guidelines for electronic data formats for such data, and all districts shall accept electronic data that complies with the department's electronic format.

(h) A school of hope shall provide the school district with a concise, uniform, quarterly financial statement summary sheet that contains a balance sheet and a statement of revenue, expenditures, and changes in fund balance. The balance sheet and the statement of revenue, expenditures, and changes in fund balance shall be in the governmental fund format prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. Additionally, a school of hope shall comply with the annual audit requirement for charter schools in s. 218.39.

(7) FACILITIES.—

(a) A school of hope shall use facilities that comply with the Florida Building Code, except for the State Requirements for Educational Facilities. A school of hope that uses school district facilities must comply with the State Requirements for Educational Facilities only if the school district and the hope operator have entered into a mutual management plan for the reasonable maintenance of such facilities. The mutual management plan shall contain a provision by which the district school board agrees to maintain the school facilities in the same manner as its other public schools within the district. The local governing authority shall not adopt or impose any local building requirements or site-development restrictions, such as parking and site-size criteria, student enrollment, and occupant load, that are addressed by and more stringent than those found in the State Requirements for Educational Facilities of the Florida Building Code. A local governing authority must treat schools of hope equitably in comparison to similar requirements, restrictions, and site planning processes imposed upon public schools. The agency having jurisdiction for inspection of a facility and issuance of a certificate of occupancy or use shall be the local municipality or, if in an unincorporated area, the county governing authority. If an official or employee of the local governing authority refuses to comply with this paragraph, the aggrieved school or entity has an immediate right to bring an action in circuit court to enforce its rights by injunction. An aggrieved party that receives injunctive relief may be awarded reasonable attorney fees and court costs.

(b) Any facility, or portion thereof, used to house a school of hope shall be exempt from ad valorem taxes pursuant to s. 196.1983. Library, community service, museum, performing arts, theatre, cinema, church, Florida College System institution, college, and university facilities may provide space to schools of hope within their facilities under their preexisting zoning and land use designations without obtaining a special exception, rezoning, or a land use change.

(c) School of hope facilities are exempt from assessments of fees for building permits, except as provided in s. 553.80; fees for building and occupational licenses; impact fees or exactions; service availability fees; and assessments for special benefits.

(d) No later than October 1, each school district shall annually provide to the Department of Education a list of all underused, vacant, or surplus facilities owned or operated by the school district. A hope operator establishing a school of hope may use an educational facility identified in this paragraph at no cost or at a mutually agreeable cost not to exceed \$600 per student. A hope operator using a facility pursuant to this paragraph may not sell or dispose of such facility without the written permission of the school district. For purposes of this paragraph, the term “underused, vacant, or surplus facility” means an entire facility or portion thereof which is not fully used or is used irregularly or intermittently by the school district for instructional or program use.

(8) NONCOMPLIANCE.—A school district that does not enter into a performance-based agreement within 60 days after receipt of a notice of intent shall reduce the administrative fees withheld pursuant to s. 1002.33(20) to 1 percent for all charter schools operating in the school district. Upon execution of the performance-based agreement, the school district may resume withholding the full amount of administrative fees, but may not recover any fees that would have otherwise accrued during the period of noncompliance. Any charter school that had administrative fees withheld in violation of this subsection may recover attorney fees and costs to enforce the requirements of this subsection. A school district subject to the requirements of this section shall file a monthly report detailing the reduction in the amount of administrative fees withheld.

(9) FUNDING.—

(a) Schools of hope shall be funded in accordance with s. 1002.33(17).

(b) Schools of hope shall receive priority in the department’s Public Charter School Grant Program competitions.

(c) Schools of hope shall be considered charter schools for purposes of s. 1013.62, except charter capital outlay may not be used to purchase real property or for the construction of school facilities.

(d) Schools of hope are eligible to receive funds from the Schools of Hope Program.

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

(a) A school of hope is eligible to receive funds from the Schools of Hope Program for the following expenditures:

1. Preparing teachers, school leaders, and specialized instructional support personnel, including costs associated with:

a. Providing professional development.

b. Hiring and compensating teachers, school leaders, and specialized instructional support personnel for services beyond the school day and year.

2. Acquiring supplies, training, equipment, and educational materials, including developing and acquiring instructional materials.

3. Providing one-time startup costs associated with providing transportation to students to and from the charter school.

4. Carrying out community engagement activities, which may include paying the cost of student and staff recruitment.

5. Providing funds to cover the nonvoted ad valorem millage that would otherwise be required for schools and the required local effort funds calculated pursuant to s. 1011.62 when the state board enters into an agreement with a hope operator pursuant to subsection (5).

(b) A traditional public school that is required to submit a plan for implementation pursuant to s. 1008.33(4) is eligible to receive up to \$2,000 per full-time equivalent student from the Schools of Hope Program based upon the strength of the school's plan for implementation and its focus on evidence-based interventions that lead to student success by providing wrap-around services that leverage community assets, improve school and community collaboration, and develop family and community partnerships. Wrap-around services include, but are not limited to, tutorial and after-school programs, student counseling, nutrition education, parental counseling, and adult education. Plans for implementation may also include models that develop a culture of attending college, high academic expectations, character development, dress codes, and an extended school day and school year. At a minimum, a plan for implementation must:

1. Establish wrap-around services that develop family and community partnerships.

2. Establish clearly defined and measurable high academic and character standards.

3. Increase parental involvement and engagement in the child's education.

4. Describe how the school district will identify, recruit, retain, and reward instructional personnel. The state board may waive the requirements of s. 1012.22(1)(c)5., and suspend the requirements of s. 1012.34, to facilitate implementation of the plan.

5. Identify a knowledge-rich curriculum that the school will use that focuses on developing a student's background knowledge.

6. Provide professional development that focuses on academic rigor, direct instruction, and creating high academic and character standards.

(c) The state board shall:

1. Provide awards for up to 25 schools and prioritize awards for plans submitted pursuant to paragraph (b) that are based on whole school transformation and that are developed in consultation with the school's principal.

2. Annually report on the implementation of this subsection in the report required by s. 1008.345(5), and provide summarized academic performance reports of each traditional public school receiving funds.

(11) STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AUTHORITY AND OBLIGATIONS.—Pursuant to Art. IX of the State Constitution, which prescribes the duty of the State Board of Education to supervise the public school system, the State Board of Education shall:

(a) Publish an annual list of persistently low-performing schools after the release of preliminary school grades.

(b) Adopt a standard notice of intent and performance-based agreement that must be used by hope operators and district school boards to eliminate regulatory and bureaucratic barriers that delay access to high quality schools for students in persistently low-performing schools.

(c) Resolve disputes between a hope operator and a school district arising from a performance-based agreement or a contract between a charter operator and a school district under the requirements of s. 1008.33. The Commissioner of Education shall appoint a special magistrate who is a member of The Florida Bar in good standing and who has at least 5 years' experience in administrative law. The special magistrate shall hold hearings to determine facts relating to the dispute and to render a recommended decision for resolution to the State Board of Education. The recommendation may not alter in any way the provisions of the performance-based agreement under subsection (5). The special magistrate may administer oaths and issue subpoenas on behalf of the parties to the dispute or on his or her own behalf. Within 15 calendar days after the close of the final hearing, the special magistrate shall transmit a recommended decision to the State Board of

Education and to the representatives of both parties by registered mail, return receipt requested. The State Board of Education must approve or reject the recommended decision at its next regularly scheduled meeting that is more than 7 calendar days and no more than 30 days after the date the recommended decision is transmitted. The decision by the State Board of Education is a final agency action that may be appealed to the District Court of Appeal, First District in accordance with s. 120.68. A charter school may recover attorney fees and costs if the State Board of Education determines that the school district unlawfully implemented or otherwise impeded implementation of the performance-based agreement pursuant to this paragraph.

(d) Provide students in persistently low-performing schools with a public school that meets accountability standards. The State Board of Education may enter into a performance-based agreement with a hope operator when a school district has not improved the school after 3 years of the interventions and support provided under s. 1008.33 or has not complied with the requirements of subsection (4). Upon the State Board of Education entering into a performance-based agreement with a hope operator, the school district shall transfer to the school of hope the proportionate share of state funds allocated from the Florida Education Finance Program.

(12) RULES.—The State Board of Education shall adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement this section.

Section 44. Section 1001.292, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1001.292 Schools of Hope Revolving Loan Program.—

(1) The Schools of Hope Revolving Loan Program is established within the Department of Education to provide assistance to hope operators, as defined in s. 1002.333, to meet school building construction needs and pay for expenses related to the startup of a new charter school. The program shall consist of funds appropriated by the Legislature, money received from the repayment of loans made from the program, and interest earned.

(2) Funds provided pursuant to this section may not exceed 25 percent of the total cost of the project, which shall be calculated based on 80 percent of the cost per student station established by s. 1013.64(6)(b) multiplied by the capacity of the facility.

(3) The department may contract with a third-party administrator to administer the program. If the department contracts with a third-party administrator, funds shall be granted to the third-party administrator to create a revolving loan fund for the purpose of financing projects that meet the requirements of subsection (4). The third-party administrator shall report to the department annually. The department shall continue to administer the program until a third-party administrator is selected.

(4) Hope operators that have been designated by the State Board of Education and have executed a performance-based agreement pursuant to s. 1002.333 shall be provided a loan of up to the amount provided in subsection (2) for projects that are located in the attendance area of a persistently low-performing school or within a 5-mile radius of such school and primarily serve students from the persistently low-performing school. A hope operator is not eligible for funding if it operates in facilities provided by the school district for a nominal fee, or at no charge, or if it is directly or indirectly operated by the school district.

(5) The department shall post on its website the projects that have received loans, the geographic distribution of the projects, the status of the projects, the costs of the program, and student outcomes for students enrolled in the school of hope receiving funds.

(6) All repayments of principal and interest shall be returned to the loan fund and made available for loans to other applicants.

(7) Interest on loans provided under this program may be used to defray the costs of administration and shall be the lower of:

(a) The rate paid on moneys held in the fund; or

(b) A rate equal to 50 percent of the rate authorized under the provisions of s. 215.84.

(8) Notwithstanding s. 216.301 and pursuant to s. 216.351, funds allocated for this purpose 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 45. Subsection (5) is added to section 1011.69, Florida Statutes, 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, 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 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.

(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.

Section 46. Subsections (3), (4), (5), and (8) of section 1012.731, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1012.731 The Florida Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship Program.

(3)(a) To be eligible for a scholarship in the amount of \$6,000, a classroom teacher must:

1. Have achieved a composite score at or above the 80th percentile on either the SAT or the ACT based on the National Percentile Ranks in effect when the classroom teacher took the assessment and have been evaluated as highly effective pursuant to s. 1012.34 in the school year immediately preceding the year in which the scholarship will be awarded, unless the classroom teacher is newly hired by the district school board and has not been evaluated pursuant to s. 1012.34.

2. Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, have achieved a composite score at or above the 77th percentile or, if the classroom teacher graduated cum laude or higher with a baccalaureate degree, the 71st percentile on either the SAT, ACT, GRE, LSAT, GMAT, or MCAT based on the National Percentile Ranks in effect when the classroom teacher took the assessment; and have been evaluated as highly effective pursuant to s. 1012.34, or have been evaluated as highly effective based on a commissioner-approved student learning growth formula pursuant to s. 1012.34(8), in the school year immediately preceding the year in which the scholarship will be awarded, unless the classroom teacher is newly hired by the district school board and has not been evaluated pursuant to s. 1012.34.

(b) 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 SAT or ACT 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 the classroom teacher scored at or above the 80th percentile based on the National Percentile Ranks in effect when the teacher took the assessment. Once a classroom teacher is deemed eligible by the school district, including teachers deemed eligible in the 2015-2016 fiscal year, 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.

(c) Notwithstanding the requirements of this subsection, for the 2017-2018, 2018-2019, and 2019-2020 school years, any classroom teacher who:

1. Was evaluated as highly effective pursuant to s. 1012.34 in the school year immediately preceding the year in which the scholarship will be awarded shall receive a scholarship of \$1200, including a classroom teacher who received an award pursuant to paragraph (a).

2. Was evaluated as effective pursuant to s. 1012.34 in the school year immediately preceding the year in which the scholarship will be awarded a scholarship of up to \$800. If the number of eligible classroom teachers under this subparagraph exceeds the total allocation, the department shall prorate the per-teacher scholarship amount.

This paragraph expires July 1, 2020.

(4) Annually, by December 1, each school district shall submit to the department:

(a) The number of eligible classroom teachers who qualify for the scholarship.

(b) The name and master school identification number (MSID) of each school in the district to which an eligible classroom teacher is assigned.

(c) The name of the school principal of each eligible classroom teacher's school if he or she has served as the school's principal for at least 2 consecutive school years including the current school year.

(5) Annually, by February 1, the department shall disburse scholarship funds to each school district for each eligible classroom teacher to receive a scholarship in accordance with this section as provided in the General Appropriations Act. A scholarship in the amount provided in the General Appropriations Act shall be awarded to every eligible classroom teacher. If the number of eligible classroom teachers exceeds the total appropriation authorized in the General Appropriations Act, the department shall prorate the per-teacher scholarship amount.

~~(8) This section expires July 1, 2017.~~

Section 47. Section 1012.732, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1012.732 The Florida Best and Brightest Principal Scholarship Program.—

(1) The Legislature recognizes that the most effective school principals establish a safe and supportive school environment for students and faculty. Research shows that these principals increase student learning by providing opportunities for the professional growth, collaboration, and autonomy that classroom teachers need to become and remain highly effective educational professionals. As a result, these principals are able to recruit and retain more of the best classroom teachers and improve student outcomes at their schools, including schools serving low-income and high-need student populations. Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature to designate school principals whose school faculty has a high percentage of classroom teachers who are designated as Florida's best and brightest teacher scholars pursuant to s. 1012.731 as Florida's best and brightest principals.

(2) There is created the Florida Best and Brightest Principal Scholarship Program to be administered by the Department of Education. The program shall provide categorical funding for scholarships to be awarded to school principals, as defined in s. 1012.01(3)(c)1., who have recruited and retained a high percentage of best and brightest teachers.

(3) A school principal identified pursuant to s. 1012.731(4)(c) is eligible to receive a scholarship under this section if he or she has served as school principal at his or her school for at least 2 consecutive school years including the current school year and his or her school has a ratio of best and brightest teachers to other classroom teachers that is at the 80th percentile or higher for schools within the same grade group, statewide, including elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, and schools with a combination of grade levels.

(4) Annually, by February 1, the department shall identify eligible school principals and disburse funds to each school district for each eligible school principal to receive a scholarship. A scholarship of \$5,000 must be awarded to every eligible school principal assigned to a Title I school and a scholarship of \$4,000 to every eligible school principal who is not assigned to a Title I school.

(5) Annually, by April 1, each school district must award a scholarship to each eligible school principal.

(6) A school district must provide a best and brightest principal with the additional authority and responsibilities provided in s. 1012.28(8) for a minimum of 2 years.

(7) For purposes of this section, the term “school district” includes the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind and charter school governing boards.

Section 48. Paragraphs (i) and (j) of subsection (2) of section 1002.385, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (j) and (k), respectively, paragraph (d) of subsection (2), subsection (5), paragraph (b) of subsection (6), subsection (8), paragraphs (e) and (f) of subsection (11), paragraph (j) of subsection (12), and paragraph (a) of subsection (13) are amended, and a new paragraph (i) is added to subsection (2) of that section, to read:

1002.385 The Gardiner Scholarship.—

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

(d) “Disability” means, for a 3- or 4-year-old child or for a student in kindergarten to grade 12, autism spectrum disorder, as defined in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition, published by the American Psychiatric Association; cerebral palsy, as defined in s. 393.063(6); Down syndrome, as defined in s. 393.063(15); an intellectual disability, as defined in s. 393.063(24); Phelan-McDermid syndrome, as defined in s. 393.063(28); Prader-Willi syndrome, as defined in s. 393.063(29); spina bifida, as defined in s. 393.063(40); being a high-risk child, as defined in s. 393.063(23)(a); muscular dystrophy; and Williams syndrome or identification as dual sensory impaired, as defined by rules of the State Board of Education and evidenced by reports from the local school district.

(i) “Inactive” means that no eligible expenditures have been made from an account funded pursuant to paragraph (13)(d).

(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:

(a) Instructional materials, including digital devices, digital periphery devices, and assistive technology devices that allow a student to access instruction or instructional content and training on the use of and maintenance agreements for these devices.

(b) Curriculum as defined in paragraph (2)(b).

(c) Specialized services by approved providers or by a hospital in this state that are selected by the parent. These specialized services may include, but are not limited to:

1. Applied behavior analysis services as provided in ss. 627.6686 and 641.31098.

2. Services provided by speech-language pathologists as defined in s. 468.1125.

3. Occupational therapy services as defined in s. 468.203.
4. Services provided by physical therapists as defined in s. 486.021.
5. Services provided by listening and spoken language specialists and an appropriate acoustical environment for a child who is deaf or hard of hearing and who has received an implant or assistive hearing device.
 - (d) Enrollment in, or tuition or fees associated with enrollment in, a home education program, an eligible private school, an eligible postsecondary educational institution or a program offered by the 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.
 - (e) Fees for nationally standardized, norm-referenced achievement tests, Advanced Placement Examinations, industry certification examinations, assessments related to postsecondary education, or other assessments.
 - (f) Contributions to the Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid College Program pursuant to s. 1009.98 or the Florida College Savings Program pursuant to s. 1009.981, for the benefit of the eligible student.
 - (g) Contracted services provided by a public school or school district, including classes. A student who receives services under a contract under this paragraph is not considered enrolled in a public school for eligibility purposes as specified in subsection (4).
 - (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; 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).
 - (i) Fees for specialized summer education programs.
 - (j) Fees for specialized after-school education programs.
 - (k) Transition services provided by job coaches.
 - (l) Fees for an annual evaluation of educational progress by a state-certified teacher under s. 1002.41(1)(c), if this option is chosen for a home education student.
 - (m) Tuition and fees associated with programs offered by Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program providers approved pursuant to s. 1002.55 and school readiness providers approved pursuant to s. 1002.88.

(n) Fees for services provided at a center that is a member of the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International.

(o) Fees for services provided by a therapist who is certified by the Certification Board for Music Therapists or credentialed by the Art Therapy Credentials Board, Inc.

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.

(6) TERM OF THE PROGRAM.—For purposes of continuity of educational choice and program integrity:

(b)1. A student's scholarship account must be closed and any remaining funds, including, but not limited to, contributions made to the Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid College Program or earnings from or contributions made to the Florida College Savings Program using program funds pursuant to paragraph (5)(f), shall revert to the state ~~after~~ upon:

a. Denial or revocation of program 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 (5); ~~or~~

b. ~~After~~ Any period of 3 consecutive years after high school completion or graduation during which the student has not been enrolled in an eligible postsecondary educational institution or a program offered by the institution; ~~or~~

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

2. The commissioner must notify the parent and the organization when a Gardiner Scholarship account is closed and program funds revert to the state.

(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.

2. Annually 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.

3. 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.

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 ~~Annually contract with~~ an independent certified public accountant who performs ~~to perform~~ the agreed-upon procedures developed under s. 1002.395(6)(o) and produce a report of the results if the private school receives more than \$250,000 in funds from scholarships awarded under this section in ~~the 2014-2015 state fiscal year or~~ a state fiscal year thereafter. A private school subject to this paragraph must annually submit the report by September 15, ~~2015,~~ and annually thereafter 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 the inability of a private school is unable to meet the requirements of this subsection or has consecutive years of material exceptions listed in the report required under paragraph (e), the commissioner may determine that constitutes a basis for the ineligibility of the private school is ineligible to participate in the program as determined by the commissioner.~~

(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.

(e) The parent must annually renew participation in the program. Notwithstanding any changes to the student's IEP, a student who was previously eligible for participation in the program shall remain eligible to apply for renewal. However, for a high-risk child to continue to participate in the program in the school year after he or she reaches 6 years of age, the child's application for renewal of program participation must contain documentation that the child has a disability defined in paragraph (2)(d) other than high-risk status.

(f) The parent is responsible for procuring the services necessary to educate the student. If a parent does not procure the necessary educational services for the student and the student's account has been inactive for 2 consecutive fiscal years, the student is ineligible for additional scholarship payments until the scholarship funding organization verifies that expenditures from the account have occurred. When the student receives a Gardiner Scholarship, the district school board is not obligated to provide the student with a free appropriate public education. For purposes of s. 1003.57 and the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act, a participating student has only those rights that apply to all other unilaterally parentally placed students, except that, when requested by the parent, school district personnel must develop an individual education plan or matrix level of services.

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

(12) OBLIGATIONS OF SCHOLARSHIP-FUNDING ORGANIZATIONS.—An organization may establish Gardiner Scholarships for eligible students by:

(j) Documenting each scholarship student's eligibility for a fiscal year before granting a scholarship for that fiscal year pursuant to paragraph (3)(b). A student is ineligible for a scholarship if the student's account has been inactive for 2 consecutive fiscal years. However, once an eligible expenditure is made pursuant to paragraph (11)(f), the student is eligible for a scholarship based on available funds.

(13) FUNDING AND PAYMENT.—

(a)1. The maximum funding amount granted for an eligible student with a disability, pursuant to subsection (3), shall be equivalent to the base student allocation in the Florida Education Finance Program multiplied by the appropriate cost factor for the educational program that ~~which~~ would have been provided for the student in the district school to which he or she would have been assigned, multiplied by the district cost differential.

2. In addition, an amount equivalent to a share of the guaranteed allocation for exceptional students in the Florida Education Finance Program shall be determined and added to the amount in subparagraph 1. The calculation shall be based on the methodology and the data used to calculate the guaranteed allocation for exceptional students for each district in chapter 2000-166, Laws of Florida. Except as provided in subparagraph 3., the calculation shall be based on the student's grade, the matrix level of services, and the difference between the 2000-2001 basic program and the appropriate level of services cost factor, multiplied by the 2000-2001 base student allocation and the 2000-2001 district cost differential for the sending district. The calculated amount must also include an amount equivalent to the per-student share of supplemental academic instruction funds, instructional materials funds, technology funds, and other categorical funds as provided in the General Appropriations Act.

3. Beginning with the 2017-2018 fiscal year and each fiscal year thereafter, the calculation for a new student entering the program shall be based on the student's matrix level of services. The funding for a student without a matrix of services ~~Except as otherwise provided in subsection (7), the calculation for all students participating in the program shall be based on the matrix that assigns the student to support Level III of services. If a parent chooses to request and receive a matrix of services from the school district, when the school district completes the matrix, the amount of the payment shall be adjusted as needed.~~

Section 49. Subsection (6) is added to section 1003.455, Florida Statutes, to read:

1003.455 Physical education; assessment.—

(6) In addition to the requirements in subsection (3), each district school board shall provide at least 100 minutes of supervised, safe, and unstructured free-play recess each week for students in kindergarten through grade 5 so that there are at least 20 consecutive minutes of free-play recess per day. This requirement does not apply to charter schools.

Section 50. Paragraph (a) of subsection (8) and subsection (11) of section 1002.37, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1002.37 The Florida Virtual School.—

(8)(a) The Florida Virtual School may provide full-time and part-time instruction for students in kindergarten through grade 12. ~~To receive part-time instruction in kindergarten through grade 5, a student must meet at least one of the eligibility criteria in s. 1002.455(2).~~

~~(11) The Auditor General shall conduct an operational audit of the Florida Virtual School, including Florida Virtual School Global. The scope of the audit shall include, but not be limited to, the administration of responsibilities relating to personnel; procurement and contracting; revenue~~

production; school funds, including internal funds; student enrollment records; franchise agreements; information technology utilization, assets, and security; performance measures and standards; and accountability. The final report on the audit shall be submitted to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives no later than January 31, 2014.

Section 51. Section 1002.455, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.455 Student eligibility for K-12 virtual instruction.—

(1) All students, including home education and private school students, are eligible to participate in any of the following A student may participate in virtual instruction in the school district in which he or she resides if the student meets the eligibility criteria in subsection (2).

~~(2) A student is eligible to participate in virtual instruction if:~~

~~(a) The student spent the prior school year in attendance at a public school in the state and was enrolled and reported by the school district for funding during October and February for purposes of the Florida Education Finance Program surveys;~~

~~(b) The student is a dependent child of a member of the United States Armed Forces who was transferred within the last 12 months to this state from another state or from a foreign country pursuant to a permanent change of station order;~~

~~(c) The student was enrolled during the prior school year in a virtual instruction program under s. 1002.45 or a full-time Florida Virtual School program under s. 1002.37(8)(a);~~

~~(d) The student has a sibling who is currently enrolled in a virtual instruction program and the sibling was enrolled in that program at the end of the prior school year;~~

~~(e) The student is eligible to enter kindergarten or first grade; or~~

~~(f) The student is eligible to enter grades 2 through 5 and is enrolled full-time in a school district virtual instruction program, virtual charter school, or the Florida Virtual School.~~

~~(3) The virtual instruction options for which this eligibility section applies include:~~

(1)(a) School district operated part-time or full-time kindergarten through grade 12 virtual instruction programs under s. 1002.45(1)(b) for students enrolled in the school district.

(2)(b) Full-time virtual charter school instruction authorized under s. 1002.33 to students within the school district or to students in other school districts throughout the state pursuant to s. 1002.31.

(3)(e) Virtual courses offered in the course code directory to students within the school district or to students in other school districts throughout the state pursuant to s. 1003.498.

(4) Florida Virtual School instructional services authorized under s. 1002.37.

Section 52. Subsection (5) and paragraph (b) of subsection (6) of section 1002.45, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1002.45 Virtual instruction programs.—

(5) STUDENT ELIGIBILITY.—A student may enroll in a virtual instruction program provided by the school district or by a virtual charter school ~~operated in the district in which he or she resides if the student meets eligibility requirements for virtual instruction pursuant to s. 1002.455.~~

(6) STUDENT PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS.—Each student enrolled in a virtual instruction program or virtual charter school must:

(b) Take statewide assessments pursuant to s. 1008.22. Statewide assessments may be administered state assessment tests within the school district in which such student resides, or as specified in the contract in accordance with s. 1008.24(3). If requested by the approved provider or virtual charter school, the district of residence ~~which~~ must provide the student with access to the district's testing facilities.

Section 53. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) and subsection (11) of section 1002.20, Florida Statutes, are amended, paragraph (d) of subsection (2) is redesignated as paragraph (e), a new paragraph (d) is added to subsection (2), and a new paragraph (m) is added to subsection (3), to read:

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

(2) ATTENDANCE.—

(c) *Absence for religious purposes.*—A parent of a public school student may request and be granted permission for absence of the student from school for religious instruction or religious holidays, in accordance with the provisions of s. 1003.21(2)(b) ~~1003.21(2)(b)~~.

(d) *Absence for treatment of autism spectrum disorder.*—A parent of a public school student may request and be granted permission for absence of

the student from school for an appointment scheduled to receive a therapy service provided by a licensed health care practitioner or behavior analyst certified pursuant to s. 393.17 for the treatment of autism spectrum disorder pursuant to ss. 1003.21(2)(b)2. and 1003.24(4).

(3) HEALTH ISSUES.—

(m) Sun-protective measures in school.—A student may possess and use a topical sunscreen product while on school property or at a school-sponsored event or activity without a physician’s note or prescription if the product is regulated by the United States Food and Drug Administration for over-the-counter use to limit ultraviolet light-induced skin damage.

~~(11) STUDENTS WITH READING DEFICIENCIES.—The parent of any K-3 student who exhibits a substantial reading deficiency shall be immediately notified of the student’s deficiency pursuant to s. 1008.25(5) and with a description and explanation, in terms understandable to the parent, of the exact nature of the student’s difficulty in learning and lack of achievement in reading; shall be consulted in the development of a plan, as described in s. 1008.25(4)(b); and shall be informed that the student will be given intensive reading instruction until the deficiency is corrected. This subsection operates in addition to the remediation and notification provisions contained in s. 1008.25 and in no way reduces the rights of a parent or the responsibilities of a school district under that section.~~

Section 54. Subsection (2) of section 1002.69, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.69 Statewide kindergarten screening; kindergarten readiness rates; state-approved prekindergarten enrollment screening; good cause exemption.—

(2) The statewide kindergarten screening shall provide objective data concerning each student’s readiness for kindergarten and progress in attaining the performance standards adopted by the office under s. 1002.67(1). Data from the screening, along with other available data, must be used to identify students in need of intervention and support pursuant to s. 1008.25(5).

Section 55. Subsection (3), paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (5), paragraph (b) of subsection (6), subsection (7), and paragraph (a) of subsection (8) of section 1008.25, Florida Statutes, are amended, paragraph (c) is added to subsection (4), to read:

1008.25 Public school student progression; student support; reporting requirements.—

(3) ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES.—District school boards shall allocate remedial and supplemental instruction resources to students in the following priority:

(a) ~~Students in kindergarten through grade 3 who have a substantial deficiency are deficient in reading as determined in paragraph (5)(a) by the end of grade 3.~~

(b) ~~Students who fail to meet performance levels required for promotion consistent with the district school board's plan for student progression required in subsection (2) paragraph (2)(b).~~

(4) ASSESSMENT AND SUPPORT.—

(c) A student who has a substantial reading deficiency as determined in paragraph (5)(a) must be covered by a federally required student plan, such as an individual education plan or an individualized progress monitoring plan, or both, as necessary.

(5) READING DEFICIENCY AND PARENTAL NOTIFICATION.—

(a) Any student in kindergarten through grade 3 who exhibits a substantial deficiency in reading, based upon screening, diagnostic, progress monitoring, or assessment data; locally determined or statewide assessments; conducted in kindergarten or grade 1, grade 2, or grade 3, or through teacher observations, must be provided given intensive, explicit, systematic, and multisensory reading interventions instruction immediately following the identification of the reading deficiency. A school may not wait for a student to receive a failing grade at the end of a grading period to identify the student as having a substantial reading deficiency and initiate intensive reading interventions. The student's reading proficiency must be monitored and the intensive interventions instruction must continue until the student demonstrates grade level proficiency in a manner determined by the district, which may include achieving a Level 3 on the statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment. The State Board of Education shall identify by rule guidelines for determining whether a student in kindergarten through grade 3 has a substantial deficiency in reading.

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

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

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

3. A description of the proposed intensive interventions ~~supplemental instructional services~~ and supports that will be provided to the child that are designed to remediate the identified area of reading deficiency.

4. That if the child's reading deficiency is not remediated by the end of grade 3, the child must be retained unless he or she is exempt from mandatory retention for good cause.

5. Strategies, including multisensory strategies, through a read-at-home plan the parent can ~~for parents to use in helping his or her~~ their child succeed in reading proficiency.

6. That the statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment is not the sole determiner of promotion and that additional evaluations, portfolio reviews, and assessments are available to the child to assist parents and the school district in knowing when a child is reading at or above grade level and ready for grade promotion.

7. The district's specific criteria and policies for a portfolio as provided in subparagraph (6)(b)4. and the evidence required for a student to demonstrate mastery of Florida's academic standards for English Language Arts. A parent of a student in grade 3 who is identified anytime during the year as being at risk of retention may request that the school immediately begin collecting evidence for a portfolio.

8. The district's specific criteria and policies for midyear promotion. Midyear promotion means promotion of a retained student at any time during the year of retention once the student has demonstrated ability to read at grade level.

(6) ELIMINATION OF SOCIAL PROMOTION.—

(b) The district school board may only exempt students from mandatory retention, as provided in paragraph (5)(b), for good cause. A student who is promoted to grade 4 with a good cause exemption shall be provided intensive reading instruction and intervention that include specialized diagnostic information and specific reading strategies to meet the needs of each student so promoted. The school district shall assist schools and teachers with the implementation of explicit, systematic, and multisensory reading instruction and intervention strategies for students promoted with a good cause exemption which research has shown to be successful in improving reading among students who have reading difficulties. Good cause exemptions are limited to the following:

1. Limited English proficient students who have had less than 2 years of instruction in an English for Speakers of Other Languages program based on the initial date of entry into a school in the United States.

2. Students with disabilities whose individual education plan indicates that participation in the statewide assessment program is not appropriate, consistent with the requirements of s. 1008.212.

3. Students who demonstrate an acceptable level of performance on an alternative standardized reading or English Language Arts assessment approved by the State Board of Education.

4. A student who demonstrates through a student portfolio that he or she is performing at least at Level 2 on the statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment.

5. Students with disabilities who take the statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment and who have an individual education plan or a Section 504 plan that reflects that the student has received intensive instruction in reading or English Language Arts for more than 2 years but still demonstrates a deficiency and was previously retained in kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, or grade 3.

6. Students who have received intensive reading intervention for 2 or more years but still demonstrate a deficiency in reading and who were previously retained in kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, or grade 3 for a total of 2 years. A student may not be retained more than once in grade 3.

~~7. Students who have received intensive remediation in reading or English Language Arts for 2 or more years but still demonstrate a deficiency and who were previously retained in kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, or grade 3 for a total of 2 years. Intensive instruction for students so promoted must include an altered instructional day that includes specialized diagnostic information and specific reading strategies for each student. The district school board shall assist schools and teachers to implement reading strategies that research has shown to be successful in improving reading among low-performing readers.~~

(7) **SUCCESSFUL PROGRESSION FOR RETAINED THIRD GRADE STUDENTS.—**

(a) ~~Students retained under the provisions of paragraph (5)(b) must be provided intensive interventions in reading to ameliorate the student's specific reading deficiency and prepare the student for promotion to the next grade. These interventions, as identified by a valid and reliable diagnostic assessment. This intensive intervention must include:~~

1. Evidence-based, explicit, systematic, and multisensory reading instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension and other strategies prescribed by the school district. effective instructional strategies,

2. Participation in the school district's summer reading camp, which must incorporate the instructional and intervention strategies under subparagraph 1, and appropriate teaching methodologies necessary to assist those students in becoming successful readers, able to read at or above grade level, and ready for promotion to the next grade.

3. A minimum of 90 minutes of daily, uninterrupted reading instruction incorporating the instructional and intervention strategies under subparagraph 1. This instruction may include:

~~(b) Each school district shall:~~

~~1. Provide third grade students who are retained under the provisions of paragraph (5)(b) with intensive instructional services and supports to remediate the identified areas of reading deficiency, including participation in the school district's summer reading camp as required under paragraph (a), and a minimum of 90 minutes of daily, uninterrupted, scientifically research-based reading instruction which includes phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension and other strategies prescribed by the school district, which may include, but are not limited to:~~

- a. Integration of content-rich texts in science and social studies content within the 90-minute block.
- b. Small group instruction.
- c. Reduced teacher-student ratios.
- d. More frequent progress monitoring.
- e. Tutoring or mentoring.
- f. Transition classes containing 3rd and 4th grade students.
- g. Extended school day, week, or year.

~~(b) Each school district shall:~~

~~1.2. Provide written notification to the parent of a student who is retained under the provisions of paragraph (5)(b) that his or her child has not met the proficiency level required for promotion and the reasons the child is not eligible for a good cause exemption as provided in paragraph (6)(b). The notification must comply with paragraph (5)(c) the provisions of s. 1002.20(15) and must include a description of proposed interventions and supports that will be provided to the child to remediate the identified areas of reading deficiency.~~

~~2.3. Implement a policy for the midyear promotion of a student retained under the provisions of paragraph (5)(b) who can demonstrate that he or she is a successful and independent reader and performing at or above grade level in reading or, upon implementation of English Language Arts assessments, performing at or above grade level in English Language Arts. Tools that school districts may use in reevaluating a student retained may include subsequent assessments, alternative assessments, and portfolio reviews, in accordance with rules of the State Board of Education. Students promoted during the school year after November 1 must demonstrate proficiency levels in reading equivalent to the level necessary for the beginning of grade 4. The rules adopted by the State Board of Education must include standards that provide a reasonable expectation that the student's progress is sufficient to master appropriate grade 4 level reading skills.~~

3.4. Provide students who are retained under the provisions of paragraph (5)(b), including students participating in the school district's summer reading camp under subparagraph (a)2., with a highly effective teacher as determined by the teacher's performance evaluation under s. 1012.34, and, beginning July 1, 2020, the teacher must also be certified or endorsed in reading.

4.5. Establish at each school, when applicable, an intensive reading acceleration course Class for any student retained in grade 3 who was previously retained in kindergarten, grade 1, or grade 2 students who subsequently score Level 1 on the required statewide, standardized assessment identified in s. 1008.22. The focus of the Intensive Acceleration Class shall be to increase a child's reading and English Language Arts skill level at least two grade levels in 1 school year. The intensive reading acceleration course must provide the following Class shall:

a. Uninterrupted reading instruction for the majority of student contact time each day and opportunities to master the grade 4 Next Generation Sunshine State Standards in other core subject areas through content-rich texts.

b. Small group instruction.

c. Reduced teacher-student ratios.

d. The use of explicit, systematic, and multisensory reading interventions, including intensive language, phonics, and vocabulary instruction, and use of a speech-language therapist if necessary, that have proven results in accelerating student reading achievement within the same school year.

e. A read-at-home plan.

~~a. Be provided to a student in grade 3 who scores Level 1 on the statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment and who was retained in grade 3 the prior year because of scoring Level 1.~~

~~b. Have a reduced teacher-student ratio.~~

~~c. Provide uninterrupted reading instruction for the majority of student contact time each day and incorporate opportunities to master the grade 4 Next Generation Sunshine State Standards in other core subject areas.~~

~~d. Use a reading program that is scientifically research-based and has proven results in accelerating student reading achievement within the same school year.~~

~~e. Provide intensive language and vocabulary instruction using a scientifically research-based program, including use of a speech-language therapist.~~

(8) ANNUAL REPORT.—

(a) In addition to the requirements in paragraph (5)(b), each district school board must annually report to the parent of each student the progress of the student toward achieving state and district expectations for proficiency in English Language Arts, science, social studies, and mathematics. The district school board must report to the parent the student's results on each statewide, standardized assessment. The evaluation of each student's progress must be based upon the student's classroom work, observations, tests, district and state assessments, response to intensive interventions provided under paragraph (5)(a), and other relevant information. Progress reporting must be provided to the parent in writing in a format adopted by the district school board.

Section 56. Subsection (2) of section 1011.67, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1011.67 Funds for instructional materials.—

(2) Annually by July 1 and ~~before~~ ~~prior to~~ the release of instructional materials funds, each district school superintendent shall certify to the Commissioner of Education that the district school board has approved a comprehensive staff development plan that supports fidelity of implementation of instructional materials programs, including. ~~The report shall include verification that training was provided; and that the materials are being implemented as designed; and, beginning July 1, 2021, for core reading materials and reading intervention materials used in kindergarten through grade 5, that the materials meet the requirements of s. 1001.215(7). This paragraph does not preclude school districts from purchasing or using other materials to supplement reading instruction and provide additional skills practice.~~

Section 57. Subsection (8) is added to section 1002.51, Florida Statutes, to read:

1002.51 Definitions.—As used in this part, the term:

(8) “Public school prekindergarten provider” includes a traditional public school or a charter school that is eligible to deliver the school-year prekindergarten program under s. 1002.63 or the summer prekindergarten program under s. 1002.61.

Section 58. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 1003.21, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.21 School attendance.—

(2)

(b) Each district school board, in accordance with rules of the State Board of Education, shall adopt policies authorizing ~~a policy that authorizes~~ a parent to request and be granted permission for absence of a student from school for:

1. Religious instruction or religious holidays.

2. An appointment scheduled to receive a therapy service provided by a licensed health care practitioner or behavior analyst certified pursuant to s. 393.17 for the treatment of autism spectrum disorder, including, but not limited to, applied behavioral analysis, speech therapy, and occupational therapy.

Section 59. Subsection (4) of section 1003.24, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.24 Parents responsible for attendance of children; attendance policy.—Each parent of a child within the compulsory attendance age is responsible for the child’s school attendance as required by law. The absence of a student from school is prima facie evidence of a violation of this section; however, criminal prosecution under this chapter may not be brought against a parent until the provisions of s. 1003.26 have been complied with. A parent of a student is not responsible for the student’s nonattendance at school under any of the following conditions:

(4) SICKNESS, INJURY, OR OTHER INSURMOUNTABLE CONDITION.—Attendance was impracticable or inadvisable on account of sickness or injury, as attested to by a written statement of a licensed practicing physician, or was impracticable because of some other stated insurmountable condition as defined by and attested to in accordance with rules of the State Board of Education. If a student is continually sick and repeatedly absent from school, he or she must be under the supervision of a physician, or if the absence is related to the student having autism spectrum disorder, receiving services from a licensed health care practitioner or behavior analyst certified pursuant to s. 393.17, in order to receive an excuse from attendance. Such excuse provides that a student’s condition justifies absence for more than the number of days permitted by the district school board.

Each district school board shall establish an attendance policy that includes, but is not limited to, the required number of days each school year that a student must be in attendance and the number of absences and tardinesses after which a statement explaining such absences and tardinesses must be on file at the school. Each school in the district must determine if an absence or tardiness is excused or unexcused according to criteria established by the district school board.

Section 60. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section 1003.4156, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.4156 General requirements for middle grades promotion.—

(1) In order for a student to be promoted to high school from a school that includes middle grades 6, 7, and 8, the student must successfully complete the following courses:

~~(e)—One course in career and education planning to be completed in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade. The course may be taught by any member of the instructional staff. At a minimum, the course must be Internet-based, easy to use, and customizable to each student and include research-based assessments to assist students in determining educational and career options and goals. In addition, the course must result in a completed personalized academic and career plan for the student; must emphasize the importance of entrepreneurship skills; must emphasize technology or the application of technology in career fields; and, beginning in the 2014-2015 academic year, must include information from the Department of Economic Opportunity's economic security report as described in s. 445.07. The required personalized academic and career plan must inform students of high school graduation requirements, including a detailed explanation of the diploma designation options provided under s. 1003.4285; high school assessment and college entrance test requirements; Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program requirements; state university and Florida College System institution admission requirements; available opportunities to earn college credit in high school, including Advanced Placement courses; the International Baccalaureate Program; the Advanced International Certificate of Education Program; dual enrollment, including career dual enrollment; and career education courses, including career-themed courses and courses that lead to industry certification pursuant to s. 1003.492 or s. 1008.44.~~

~~Each school must inform parents about the course curriculum and activities. Each student shall complete a personal education plan that must be signed by the student and the student's parent. The Department of Education shall develop course frameworks and professional development materials for the career and education planning course. The course may be implemented as a stand-alone course or integrated into another course or courses. The Commissioner of Education shall collect longitudinal high school course enrollment data by student ethnicity in order to analyze course-taking patterns.~~

Section 61. Subsection (3) of section 1003.57, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.57 Exceptional students instruction.—

(3)(a) For purposes of this subsection and subsection (4), the term:

1. "Agency" means the Department of Children and Families or its contracted lead agency, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, and the Agency for Health Care Administration.

2. "Exceptional student" means an exceptional student, as defined in s. 1003.01, who has a disability.

3. "Receiving school district" means the district in which a private residential care facility is located.

4. "Placement" means the funding or arrangement of funding by an agency for all or a part of the cost for an exceptional student to reside in a private residential care facility and the placement crosses school district lines.

(b) Within 10 business days after an exceptional student is placed in a private residential care facility by an agency, the agency or private residential care facility licensed by the agency, as appropriate, shall provide written notification of the placement to the school district where the student is currently counted for funding purposes under s. 1011.62 and the receiving school district. The exceptional student shall be enrolled in school and receive a free and appropriate public education, special education, and related services while the notice and procedures regarding payment are pending. This paragraph applies when the placement is for the primary purpose of addressing residential or other noneducational needs and the placement crosses school district lines.

(c) Within 10 business days after receiving the notification, the receiving school district must review the student's individual educational plan (IEP) to determine if the student's IEP can be implemented by the receiving school district or by a provider or facility under contract with the receiving school district. The receiving school district shall:

1. Provide educational instruction to the student;
2. Contract with another provider or facility to provide the educational instruction; or
3. Contract with the private residential care facility in which the student resides to provide the educational instruction; ~~or~~
4. ~~Decline to provide or contract for educational instruction.~~

~~If the receiving school district declines to provide or contract for the educational instruction, the school district in which the legal residence of the student is located shall provide or contract for the educational instruction to the student. The receiving school district providing that provides educational instruction or contracting contracts to provide educational instruction shall report the student for funding purposes pursuant to s. 1011.62.~~

(d)1. The Department of Education, in consultation with the agencies and school districts, shall develop procedures for written notification to school districts regarding the placement of an exceptional student in a residential care facility. The procedures must:

- a. Provide for written notification of a placement that crosses school district lines; and
- b. Identify the entity responsible for the notification for each facility that is operated, licensed, or regulated by an agency.

2. The State Board of Education shall adopt the procedures by rule pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54, and the agencies shall implement the procedures.

The requirements of paragraphs (c) and (d) do not apply to written agreements among school districts which specify each school district's responsibility for providing and paying for educational services to an exceptional student in a residential care facility. However, each agreement must require a school district to review the student's IEP within 10 business days after receiving the notification required under paragraph (b).

Section 62. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section 1006.40, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1006.40 Use of instructional materials allocation; instructional materials, library books, and reference books; repair of books.—

(3)(a) Except for a school district or a consortium of school districts that implements an instructional materials program pursuant to s. 1006.283 ~~Beginning with the 2015-2016 fiscal year, each district school board shall use at least 50 percent of the annual allocation only for the purchase of digital or electronic instructional materials that align with state standards and are included on the state-adopted list, except as otherwise authorized in paragraphs (b) and (c).~~

Section 63. Subsections (1) and (4) of section 1009.60, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1009.60 Minority teacher education scholars program.—There is created the minority teacher education scholars program, which is a collaborative performance-based scholarship program for African-American, Hispanic-American, Asian-American, and Native American students. The participants in the program include Florida's Florida College System institutions and its public and private universities that have teacher education programs.

(1) The minority teacher education scholars program shall provide an annual scholarship in an amount that shall be prorated based on available appropriations and may not exceed \$4,000 for each approved minority teacher education scholar who is enrolled in one of Florida's public or private colleges or universities, in the junior year and is admitted into a teacher education program, and has not earned more than 18 credit hours of upper-division-level courses in education.

(4) A student may receive a scholarship from the program for 3 consecutive years if the student remains enrolled full-time in the program and makes satisfactory progress toward a baccalaureate degree with a major in education or a graduate degree with a major in education, leading to initial certification.

Section 64. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 1009.605, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1009.605 Florida Fund for Minority Teachers, Inc.—

(2)(a) The corporation shall submit an annual budget projection to the Department of Education to be included in the annual legislative budget request. The projection must be based on the cost to award up to 350 scholarships to new scholars ~~in the junior year~~ and up to 350 renewal scholarships ~~to the 350 rising seniors~~.

Section 65. Committee on Early Grade Success.—The Committee on Early Grade Success, a committee as defined in s. 20.03, Florida Statutes, is created within the Department of Education to develop a proposal for establishing and implementing a coordinated child assessment system for the School Readiness Program, the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, and the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment and, except as otherwise provided in this section, shall operate consistent with s. 20.052, Florida Statutes.

(1) The committee's proposal must include legislative recommendations for the design and implementation of a coordinated child assessment system, including, but not limited to:

(a) The purpose of a child assessment, with a focus on developmentally appropriate learning gains.

(b) Attributes for tool selection that provide guidance on procurement policies.

(c) An implementation schedule and protocols, including the frequency of data collection and a timeline for training to ensure reliability of the system.

(d) The methodology for collecting and analyzing data that define reporting requirements.

(e) A budget for the system, including cost analyses for purchasing materials and the necessary technology, training to ensure reliability, and data system management.

(f) Considerations for student privacy and tracking child development over time.

(2) The committee is composed of 17 members who are residents of the state and appointed as follows:

(a) Three members appointed by the Governor:

1. One representative from the Office of Early Learning.

2. One representative from the Department of Education.

3. One parent of a child who is 3 to 6 years of age.

(b) Fourteen members jointly appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives:

1. One representative of an urban school district.

2. One representative of a rural school district.

3. One representative of an urban early learning coalition.

4. One representative of a rural early learning coalition.

5. One representative of an early learning provider.

6. One representative of a faith-based early learning provider.

7. One representative who is a kindergarten teacher with at least 5 years of teaching experience.

8. One representative who is an elementary school principal.

9. Four representatives with subject matter expertise in early learning, early grade success, or child assessments. The four representatives may not be direct stakeholders within the early learning or public school systems or potential recipients of a contract resulting from the committee's proposal.

10. One member of the Senate.

11. One member of the House of Representatives.

(3) The committee shall elect a chair and vice chair. The chair must be one of the four members with subject matter expertise in early learning, early grade success, or child assessments. The vice chair must be a member appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, who is not one of the four members who are subject matter experts in early learning, early grade success, or child assessments. Members of the committee shall serve without compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses pursuant to s. 112.061, Florida Statutes.

(4) The committee must meet at least three times and shall meet by teleconference or other electronic means, if possible, to reduce costs.

(5) A majority of the members constitutes a quorum.

(6) The University of Florida Lastinger Center for Learning shall provide the committee with staff necessary to assist the committee in the performance of its duties.

(7) The committee shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the

House of Representatives by December 1, 2017. Upon submission of the report, the committee shall expire.

(8) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to implement and administer this section.

Section 66. Section 1013.101, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1013.101 Shared use agreements.—

(1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.—The Legislature finds that greater public access to recreation and sports facilities is needed to reduce the impact of obesity, diabetes, and other chronic diseases on personal health and health care expenditures. Public schools are equipped with taxpayer-funded indoor and outdoor recreation facilities that offer easily accessible opportunities for physical activity for residents of the community. The Legislature also finds that it is the policy of the state for district school boards to allow the shared use of school buildings and property by adopting policies allowing for shared use and implementing shared use agreements with local governmental entities and nonprofit organizations. The Legislature intends to increase the number of school districts that open their playground facilities to community use outside of school hours.

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

(a) “High-need communities” means communities in which at least 50 percent of children are eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals at the school that will be the subject of the shared use agreement.

(b) “Shared use” means allowing access to school playground facilities by community members for recreation or another purpose of importance to the community through a shared use agreement or a school district or school policy that opens school facilities, including, but not limited to charter schools and Florida College System institutions, for use by government or nongovernmental entities or the public.

(c) “Shared use agreement” means a written agreement between a school district, a charter school, or a Florida College System institution, and a government or nongovernmental entity which defines the roles, responsibilities, terms, and conditions for community use of a school-owned facility for recreation or other purposes.

(3) PROMOTION OF COMMUNITY USE OF SHARED FACILITIES. The department shall provide technical assistance to school districts, including, but not limited to, individualized assistance, the creation of a shared use technical assistance toolkit containing useful information for school districts, and the development of a publicly accessible online database of shared use resources and existing shared use agreements.

Section 67. Shared Use Task Force.—The Shared Use Task Force, a task force as defined in s. 20.03, Florida Statutes, is created within the Department of Education. The task force is created to identify barriers in creating shared use agreements and to make recommendations to facilitate the shared use of school facilities generally and in high-need communities.

(1) The task force is composed of seven members appointed by the department, as follows:

(a) Two representatives from school districts, including one representative from school districts 1 through 33 and one representative from school districts 34 through 67;

(b) One representative from a public health department;

(c) Two representatives from community-based programs in high-need communities; and

(d) Two representatives from recreational organizations.

(2) The task force shall elect a chair and vice chair. The chair and vice chair may not be representatives from the same member category. Members of the task force shall serve without compensation, but are entitled to reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses pursuant to s. 112.061, Florida Statutes.

(3) The task force shall meet by teleconference or other electronic means, if possible, to reduce costs.

(4) The department shall provide the task force with staff necessary to assist the task force in the performance of its duties.

(5) The task force shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by June 30, 2018. Upon submission of the report, the task force shall expire.

Section 68. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 125.901, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

(1) Each county may by ordinance create an independent special district, as defined in ss. 189.012 and 200.001(8)(e), to provide funding for children's services throughout the county in accordance with this section. The boundaries of such district shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the county. The county governing body shall obtain approval, by a majority vote of those electors voting on the question, to annually levy ad valorem taxes which shall not exceed the maximum millage rate authorized by this section. Any district created pursuant to the provisions of this subsection

shall be required to levy and fix millage subject to the provisions of s. 200.065. Once such millage is approved by the electorate, the district shall not be required to seek approval of the electorate in future years to levy the previously approved millage.

(b) However, any county as defined in s. 125.011(1) may instead have a governing body consisting of 33 members, including: the superintendent of schools, or his or her designee; two representatives of public postsecondary education institutions located in the county; the county manager or the equivalent county officer; the district administrator from the appropriate district of the Department of Children and Families, or the administrator's designee who is a member of the Senior Management Service or the Selected Exempt Service; the director of the county health department or the director's designee; the state attorney for the county or the state attorney's designee; the chief judge assigned to juvenile cases, or another juvenile judge who is the chief judge's designee and who shall sit as a voting member of the board, except that the judge may not vote or participate in setting ad valorem taxes under this section; an individual who is selected by the board of the local United Way or its equivalent; a member of a locally recognized faith-based coalition, selected by that coalition; a member of the local chamber of commerce, selected by that chamber or, if more than one chamber exists within the county, a person selected by a coalition of the local chambers; a member of the early learning coalition, selected by that coalition; a representative of a labor organization or union active in the county; a member of a local alliance or coalition engaged in cross-system planning for health and social service delivery in the county, selected by that alliance or coalition; a member of the local Parent-Teachers Association/Parent-Teacher-Student Association, selected by that association; a youth representative selected by the local school system's student government; a local school board member appointed by the chair of the school board; the mayor of the county or the mayor's designee; one member of the county governing body, appointed by the chair of that body; a member of the state Legislature who represents residents of the county, selected by the chair of the local legislative delegation; an elected official representing the residents of a municipality in the county, selected by the county municipal league; and 4 members-at-large, appointed to the council by the majority of sitting council members. The remaining 7 members shall be appointed by the Governor in accordance with procedures set forth in paragraph (a), except that the Governor may remove a member for cause or upon the written petition of the council. Appointments by the Governor must, to the extent reasonably possible, represent the geographic and demographic diversity of the population of the county. Members who are appointed to the council by reason of their position are not subject to the length of terms and limits on consecutive terms as provided in this section. The remaining appointed members of the governing body shall be appointed to serve 2-year terms, except that those members appointed by the Governor shall be appointed to serve 4-year terms, and the youth representative and the legislative delegate shall be appointed to serve 1-year terms. A member may be reappointed; however, a member may not serve for more than three consecutive terms. A

member is eligible to be appointed again after a 2-year hiatus from the council.

Section 69. Section 1003.481, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1003.481 Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Pilot Program.—

(1) Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, the Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Pilot Program is created within the Department of Education for a period of 3 school years. The purpose of the pilot program is to assist selected school districts in implementing comprehensive music education programs for students in kindergarten through grade 2.

(2) In order for a school district to be eligible for participation in the pilot program, the superintendent must certify to the Commissioner of Education, in a format prescribed by the department, that each elementary school within the district has established a comprehensive music education program that:

(a) Includes all students at the school enrolled in kindergarten through grade 2.

(b) Is staffed by certified music educators.

(c) Provides music instruction for at least 30 consecutive minutes 2 days a week.

(d) Complies with class size requirements under s. 1003.03.

(e) Complies with the department's standards for early childhood music education programs for students in kindergarten through grade 2.

(3)(a) The commissioner shall select school districts for participation in the pilot program, subject to legislative appropriation, based on the school district's proximity to the University of Florida and needs-based criteria established by the State Board of Education. Selected school districts shall annually receive \$150 per full-time equivalent student in kindergarten through grade 2 who is enrolled in a comprehensive music education program.

(b) To maintain eligibility for participation in the pilot program, a selected school district must annually certify to the commissioner, in a format prescribed by the department, that each elementary school within the district provides a comprehensive music education program that meets the requirements of subsection (2). If a selected school district fails to provide the annual certification for a fiscal year, the school district must return all funds received through the pilot program for that fiscal year.

(4) The University of Florida's College of Education shall evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot program by measuring student academic performance and the success of the program. The evaluation must include, but is

not limited to, a quantitative analysis of student achievement and a qualitative evaluation of students enrolled in the comprehensive music education programs.

(5) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to administer this section.

(6) This section expires June 30, 2020.

Section 70. If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect the remaining provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this act are severable.

Section 71. For the 2017-2018 fiscal year, \$413,950,000 in recurring funds from the General Revenue Fund and \$5 million in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund are appropriated to the Department of Education to implement this act. Of these funds, \$233,950,000 shall be used to implement the Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship Program pursuant to s. 1012.731, Florida Statutes, and the Best and Brightest Principal Scholarship Program pursuant to s. 1012.732, Florida Statutes, \$30 million shall be used to implement the Gardiner Scholarship Program pursuant to s. 1002.385, Florida Statutes, and \$10 million in recurring funds and \$5 million in nonrecurring funds shall be used to implement the provisions of this act relating to statewide student assessments. The remaining funds shall be used to implement the remaining provisions of this act, except for the implementation of the Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Pilot Program, as created by s. 1003.481, Florida Statutes, the Committee on Early Grade Success, as created by section 65 of this act, and the Shared Use Task Force, as created by section 67 of this act.

Section 72. 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, 2017.

Approved by the Governor June 15, 2017.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 15, 2017.