

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to education; amending s. 110.123,
3 F.S.; revising definitions for the state group
4 insurance program; providing for the initial open
5 enrollment period for specified employees; providing
6 requirements for the minimum participation period for
7 specified institutions; amending s. 1002.31, F.S.;
8 providing for certain students to receive a stipend
9 for transportation to certain public schools, subject
10 to legislative appropriation; providing eligibility
11 requirements; providing requirements for the award and
12 distribution of the stipends; providing duties for the
13 Department of Education; providing for the amount of
14 the stipend; providing that each household may only
15 receive one stipend; providing that the stipend is not
16 taxable income; providing liability; amending s.
17 1002.32, F.S.; revising the list of universities
18 exempt from a certain limitation relating to charter
19 lab schools; deleting the Lab School Educational
20 Facility Trust Fund; conforming provisions to changes
21 made by the act; amending s. 1002.33, F.S.; revising
22 provisions relating to budget projections for charter
23 schools; requiring charter schools to report full-time
24 equivalent student membership rather than student
25 enrollments for funding purposes; providing that a

26 | specified funding calculation applies to charter
 27 | schools sponsored by a school district; authorizing
 28 | charter schools to receive specified funding under
 29 | certain circumstances; providing that funding for
 30 | students enrolled in charter schools sponsored by
 31 | state universities or Florida College System
 32 | institutions is provided in the Florida Education
 33 | Finance Program and General Appropriations Act;
 34 | providing calculations for such funding; providing for
 35 | the recalculation of such funding; providing a
 36 | calculation for such charter school's capital outlay
 37 | funding; deleting charter school eligibility for a
 38 | specified incentive program; amending s. 1002.391,
 39 | F.S.; creating the Bridge to Speech Program for
 40 | specified purposes, subject to authorization and
 41 | funding in the General Appropriations Act; providing
 42 | requirements for the department; amending s. 1002.394,
 43 | F.S.; revising the authorized uses of funds from the
 44 | Family Empowerment Scholarship Program; conforming
 45 | provisions to changes made by the act; amending s.
 46 | 1002.395, F.S.; revising authorized uses of funds from
 47 | the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program; conforming
 48 | provisions to changes made by the act; amending s.
 49 | 1002.68, F.S.; revising the program year for the
 50 | Department of Education to adopt a specified

51 methodology for the Voluntary Prekindergarten
52 Education Program; revising the program year that
53 specified provisions take effect relating to program
54 providers and public schools; deleting provisions
55 relating to program providers and public schools
56 assessment composite scores; amending s. 1002.71,
57 F.S.; revising the percentage of specified funds early
58 learning coalitions may maintain for certain purposes;
59 amending s. 1002.82, F.S.; conforming provisions to
60 changes made by the act; requiring the department to
61 collect specified data and report certain data
62 annually; amending s. 1002.84, F.S.; revising the
63 duties of early learning coalitions; amending s.
64 1002.89, F.S.; revising a specified calculation for
65 the school readiness program allocation; amending s.
66 1002.895, F.S.; revising requirements for the market
67 rate schedule for the school readiness program;
68 deleting requirements for the department to annually
69 collect specified data; conforming provisions to
70 changes made by the act; repealing s. 1002.90, F.S.,
71 relating to school readiness cost-of-care information;
72 amending s. 1002.92, F.S.; conforming provisions to
73 changes made the act; creating s. 1003.4206, F.S.;
74 creating the Charity for Change program for specified
75 purposes, subject to authorization and funding in the

76 | General Appropriations Act; authorizing the program to
77 | use specified providers to deliver certain services;
78 | creating s. 1006.042, F.S.; creating the AMIkids,
79 | Inc., program for specified purposes, subject to
80 | authorization and funding in the General
81 | Appropriations Act; amending s. 1006.07, F.S.;
82 | requiring district school boards to establish a threat
83 | management coordinator for specified purposes;
84 | amending s. 1006.27, F.S.; deleting the Driving Choice
85 | Grant Program; amending s. 1008.25, F.S.; requiring
86 | certain voluntary prekindergarten students to be
87 | referred to his or her local school district to
88 | receive support through a certain summer bridge
89 | program; providing requirements for such program;
90 | amending s. 1009.896, F.S.; renaming the Florida Law
91 | Enforcement Academy Scholarship Program as the Florida
92 | First Responder Scholarship Program; providing and
93 | revising definitions; revising the program to include
94 | specified first responders; providing eligibility
95 | criteria and award requirements for such first
96 | responders; amending s. 1009.90, F.S.; requiring the
97 | department to have a system to track specified
98 | information relating to school bond referenda and debt
99 | for school districts; amending s. 1011.62, F.S.;
100 | providing that certain charter schools are eligible

101 for the state-funded discretionary contribution;
 102 requiring rather than authorizing the Legislature to
 103 appropriate funds for the educational enrollment
 104 stabilization program; providing requirements for such
 105 funding; amending s. 1011.765, F.S.; including
 106 specified organizations and foundations as public
 107 school district education foundations for specified
 108 purposes; amending s. 1012.56, F.S.; revising the
 109 requirements for an applicant to be issued a temporary
 110 apprenticeship educator certificate; amending s.
 111 1013.62, F.S.; providing that charter schools
 112 sponsored by Florida College System institutions and
 113 state universities are ineligible for specified
 114 funding; conforming a cross-reference; providing that
 115 a specified taxable value for the Wakulla County
 116 School District shall be used for specified
 117 calculations for the 2023-2024 fiscal year; providing
 118 that such provisions expire on a specified date;
 119 providing effective dates.

120

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

122

123 Section 1. Paragraphs (c), (e), (h), (j), and (l) of
 124 subsection (2) of section 110.123, Florida Statutes, are
 125 amended, and subsection (15) is added to that section, to read:

126 110.123 State group insurance program.—

127 (2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in ss. 110.123-110.1239, the
 128 term:

129 (c) "Enrollee" means all state officers and employees,
 130 retired state officers and employees, surviving spouses of
 131 deceased state officers and employees, eligible former
 132 employees, and terminated employees or individuals with
 133 continuation coverage who are enrolled in an insurance plan
 134 offered by the state group insurance program. The term includes
 135 all state university officers and employees, retired state
 136 university officers and employees, surviving spouses of deceased
 137 state university officers and employees, and terminated state
 138 university employees or individuals with continuation coverage
 139 who are enrolled in an insurance plan offered by the state group
 140 insurance program. The term includes all Florida College System
 141 institution officers and employees, retired Florida College
 142 System institution officers and employees, surviving spouses of
 143 deceased Florida college system institution officers and
 144 employees, and terminated Florida College System institution
 145 employees or individuals with continuation coverage who are
 146 enrolled in an insurance plan offered by the state group
 147 insurance program. As used in this paragraph, state employees
 148 and retired state employees also include employees and retired
 149 employees of the Division of Rehabilitation and Liquidation.

150 (e) "Full-time state employees" means employees of all

151 | branches or agencies of state government holding salaried
 152 | positions who are paid by state warrant or from agency funds and
 153 | who work or are expected to work an average of at least 30 hours
 154 | per week; employees of the Division of Rehabilitation and
 155 | Liquidation who work or are expected to work an average of at
 156 | least 30 hours per week; employees paid from regular salary
 157 | appropriations for 8 months' employment, including university
 158 | and college personnel on academic contracts; and employees paid
 159 | from other-personal-services (OPS) funds as described in
 160 | subparagraphs 1. and 2. The term includes all full-time
 161 | employees of the state universities and Florida College System
 162 | institutions. The term does not include seasonal workers who are
 163 | paid from OPS funds.

- 164 | 1. For persons hired before April 1, 2013, the term
 165 | includes any person paid from OPS funds who:
- 166 | a. Has worked an average of at least 30 hours or more per
 167 | week during the initial measurement period from April 1, 2013,
 168 | through September 30, 2013; or
 - 169 | b. Has worked an average of at least 30 hours or more per
 170 | week during a subsequent measurement period.
- 171 | 2. For persons hired after April 1, 2013, the term
 172 | includes any person paid from OPS funds who:
- 173 | a. Is reasonably expected to work an average of at least
 174 | 30 hours or more per week; or
 - 175 | b. Has worked an average of at least 30 hours or more per

176 week during the person's measurement period.

177 (h) "Part-time state employee" means an employee of any
 178 branch or agency of state government paid by state warrant from
 179 salary appropriations or from agency funds, or an employee of
 180 the Division of Rehabilitation and Liquidation, who is employed
 181 for less than an average of 30 hours per week or, if on academic
 182 contract or seasonal or other type of employment which is less
 183 than year-round, is employed for less than 8 months during any
 184 12-month period, but does not include a person paid from other-
 185 personal-services (OPS) funds. The term includes all part-time
 186 employees of the state universities and Florida College System
 187 institutions.

188 (j) "Retired state officer or employee" or "retiree" means
 189 any state, ~~or~~ state university, or Florida College System
 190 institution officer or employee, or, beginning with the 2023
 191 plan year, an employee of the Division of Rehabilitation and
 192 Liquidation, who retires under a state retirement system or a
 193 state optional annuity or retirement program or is placed on
 194 disability retirement, and who was insured under the state group
 195 insurance program or the Division of Rehabilitation and
 196 Liquidation's group insurance program at the time of retirement,
 197 and who begins receiving retirement benefits immediately after
 198 retirement from state, ~~or~~ state university, or Florida College
 199 System institution office or employment. The term also includes
 200 any state officer or state employee who retires under the

201 Florida Retirement System Investment Plan established under part
 202 II of chapter 121 if he or she:

203 1. Meets the age and service requirements to qualify for
 204 normal retirement as set forth in s. 121.021(29); or

205 2. Has attained the age specified by s. 72(t)(2)(A)(i) of
 206 the Internal Revenue Code and has 6 years of creditable service.

207 (1) "State agency" or "agency" means any branch,
 208 department, or agency of state government. "State agency" or
 209 "agency" includes any state university or Florida College System
 210 institution and the Division of Rehabilitation and Liquidation
 211 for purposes of this section only.

212 (15) ENROLLMENT PERIOD FOR FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM
 213 INSTITUTIONS.—The initial open enrollment period for employees
 214 of Florida College System institutions shall begin as soon as
 215 practicable, but coverage must begin during the 2025 plan year
 216 no later than July 31, 2025. The minimum participation period
 217 for Florida College System institutions must be for at least 3
 218 plan years.

219 Section 2. Subsection (7) is added to section 1002.31,
 220 Florida Statutes, to read:

221 1002.31 Controlled open enrollment; public school parental
 222 choice.—

223 (7) Contingent upon a legislative appropriation, and on a
 224 first-come, first-served basis, a public school student enrolled
 225 in kindergarten through grade 8 may receive a stipend from an

226 eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization, as defined
227 in s. 1002.395(2), for transportation to a Florida nonvirtual
228 public school that is different from the school to which the
229 student is assigned or to a developmental research school
230 authorized under s. 1002.32.

231 (a) For an eligible student to receive a stipend, the
232 student's parent must:

233 1. Submit an application to an eligible nonprofit
234 scholarship-funding organization for the specified school year
235 and by the deadline established by the organization.

236 2. Provide the documentation necessary to verify the
237 student's eligibility for the specified school year.

238 3. Be responsible for the payment of all transportation-
239 related expenses in excess of the amount of the stipend.

240 (b) An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization
241 shall distribute the stipends to the parents of the eligible
242 students in accordance with the requirements for the
243 organization under this chapter. For the 2024-2025 school year,
244 priority shall be given to households with a student who
245 received a transportation scholarship pursuant to s.
246 1002.394(4)(a)2. and (12)(a)2., Florida Statutes 2023, or s.
247 1002.395(6)(d)2.b., Florida Statutes 2023, during the previous
248 school year and is determined eligible for a transportation
249 stipend for the 2024-2025 school year. For the 2025-2026 school
250 year and thereafter, priority shall be given to renewing

251 households with an eligible student. Any remaining stipends
 252 shall be provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

253 (c) The Department of Education shall have the same duties
 254 imposed by this chapter upon the department regarding the
 255 oversight of scholarship programs administered by an eligible
 256 nonprofit scholarship-funding organization.

257 (d) The amount of the stipend for an eligible student
 258 shall be as specified in the General Appropriations Act. A
 259 household that has more than one eligible student may only
 260 receive one stipend.

261 (e) Upon notification from the eligible nonprofit
 262 scholarship-funding organization that a student has been
 263 determined eligible for a stipend, the department shall release
 264 the student's stipend to the organization.

265 (f) Moneys received pursuant to this subsection do not
 266 constitute taxable income to the qualified student or his or her
 267 parent.

268 (g) No liability shall arise on the part of the state
 269 based on the stipend or use of the stipend.

270 Section 3. Subsection (2) and paragraphs (b) through (g)
 271 of subsection (9) of section 1002.32, Florida Statutes, are
 272 amended to read:

273 1002.32 Developmental research (laboratory) schools.—

274 (2) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a category of
 275 public schools to be known as developmental research

276 (laboratory) schools (lab schools). Each lab school shall
277 provide sequential instruction and shall be affiliated with the
278 college of education within the state university of closest
279 geographic proximity. A lab school to which a charter has been
280 issued under s. 1002.33(5)(a)2. must be affiliated with the
281 college of education within the state university that issued the
282 charter, but is not subject to the requirement that the state
283 university be of closest geographic proximity. For the purpose
284 of state funding, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical
285 University, Florida Atlantic University, Florida State
286 University, the University of Florida, and other universities
287 approved by the State Board of Education and the Legislature are
288 authorized to sponsor a lab school. The limitation of one lab
289 school per university shall not apply to the following
290 legislatively allowed charter lab schools: Florida State
291 University Charter Lab K-12 School in Broward County, Florida
292 State University Charter Lab K-12 School in Leon County, and
293 Florida Atlantic University Charter Lab K-12 School in Palm
294 Beach County, and Florida Atlantic University Charter Lab K-12
295 School in St. Lucie County. The limitation of one lab school per
296 university does not apply to a university that establishes a lab
297 school to serve families of a military installation that is
298 within the same county as a branch campus that offers programs
299 from the university's college of education.

300 (9) FUNDING.—Funding for a lab school, including a charter

301 lab school, shall be provided as follows:

302 ~~(b) There is created a Lab School Educational Facility~~
 303 ~~Trust Fund to be administered by the Commissioner of Education.~~
 304 ~~Allocations from such fund shall be expended solely for the~~
 305 ~~purpose of facility construction, repair, renovation,~~
 306 ~~remodeling, site improvement, or maintenance. The commissioner~~
 307 ~~shall administer the fund in accordance with ss. 1013.60,~~
 308 ~~1013.64, 1013.65, and 1013.66.~~

309 (b)~~(e)~~ All operating funds provided under this section
 310 shall be deposited in a Lab School Trust Fund and shall be
 311 expended for the purposes of this section. The university
 312 assigned a lab school shall be the fiscal agent for these funds,
 313 and all rules of the university governing the budgeting and
 314 expenditure of state funds shall apply to these funds unless
 315 otherwise provided by law or rule of the State Board of
 316 Education. The university board of trustees shall be the public
 317 employer of lab school personnel for collective bargaining
 318 purposes for lab schools in operation prior to the 2002-2003
 319 fiscal year. Employees of charter lab schools authorized prior
 320 to June 1, 2003, but not in operation prior to the 2002-2003
 321 fiscal year shall be employees of the entity holding the charter
 322 and must comply with the provisions of s. 1002.33(12).

323 (c)~~(d)~~ Each lab school shall receive funds for capital
 324 improvement purposes in an amount determined as follows:
 325 multiply the maximum allowable nonvoted discretionary millage

326 for capital improvements pursuant to s. 1011.71(2) by 96 percent
327 of the current year's taxable value for school purposes for the
328 district in which each lab school is located; divide the result
329 by the total full-time equivalent membership of the district;
330 and multiply the result by the full-time equivalent membership
331 of the lab school. The amount obtained shall be discretionary
332 capital improvement funds and shall be appropriated from state
333 funds in the General Appropriations Act ~~to the Lab School~~
334 ~~Educational Facility Trust Fund.~~

335 (d)~~(e)~~ In addition to the funds appropriated for capital
336 outlay budget needs, lab schools may receive specific funding as
337 specified in the General Appropriations Act for upgrading,
338 renovating, and remodeling science laboratories.

339 (e)~~(f)~~ Each lab school is designated a teacher education
340 center and may provide inservice training to school district
341 personnel. The Department of Education shall provide funds ~~to~~
342 ~~the Lab School Trust Fund~~ for this purpose from appropriations
343 for inservice teacher education.

344 ~~(g) A lab school to which a charter has been issued under~~
345 ~~s. 1002.33(5)(a)2. is eligible to receive funding for charter~~
346 ~~school capital outlay if it meets the eligibility requirements~~
347 ~~of s. 1013.62. If the lab school receives funds from charter~~
348 ~~school capital outlay, the school shall receive capital outlay~~
349 ~~funds otherwise provided in this subsection only to the extent~~
350 ~~that funds allocated pursuant to s. 1013.62 are insufficient to~~

351 ~~provide capital outlay funds to the lab school at one-fifteenth~~
 352 ~~of the cost per student station.~~

353 Section 4. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (6) and
 354 subsections (17) and (19) of section 1002.33, Florida Statutes,
 355 are amended to read:

356 1002.33 Charter schools.—

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

359 (b) A sponsor shall receive and review all applications
 360 for a charter school using the evaluation instrument developed
 361 by the Department of Education. A sponsor shall receive and
 362 consider charter school applications for charter schools to be
 363 opened at a time determined by the applicant. A sponsor may not
 364 charge an applicant for a charter any fee for the processing or
 365 consideration of an application, and a sponsor may not base its
 366 consideration or approval of a final application upon the
 367 promise of future payment of any kind. Before approving or
 368 denying any application, the sponsor shall allow the applicant,
 369 upon receipt of written notification, at least 7 calendar days
 370 to make technical or nonsubstantive corrections and
 371 clarifications, including, but not limited to, corrections of
 372 grammatical, typographical, and like errors or missing
 373 signatures, if such errors are identified by the sponsor as
 374 cause to deny the final application.

375 ~~1. In order to facilitate an accurate budget projection~~

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

384 1.2. In order to ensure fiscal responsibility, an
385 application for a charter school shall include a full accounting
386 of expected assets, a projection of expected sources and amounts
387 of income, including income derived from projected student
388 enrollments and from community support, and an expense
389 projection that includes full accounting of the costs of
390 operation, including start-up costs.

391 2.a.3.a. A sponsor shall by a majority vote approve or
392 deny an application no later than 90 calendar days after the
393 application is received, unless the sponsor and the applicant
394 mutually agree in writing to temporarily postpone the vote to a
395 specific date, at which time the sponsor shall by a majority
396 vote approve or deny the application. If the sponsor fails to
397 act on the application, an applicant may appeal to the State
398 Board of Education as provided in paragraph (c). If an
399 application is denied, the sponsor shall, within 10 calendar
400 days after such denial, articulate in writing the specific

401 reasons, based upon good cause, supporting its denial of the
 402 application and shall provide the letter of denial and
 403 supporting documentation to the applicant and to the Department
 404 of Education.

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

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

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

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

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

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

426
427 Material noncompliance is a failure to follow requirements or a
428 violation of prohibitions applicable to charter school
429 applications, which failure is quantitatively or qualitatively
430 significant either individually or when aggregated with other
431 noncompliance. An applicant is considered to be replicating a
432 high-performing charter school if the proposed school is
433 substantially similar to at least one of the applicant's high-
434 performing charter schools and the organization or individuals
435 involved in the establishment and operation of the proposed
436 school are significantly involved in the operation of replicated
437 schools.

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

447 ~~3.4.~~ For budget projection purposes, the sponsor shall
448 report to the Department of Education the approval or denial of
449 an application within 10 calendar days after such approval or
450 denial. In the event of approval, the report to the Department

451 of Education shall include the final projected FTE for the
452 approved charter school.

453 ~~4.5.~~ A charter school may defer the opening of the
454 school's operations for up to 3 years to provide time for
455 adequate facility planning. The charter school must provide
456 written notice of such intent to the sponsor and the parents of
457 enrolled students at least 30 calendar days before the first day
458 of school.

459 (c)1. An applicant may appeal any denial of that
460 applicant's application or failure to act on an application to
461 the State Board of Education no later than 30 calendar days
462 after receipt of the sponsor's decision or failure to act and
463 shall notify the sponsor of its appeal. Any response of the
464 sponsor shall be submitted to the State Board of Education
465 within 30 calendar days after notification of the appeal. Upon
466 receipt of notification from the State Board of Education that a
467 charter school applicant is filing an appeal, the Commissioner
468 of Education shall convene a meeting of the Charter School
469 Appeal Commission to study and make recommendations to the State
470 Board of Education regarding its pending decision about the
471 appeal. The commission shall forward its recommendation to the
472 state board at least 7 calendar days before the date on which
473 the appeal is to be heard.

474 2. The Charter School Appeal Commission may reject an
475 appeal submission for failure to comply with procedural rules

476 governing the appeals process. The rejection shall describe the
477 submission errors. The appellant shall have 15 calendar days
478 after notice of rejection in which to resubmit an appeal that
479 meets the requirements set forth in State Board of Education
480 rule. An appeal submitted subsequent to such rejection is
481 considered timely if the original appeal was filed within 30
482 calendar days after receipt of notice of the specific reasons
483 for the sponsor's denial of the charter application.

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

493 b. If an appeal concerns an application submitted by a
494 high-performing charter school identified pursuant to s.
495 1002.331 or a high-performing charter school system identified
496 pursuant to s. 1002.332, the State Board of Education shall
497 determine whether the sponsor's denial was in accordance with
498 sub-subparagraph (b) 2.b. ~~(b) 3.b.~~

499 (17) FUNDING.—Students enrolled in a charter school,
500 regardless of the sponsorship, shall be funded based upon the

501 applicable program pursuant to s. 1011.62(1)(c) ~~as if they are~~
502 ~~in a basic program or a special program~~, the same as students
503 enrolled in other public schools in a school district. Funding
504 for a charter lab school shall be as provided in s. 1002.32.

505 (a) Each charter school shall report its full-time
506 equivalent student membership enrollment to the sponsor as
507 required in s. 1011.62(1)(a) ~~s. 1011.62~~ and in accordance with
508 the definitions in s. 1011.61. The sponsor shall include each
509 charter school's full-time equivalent student membership
510 enrollment in the sponsor's full-time equivalent student
511 membership report to the Department of Education ~~of student~~
512 enrollment. All charter schools submitting full-time equivalent
513 student membership record information required by the department
514 ~~of Education~~ shall comply with the department's ~~Department of~~
515 ~~Education's~~ guidelines for electronic data formats for such
516 data, and all sponsors shall accept electronic data that
517 complies with the department's ~~Department of Education's~~
518 electronic format.

519 (b)1. ~~The basis for the agreement for~~ Funding students
520 enrolled in a charter school sponsored by a school district
521 shall be the sum of the school district's operating funds from
522 the Florida Education Finance Program as defined ~~provided~~ in s.
523 1011.61(5) ~~s. 1011.62~~ and the General Appropriations Act,
524 including gross state and local funds, ~~discretionary lottery~~
525 ~~funds~~, and funds from the school district's current operating

526 discretionary millage levy; divided by total funded weighted
 527 full-time equivalent students in the school district; and
 528 multiplied by the weighted full-time equivalent students for the
 529 charter school. Charter schools whose students or programs meet
 530 the eligibility criteria in law are entitled to their
 531 proportionate share of categorical program funds included in the
 532 total funds available in the Florida Education Finance Program
 533 by the Legislature, including the student transportation
 534 allocation,~~7~~ and the educational enrichment ~~evidence-based~~
 535 ~~reading~~ allocation. Total funding for each charter school shall
 536 be recalculated during the year to reflect the revised
 537 calculations under the Florida Education Finance Program by the
 538 state and the actual weighted full-time equivalent students
 539 reported by the charter school during the full-time equivalent
 540 student survey periods designated by the Commissioner of
 541 Education. For charter schools operated by a not-for-profit or
 542 municipal entity, any unrestricted current and capital assets
 543 identified in the charter school's annual financial audit may be
 544 used for other charter schools operated by the not-for-profit or
 545 municipal entity within the school district. For charter schools
 546 operated by a not-for-profit entity, any unrestricted current or
 547 capital assets identified in the charter school's annual audit
 548 may be used for other charter schools operated by the not-for-
 549 profit entity which are located outside of the originating
 550 charter school's school district, but within the state, through

551 an unforgivable loan that must be repaid within 5 years to the
552 originating charter school by the receiving charter school.
553 Unrestricted current assets shall be used in accordance with s.
554 1011.62, and any unrestricted capital assets shall be used in
555 accordance with s. 1013.62(2).

556 2.a. Funding for students enrolled in a charter school
557 sponsored by a state university or Florida College System
558 institution pursuant to paragraph (5) (a) shall be provided in
559 ~~funded as if they are in a basic program or a special program in~~
560 ~~the school district. The basis for funding these students is the~~
561 ~~sum of the total operating funds from~~ the Florida Education
562 Finance Program ~~for the school district in which the school is~~
563 ~~located~~ as defined ~~provided~~ in s. 1011.61(5) ~~s. 1011.62~~ and as
564 specified in the General Appropriations Act. The calculation to
565 determine the amount of state funds includes the sum of the
566 basic amount for current operations established in s.
567 1011.62(1)(s), the discretionary millage compression supplement
568 established in s. 1011.62(5), and the state-funded discretionary
569 contribution established in s. 1011.62(6). Charter schools whose
570 students or programs meet the eligibility criteria in law are
571 entitled to their proportionate share of categorical program
572 funds included in the total funds available in the Florida
573 Education Finance Program. The Florida College System
574 institution or state university sponsoring the charter school
575 shall be the fiscal agent for these funds, and all rules of the

576 institution governing the budgeting and expenditure of state
577 funds shall apply to these funds unless otherwise provided by
578 law or rule of the State Board of Education.

579 (I) The nonvoted required local millage established
580 pursuant to s. 1011.71(1) that would otherwise be required for
581 the charter schools shall be allocated from state funds.

582 (II) An equivalent amount of funds for the operating
583 discretionary millage authorized pursuant to s. 1011.71(1) shall
584 be allocated to each charter school through a state-funded
585 discretionary contribution established pursuant to s.
586 1011.62(6).

587 (III) The comparable wage factor as provided in s.
588 1011.62(2) shall be established as 1.000.

589 b. Total funding for each charter school shall be
590 recalculated during the year to reflect the revised calculations
591 under the Florida Education Finance Program by the state and the
592 actual weighted full-time equivalent students reported by the
593 charter school during the full-time equivalent student survey
594 periods designated by the Commissioner of Education., ~~including~~
595 ~~gross state and local funds, discretionary lottery funds, and~~
596 ~~funds from each school district's current operating~~
597 ~~discretionary millage levy, divided by total funded weighted~~
598 ~~full-time equivalent students in the district, and multiplied by~~
599 ~~the full-time equivalent membership of the charter school.~~

600 c. The Department of Education shall develop a tool that

601 each state university or Florida College System institution
602 sponsoring a charter school shall use for purposes of
603 calculating the funding amount for each eligible charter school
604 student. The total amount obtained from the calculation must be
605 appropriated from state funds in the General Appropriations Act
606 to the charter school.

607 ~~d.b.~~ Capital outlay funding for a charter school sponsored
608 by a state university or Florida College System institution
609 pursuant to paragraph (5) (a) is determined as follows: multiply
610 the maximum allowable nonvoted discretionary millage under s.
611 1011.71(2) by 96 percent of the current year's taxable value for
612 school purposes for the district in which the charter school is
613 located; divide the result by the total full-time equivalent
614 student membership; and multiply the result by the full-time
615 equivalent student membership of the charter school. The amount
616 obtained shall be the discretionary capital improvement funds
617 and shall be appropriated from state funds in pursuant to s.
618 ~~1013.62~~ and the General Appropriations Act.

619 (c) Pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 8061 s. 10306, all charter
620 schools shall receive all federal funding for which the school
621 is otherwise eligible, including Title I funding, not later than
622 5 months after the charter school first opens and within 5
623 months after any subsequent expansion of enrollment. Unless
624 otherwise mutually agreed to by the charter school and its
625 sponsor, and consistent with state and federal rules and

626 regulations governing the use and disbursement of federal funds,
627 the sponsor shall reimburse the charter school on a monthly
628 basis for all invoices submitted by the charter school for
629 federal funds available to the sponsor for the benefit of the
630 charter school, the charter school's students, and the charter
631 school's students as public school students in the school
632 district. Such federal funds include, but are not limited to,
633 Title I, Title II, and Individuals with Disabilities Education
634 Act (IDEA) funds. To receive timely reimbursement for an
635 invoice, the charter school must submit the invoice to the
636 sponsor at least 30 days before the monthly date of
637 reimbursement set by the sponsor. In order to be reimbursed, any
638 expenditures made by the charter school must comply with all
639 applicable state rules and federal regulations, including, but
640 not limited to, the applicable federal Office of Management and
641 Budget Circulars; the federal Education Department General
642 Administrative Regulations; and program-specific statutes,
643 rules, and regulations. Such funds may not be made available to
644 the charter school until a plan is submitted to the sponsor for
645 approval of the use of the funds in accordance with applicable
646 federal requirements. The sponsor has 30 days to review and
647 approve any plan submitted pursuant to this paragraph.

648 (d) Charter schools shall be included by the Department of
649 Education and the district school board in requests for federal
650 stimulus funds in the same manner as district school board-

651 operated public schools, including Title I and IDEA funds and
652 shall be entitled to receive such funds. Charter schools are
653 eligible to participate in federal competitive grants that are
654 available as part of the federal stimulus funds.

655 (e) Sponsors shall make timely and efficient payment and
656 reimbursement to charter schools, including processing paperwork
657 required to access special state and federal funding for which
658 they may be eligible, including the timely review and
659 reimbursement of federal grant funds. Payments of funds under
660 paragraph (b) shall be made monthly or twice a month, beginning
661 with the start of the sponsor's fiscal year. Each payment shall
662 be one-twelfth, or one twenty-fourth, as applicable, of the
663 total state and local funds described in paragraph (b) and
664 adjusted as set forth therein. For the first 2 years of a
665 charter school's operation, if a minimum of 75 percent of the
666 projected enrollment is entered into the sponsor's student
667 information system by the first day of the current month, the
668 sponsor shall distribute funds to the school for the months of
669 July through October based on the projected full-time equivalent
670 student membership of the charter school as submitted in the
671 approved application. If less than 75 percent of the projected
672 enrollment is entered into the sponsor's student information
673 system by the first day of the current month, the sponsor shall
674 base payments on the actual number of student enrollment entered
675 into the sponsor's student information system. Thereafter, the

676 results of full-time equivalent student membership surveys shall
677 be used in adjusting the amount of funds distributed monthly to
678 the charter school for the remainder of the fiscal year. The
679 payments shall be issued no later than 10 working days after the
680 sponsor receives a distribution of state or federal funds or the
681 date the payment is due pursuant to this subsection. With
682 respect to federal grant funds submitted for reimbursement, the
683 sponsor shall have 60 calendar days from the date of the
684 submission to reimburse the charter school if the submission
685 provides all the necessary information to qualify for
686 reimbursement. If a warrant for payment is not issued within 10
687 working days after receipt of funding by the sponsor or within
688 60 calendar days after an approved submittal for reimbursement
689 of federal grant funds, the sponsor shall pay to the charter
690 school, in addition to the amount of the scheduled disbursement,
691 interest at a rate of 1 percent per month calculated on a daily
692 basis on the unpaid balance from the expiration of the 10
693 working days or 60 calendar days for the reimbursement of
694 federal grant funds, until such time as the warrant is issued.
695 The district school board may not delay payment to a charter
696 school of any portion of the funds provided in paragraph (b)
697 based on the timing of receipt of local funds by the district
698 school board.

699 (f) Funding for a virtual charter school shall be as
700 provided in s. 1002.45(6).

701 (g) To be eligible for public education capital outlay
702 (PECO) funds, a charter school must be located in the State of
703 Florida.

704 (h) A charter school that implements a schoolwide standard
705 student attire policy pursuant to s. 1011.78 is eligible to
706 receive incentive payments.

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

714 Section 5. Subsection (5) is added to section 1002.391,
715 Florida Statutes, to read:

716 1002.391 Auditory-oral education programs.—

717 (5) As authorized by and consistent with funding
718 appropriated in the General Appropriations Act, the Bridge to
719 Speech Program is created to fund auditory-oral education
720 programs required at schools pursuant to this section. Funds
721 shall be provided at the level of the published tuition rates up
722 to the funds available as provided in the General Appropriations
723 Act. The Department of Education must award these funds to
724 eligible recipients no later than September 1 of each year, with
725 subsequent payments monthly thereafter.

726 Section 6. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4), paragraph (a)
 727 of subsection (10), and paragraph (a) of subsection (12) of
 728 section 1002.394, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
 729 1002.394 The Family Empowerment Scholarship Program.—
 730 (4) AUTHORIZED USES OF PROGRAM FUNDS.—
 731 (a) Program funds awarded to a student determined eligible
 732 pursuant to paragraph (3) (a) may be used for:
 733 1. Tuition and fees at an eligible private school.
 734 ~~2. Transportation to a Florida public school in which a~~
 735 ~~student is enrolled and that is different from the school to~~
 736 ~~which the student was assigned or to a lab school as defined in~~
 737 ~~s. 1002.32.~~
 738 2.3. Instructional materials, including digital materials
 739 and Internet resources.
 740 3.4. Curriculum as defined in subsection (2).
 741 4.5. Tuition and fees associated with full-time or part-
 742 time enrollment in an eligible postsecondary educational
 743 institution or a program offered by the postsecondary
 744 educational institution, unless the program is subject to s.
 745 1009.25 or reimbursed pursuant to s. 1009.30; an approved
 746 preapprenticeship program as defined in s. 446.021(5) which is
 747 not subject to s. 1009.25 and complies with all applicable
 748 requirements of the department pursuant to chapter 1005; a
 749 private tutoring program authorized under s. 1002.43; a virtual
 750 program offered by a department-approved private online provider

751 that meets the provider qualifications specified in s.
752 1002.45(2)(a); the Florida Virtual School as a private paying
753 student; or an approved online course offered pursuant to s.
754 1003.499 or s. 1004.0961.

755 ~~5.6.~~ Fees for nationally standardized, norm-referenced
756 achievement tests, Advanced Placement Examinations, industry
757 certification examinations, assessments related to postsecondary
758 education, or other assessments.

759 ~~6.7.~~ Contracted services provided by a public school or
760 school district, including classes. A student who receives
761 contracted services under this subparagraph is not considered
762 enrolled in a public school for eligibility purposes as
763 specified in subsection (6) but rather attending a public school
764 on a part-time basis as authorized under s. 1002.44.

765 ~~7.8.~~ Tuition and fees for part-time tutoring services or
766 fees for services provided by a choice navigator. Such services
767 must be provided by a person who holds a valid Florida
768 educator's certificate pursuant to s. 1012.56, a person who
769 holds an adjunct teaching certificate pursuant to s. 1012.57, a
770 person who has a bachelor's degree or a graduate degree in the
771 subject area in which instruction is given, a person who has
772 demonstrated a mastery of subject area knowledge pursuant to s.
773 1012.56(5), or a person certified by a nationally or
774 internationally recognized research-based training program as
775 approved by the department. As used in this subparagraph, the

776 term "part-time tutoring services" does not qualify as regular
777 school attendance as defined in s. 1003.01(16)(e).

778 (10) PARENT AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PROGRAM
779 PARTICIPATION.—

780 (a) A parent who applies for program participation under
781 paragraph (3)(a) whose student will be enrolled full time in a
782 private school must:

783 1. Select the private school and apply for the admission
784 of his or her student.

785 2. Request the scholarship by a date established by the
786 organization, in a manner that creates a written or electronic
787 record of the request and the date of receipt of the request.

788 3. Inform the applicable school district when the parent
789 withdraws his or her student from a public school to attend an
790 eligible private school.

791 4. Require his or her student participating in the program
792 to remain in attendance throughout the school year unless
793 excused by the school for illness or other good cause.

794 5. Meet with the private school's principal or the
795 principal's designee to review the school's academic programs
796 and policies, specialized services, code of student conduct, and
797 attendance policies before enrollment.

798 6. Require that the student participating in the
799 scholarship program takes the norm-referenced assessment offered
800 by the private school. The parent may also choose to have the

801 student participate in the statewide assessments pursuant to
802 paragraph (7)(d). If the parent requests that the student
803 participating in the program take all statewide assessments
804 required pursuant to s. 1008.22, the parent is responsible for
805 transporting the student to the assessment site designated by
806 the school district.

807 7. Approve each payment before the scholarship funds may
808 be deposited by funds transfer pursuant to subparagraph
809 (12) (a) 3. ~~(12) (a) 4.~~ The parent may not designate any entity or
810 individual associated with the participating private school as
811 the parent's attorney in fact to approve a funds transfer. A
812 participant who fails to comply with this paragraph forfeits the
813 scholarship.

814 8. Agree to have the organization commit scholarship funds
815 on behalf of his or her student for tuition and fees for which
816 the parent is responsible for payment at the private school
817 before using empowerment account funds for additional authorized
818 uses under paragraph (4)(a). A parent is responsible for all
819 eligible expenses in excess of the amount of the scholarship.

820 (12) SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING AND PAYMENT.—

821 (a)1. Scholarships for students determined eligible
822 pursuant to paragraph (3)(a) may be funded once all scholarships
823 have been funded in accordance with s. 1002.395(6)(1)2. The
824 calculated scholarship amount for a participating student
825 determined eligible pursuant to paragraph (3)(a) shall be based

826 upon the grade level and school district in which the student
827 was assigned as 100 percent of the funds per unweighted full-
828 time equivalent in the Florida Education Finance Program for a
829 student in the basic program established pursuant to s.
830 1011.62(1)(c)1., plus a per-full-time equivalent share of funds
831 for the categorical programs established in s. 1011.62(5),
832 (7)(a), and (16), as funded in the General Appropriations Act.

833 ~~2. A scholarship of \$750 or an amount equal to the school-~~
834 ~~district expenditure per student riding a school bus, as~~
835 ~~determined by the department, whichever is greater, may be~~
836 ~~awarded to an eligible student who is enrolled in a Florida~~
837 ~~public school that is different from the school to which the~~
838 ~~student was assigned or in a lab school as defined in s. 1002.32~~
839 ~~if the school district does not provide the student with~~
840 ~~transportation to the school.~~

841 2.3. The organization must provide the department with the
842 documentation necessary to verify the student's participation.
843 Upon receiving the documentation, the department shall transfer,
844 beginning August 1, from state funds only, the amount calculated
845 pursuant to subparagraph 1. 2. to the organization for quarterly
846 disbursement to parents of participating students each school
847 year in which the scholarship is in force. For a student exiting
848 a Department of Juvenile Justice commitment program who chooses
849 to participate in the scholarship program, the amount of the
850 Family Empowerment Scholarship calculated pursuant to

851 subparagraph 1. ~~2.~~ must be transferred from the school district
852 in which the student last attended a public school before
853 commitment to the Department of Juvenile Justice. When a student
854 enters the scholarship program, the organization must receive
855 all documentation required for the student's participation,
856 including the private school's and the student's fee schedules,
857 at least 30 days before the first quarterly scholarship payment
858 is made for the student.

859 ~~3.4.~~ The initial payment shall be made after the
860 organization's verification of admission acceptance, and
861 subsequent payments shall be made upon verification of continued
862 enrollment and attendance at the private school. Payment must be
863 by funds transfer or any other means of payment that the
864 department deems to be commercially viable or cost-effective. An
865 organization shall ensure that the parent has approved a funds
866 transfer before any scholarship funds are deposited.

867 ~~4.5.~~ An organization may not transfer any funds to an
868 account of a student determined eligible pursuant to paragraph
869 (3)(a) which has a balance in excess of \$24,000.

870 Section 7. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2), paragraphs (d)
871 and (1) of subsection (6), and paragraph (a) of subsection (11)
872 of section 1002.395, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

873 1002.395 Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program.—

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

875 (b) "Choice navigator" means an individual who meets the

876 requirements of sub-subparagraph (6) (d) 2.g. ~~(6) (d) 2.h.~~ and who
877 provides consultations, at a mutually agreed upon location, on
878 the selection of, application for, and enrollment in educational
879 options addressing the academic needs of a student; curriculum
880 selection; and advice on career and postsecondary education
881 opportunities. However, nothing in this section authorizes a
882 choice navigator to oversee or exercise control over the
883 curricula or academic programs of a personalized education
884 program.

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

888 (d)1. For the 2023-2024 school year, may fund no more than
889 20,000 scholarships for students who are enrolled pursuant to
890 paragraph (7) (b). The number of scholarships funded for such
891 students may increase by 40,000 in each subsequent school year.
892 This subparagraph is repealed July 1, 2027.

893 2. Must establish and maintain separate empowerment
894 accounts from eligible contributions for each eligible student.
895 For each account, the organization must maintain a record of
896 accrued interest retained in the student's account. The
897 organization must verify that scholarship funds are used for:

898 a. Tuition and fees for full-time or part-time enrollment
899 in an eligible private school.

900 ~~b. Transportation to a Florida public school in which a~~

901 ~~student is enrolled and that is different from the school to~~
902 ~~which the student was assigned or to a lab school as defined in~~
903 ~~s. 1002.32.~~

904 b.e. Instructional materials, including digital materials
905 and Internet resources.

906 c.d. Curriculum as defined in s. 1002.394(2).

907 d.e. Tuition and fees associated with full-time or part-
908 time enrollment in a home education instructional program; an
909 eligible postsecondary educational institution or a program
910 offered by the postsecondary educational institution, unless the
911 program is subject to s. 1009.25 or reimbursed pursuant to s.
912 1009.30; an approved preapprenticeship program as defined in s.
913 446.021(5) which is not subject to s. 1009.25 and complies with
914 all applicable requirements of the Department of Education
915 pursuant to chapter 1005; a private tutoring program authorized
916 under s. 1002.43; a virtual program offered by a department-
917 approved private online provider that meets the provider
918 qualifications specified in s. 1002.45(2)(a); the Florida
919 Virtual School as a private paying student; or an approved
920 online course offered pursuant to s. 1003.499 or s. 1004.0961.

921 e.f. Fees for nationally standardized, norm-referenced
922 achievement tests, Advanced Placement Examinations, industry
923 certification examinations, assessments related to postsecondary
924 education, or other assessments.

925 f.g. Contracted services provided by a public school or

926 school district, including classes. A student who receives
927 contracted services under this sub-subparagraph is not
928 considered enrolled in a public school for eligibility purposes
929 as specified in subsection (11) but rather attending a public
930 school on a part-time basis as authorized under s. 1002.44.

931 ~~g.h.~~ Tuition and fees for part-time tutoring services or
932 fees for services provided by a choice navigator. Such services
933 must be provided by a person who holds a valid Florida
934 educator's certificate pursuant to s. 1012.56, a person who
935 holds an adjunct teaching certificate pursuant to s. 1012.57, a
936 person who has a bachelor's degree or a graduate degree in the
937 subject area in which instruction is given, a person who has
938 demonstrated a mastery of subject area knowledge pursuant to s.
939 1012.56(5), or a person certified by a nationally or
940 internationally recognized research-based training program as
941 approved by the Department of Education. As used in this
942 paragraph, the term "part-time tutoring services" does not
943 qualify as regular school attendance as defined in s.
944 1003.01(16)(e).

945 (l)1. May use eligible contributions received pursuant to
946 this section and ss. 212.099, 212.1832, and 1002.40 during the
947 state fiscal year in which such contributions are collected for
948 administrative expenses if the organization has operated as an
949 eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization for at least
950 the preceding 3 fiscal years and did not have any findings of

951 material weakness or material noncompliance in its most recent
952 audit under paragraph (o) or is in good standing in each state
953 in which it administers a scholarship program and the audited
954 financial statements for the preceding 3 fiscal years are free
955 of material misstatements and going concern issues.

956 Administrative expenses from eligible contributions may not
957 exceed 3 percent of the total amount of all scholarships and
958 stipends funded by an eligible scholarship-funding organization
959 under this chapter. Such administrative expenses must be
960 reasonable and necessary for the organization's management and
961 distribution of scholarships funded under this chapter.

962 Administrative expenses may include developing or contracting
963 with rideshare programs or facilitating carpool strategies for
964 recipients of a transportation scholarship. No funds authorized
965 under this subparagraph shall be used for lobbying or political
966 activity or expenses related to lobbying or political activity.
967 Up to one-third of the funds authorized for administrative
968 expenses under this subparagraph may be used for expenses
969 related to the recruitment of contributions from taxpayers. An
970 eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization may not
971 charge an application fee.

972 2. Must award for annual or partial-year scholarships an
973 amount equal to or greater than 75 percent of all estimated net
974 eligible contributions, as defined in subsection (2), and all
975 funds carried forward from the prior state fiscal year remaining

976 after administrative expenses before funding any scholarships to
977 students determined eligible pursuant to s. 1002.394(3)(a). No
978 more than 25 percent of such net eligible contributions may be
979 carried forward to the following state fiscal year. All amounts
980 carried forward, for audit purposes, must be specifically
981 identified for particular students, by student name and the name
982 of the school to which the student is admitted, subject to the
983 requirements of ss. 1002.22 and 1002.221 and 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g,
984 and the applicable rules and regulations issued pursuant
985 thereto. Any amounts carried forward shall be expended for
986 annual or partial-year scholarships in the following state
987 fiscal year. No later than September 30 of each year, net
988 eligible contributions remaining on June 30 of each year that
989 are in excess of the 25 percent that may be carried forward
990 shall be used to provide scholarships to eligible students or
991 transferred to other eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding
992 organizations to provide scholarships for eligible students. All
993 transferred funds must be deposited by each eligible nonprofit
994 scholarship-funding organization receiving such funds into its
995 scholarship account. All transferred amounts received by any
996 eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization must be
997 separately disclosed in the annual financial audit required
998 under paragraph (o).

999 3. Must, before granting a scholarship for an academic
1000 year, document each scholarship student's eligibility for that

1001 academic year. A scholarship-funding organization may not grant
 1002 multiyear scholarships in one approval process.

1003
 1004 Information and documentation provided to the Department of
 1005 Education and the Auditor General relating to the identity of a
 1006 taxpayer that provides an eligible contribution under this
 1007 section shall remain confidential at all times in accordance
 1008 with s. 213.053.

1009 (11) SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT AND PAYMENT.—

1010 (a) The scholarship amount provided to any student for any
 1011 single school year by an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding
 1012 organization from eligible contributions shall be for total
 1013 costs authorized under paragraph (6)(d), not to exceed annual
 1014 limits, which shall be determined as follows:

1015 1. For a student who received a scholarship in the 2018-
 1016 2019 school year, who remains eligible, and who is enrolled in
 1017 an eligible private school, the amount shall be the greater
 1018 amount calculated pursuant to subparagraph 2. or a percentage of
 1019 the unweighted FTE funding amount for the 2018-2019 state fiscal
 1020 year and thereafter as follows:

1021 a. Eighty-eight percent for a student enrolled in
 1022 kindergarten through grade 5.

1023 b. Ninety-two percent for a student enrolled in grade 6
 1024 through grade 8.

1025 c. Ninety-six percent for a student enrolled in grade 9

1026 through grade 12.

1027 2. For students initially eligible in the 2019-2020 school
 1028 year or thereafter, the calculated amount for a student to
 1029 attend an eligible private school shall be calculated in
 1030 accordance with s. 1002.394(12)(a).

1031 ~~3. The scholarship amount awarded to a student enrolled in
 1032 a Florida public school that is different from the school to
 1033 which the student was assigned, or in a lab school as defined in
 1034 s. 1002.32, must be an amount equal to the school district
 1035 expenditure per student riding a school bus, as determined by
 1036 the department, or \$750, whichever is greater.~~

1037 Section 8. Upon the expiration and reversion of the
 1038 amendments made to section 1002.68, Florida Statutes, pursuant
 1039 to section 6 of chapter 2023-240, Laws of Florida, paragraphs
 1040 (a) and (f) of subsection (4) of section 1002.68, Florida
 1041 Statutes, are amended, and subsection (5) and paragraph (e) of
 1042 subsection (6) of that section are republished, to read:

1043 1002.68 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
 1044 accountability.—

1045 (4)(a) Beginning with the 2023-2024 ~~2022-2023~~ program
 1046 year, the department shall adopt a methodology for calculating
 1047 each private prekindergarten provider's and public school
 1048 provider's performance metric, which must be based on a
 1049 combination of the following:

1050 1. Program assessment composite scores under subsection

1051 (2), which must be weighted at no less than 50 percent.

1052 2. Learning gains operationalized as change-in-ability
1053 scores from the initial and final progress monitoring results
1054 described in subsection (1).

1055 3. Norm-referenced developmental learning outcomes
1056 described in subsection (1).

1057 (f) The department shall adopt procedures to annually
1058 calculate each private prekindergarten provider's and public
1059 school's performance metric, based on the methodology adopted in
1060 paragraphs (a) and (b), and assign a designation under paragraph
1061 (d). Beginning with the 2024-2025 ~~2023-2024~~ program year, each
1062 private prekindergarten provider or public school shall be
1063 assigned a designation within 45 days after the conclusion of
1064 the school-year Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
1065 delivered by all participating private prekindergarten providers
1066 or public schools and within 45 days after the conclusion of the
1067 summer Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program delivered by
1068 all participating private prekindergarten providers or public
1069 schools.

1070 (5)(a) If a public school's or private prekindergarten
1071 provider's program assessment composite score for its
1072 prekindergarten classrooms fails to meet the minimum program
1073 assessment composite score for contracting adopted in rule by
1074 the department, the private prekindergarten provider or public
1075 school may not participate in the Voluntary Prekindergarten

1076 Education Program beginning in the consecutive program year and
1077 thereafter until the public school or private prekindergarten
1078 provider meets the minimum composite score for contracting. A
1079 public school or private prekindergarten provider may request
1080 one program assessment per program year in order to requalify
1081 for participation in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
1082 Program, provided that the public school or private
1083 prekindergarten provider is not excluded from participation
1084 under ss. 1002.55(6), 1002.61(10)(b), 1002.63(9)(b), or
1085 paragraph (5)(b) of this section. If a public school or private
1086 prekindergarten provider would like an additional program
1087 assessment completed within the same program year, the public
1088 school or private prekindergarten provider shall be responsible
1089 for the cost of the program assessment.

1090 (b) If a private prekindergarten provider's or public
1091 school's performance metric or designation falls below the
1092 minimum performance metric or designation, the early learning
1093 coalition shall:

1094 1. Require the provider or school to submit for approval
1095 to the early learning coalition an improvement plan and
1096 implement the plan.

1097 2. Place the provider or school on probation.

1098 3. Require the provider or school to take certain
1099 corrective actions, including the use of a curriculum approved
1100 by the department under s. 1002.67(2)(c) and a staff development

1101 plan approved by the department to strengthen instructional
1102 practices in emotional support, classroom organization,
1103 instructional support, language development, phonological
1104 awareness, alphabet knowledge, and mathematical thinking.

1105 (c) A private prekindergarten provider or public school
1106 that is placed on probation must continue the corrective actions
1107 required under paragraph (b) until the provider or school meets
1108 the minimum performance metric or designation adopted by the
1109 department. Failure to meet the requirements of subparagraphs
1110 (b)1. and 3. shall result in the termination of the provider's
1111 or school's contract to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten
1112 Education Program for a period of at least 2 years but no more
1113 than 5 years.

1114 (d) If a private prekindergarten provider or public school
1115 remains on probation for 2 consecutive years and fails to meet
1116 the minimum performance metric or designation, or is not granted
1117 a good cause exemption by the department, the department shall
1118 require the early learning coalition to revoke the provider's
1119 eligibility and the school district to revoke the school's
1120 eligibility to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
1121 Program and receive state funds for the program for a period of
1122 at least 2 years but no more than 5 years.

1123 (6)

1124 (e) A private prekindergarten provider or public school
1125 granted a good cause exemption shall continue to implement its

1126 improvement plan and continue the corrective actions required
 1127 under paragraph (5)(b) until the provider or school meets the
 1128 minimum performance metric.

1129 Section 9. Subsection (7) of section 1002.71, Florida
 1130 Statutes, is amended to read:

1131 1002.71 Funding; financial and attendance reporting.—

1132 (7) The department shall require that administrative
 1133 expenditures be kept to the minimum necessary for efficient and
 1134 effective administration of the Voluntary Prekindergarten
 1135 Education Program. Administrative policies and procedures shall
 1136 be revised, to the maximum extent practicable, to incorporate
 1137 the use of automation and electronic submission of forms,
 1138 including those required for child eligibility and enrollment,
 1139 provider and class registration, and monthly certification of
 1140 attendance for payment. A school district may use its automated
 1141 daily attendance reporting system for the purpose of
 1142 transmitting attendance records to the early learning coalition
 1143 in a mutually agreed-upon format. In addition, actions shall be
 1144 taken to reduce paperwork, eliminate the duplication of reports,
 1145 and eliminate other duplicative activities. Each early learning
 1146 coalition may retain and expend no more than 5.0 ~~4.0~~ percent of
 1147 the funds paid by the coalition to private prekindergarten
 1148 providers and public schools under paragraph (5)(b). Funds
 1149 retained by an early learning coalition under this subsection
 1150 may be used only for administering the Voluntary Prekindergarten

1151 Education Program and may not be used for the school readiness
 1152 program or other programs.

1153 Section 10. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section
 1154 1002.82, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsections (10) and
 1155 (11) are added to that section, to read:

1156 1002.82 Department of Education; powers and duties.—

1157 (2) The department shall:

1158 (d) Establish procedures for the annual calculation of the
 1159 prevailing market rate and procedures for the collection of data
 1160 to support the calculation of the cost data ~~of care~~ pursuant to
 1161 subsection (10) s. 1002.90.

1162 (10) The department shall establish procedures to annually
 1163 collect cost data. Such data must include, but are not limited
 1164 to:

1165 (a) Data from the Department of Commerce's Bureau of
 1166 Workforce Statistics and Economic Research on the average salary
 1167 for child care personnel, including, at a minimum, child care
 1168 instructors and child care directors.

1169 (b) Data from child care providers, including, at a
 1170 minimum, the average annual cost of materials and curriculum,
 1171 the average cost of any regulatory fees, the average annual cost
 1172 of salaries and benefits, and the average annual cost of all
 1173 other operational costs per child.

1174 (11) By November 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, the
 1175 department shall submit the following data to the Legislature:

- 1176 (a) The current fiscal year reimbursement rates, by
- 1177 county, by provider type, and by care level.
- 1178 (b) The cost data collected in subsection (10).
- 1179 (c) The market rate survey data collected pursuant to s.
- 1180 1002.895.
- 1181 (d) The narrow costs analysis data required by 45 C.F.R.
- 1182 s. 98.45.

1183 Section 11. Subsections (9) and (17) of section 1002.84,
 1184 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1185 1002.84 Early learning coalitions; school readiness powers
 1186 and duties.—Each early learning coalition shall:

1187 (9) Implement ~~Establish~~ a parent sliding fee scale, that
 1188 increases in relation to family income, as established in rule
 1189 by the State Board of Education that provides for the
 1190 calculation of a parent copayment at the time of the eligibility
 1191 determination and for an annual eligibility redetermination
 1192 thereafter ~~that is not a barrier to families receiving school~~
 1193 ~~readiness program services.~~ A coalition may waive the copayment
 1194 for an at-risk child or temporarily waive the copayment for a
 1195 child whose family's income is at or below the federal poverty
 1196 level or whose family experiences a natural disaster or an event
 1197 that limits the parent's ability to pay, such as incarceration,
 1198 placement in residential treatment, or becoming homeless, or an
 1199 emergency situation such as a household fire or burglary, or
 1200 while the parent is participating in parenting classes or

1201 participating in an Early Head Start program or Head Start
 1202 Program. A parent may not transfer school readiness program
 1203 services to another school readiness program provider until the
 1204 parent has submitted documentation from the current school
 1205 readiness program provider to the early learning coalition
 1206 stating that the parent has satisfactorily fulfilled the
 1207 copayment obligation.

1208 (17) (a) Distribute the school readiness program funds as
 1209 allocated in the General Appropriations Act to each ~~the~~ eligible
 1210 provider based upon the reimbursement rate by county, by
 1211 provider type, and by care level. All instructions to early
 1212 learning coalitions for distributing the school readiness
 1213 program funds to eligible providers shall emanate from the
 1214 department in accordance with the policies of the Legislature.
 1215 ~~providers using the following methodology:~~

1216 ~~1. For each county in the early learning coalition,~~
 1217 ~~multiply the cost of care by care level as provided in s.~~
 1218 ~~1002.90 by the county's comparable wage factor provided in s.~~
 1219 ~~1011.62(2).~~

1220 ~~2. If a county enacted a local ordinance before January 1,~~
 1221 ~~2022, that establishes the county's staff-to-children ratio for~~
 1222 ~~licensed child care facilities below the ratio established in s.~~
 1223 ~~402.305(4), multiply the provider reimbursement rates for that~~
 1224 ~~county by the adjustment factor specified in the General~~
 1225 ~~Appropriations Act.~~

1226 ~~3. Apply the weight established pursuant to s. 1002.90 for~~
 1227 ~~each provider type to calculate the minimum provider~~
 1228 ~~reimbursement rates by care level.~~

1229 ~~4. Multiply the weighted provider reimbursement rates by~~
 1230 ~~22 percent to determine the amount of the school readiness~~
 1231 ~~allocation an early learning coalition is eligible to retain~~
 1232 ~~pursuant to s. 1002.89(4).~~

1233 (b) ~~Distribute to each eligible provider the minimum~~
 1234 ~~provider reimbursement rate, by provider type and care level,~~
 1235 ~~regardless of the provider's private pay rate. All minimum~~
 1236 ~~provider reimbursement rates shall be charged as direct services~~
 1237 ~~pursuant to s. 1002.89.~~

1238
 1239 Each early learning coalition with approved prior year ~~minimum~~
 1240 ~~provider reimbursement rates for the infant to age 5 care levels~~
 1241 ~~that are higher than the minimum provider reimbursement rates~~
 1242 ~~established in this subsection may continue to implement its~~
 1243 ~~approved prior year minimum provider reimbursement rates until~~
 1244 ~~the rates established in this subsection exceed its prior year~~
 1245 ~~approved rates.~~

1246 Section 12. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
 1247 1002.89, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1248 1002.89 School readiness program; funding.—

1249 (1) DETERMINATION OF EARLY LEARNING COALITION SCHOOL
 1250 READINESS PROGRAM FUNDING.—Funding for the school readiness

1251 program shall be used by the early learning coalitions in
 1252 accordance with this part and the General Appropriations Act.

1253 (a) School readiness program allocation.—If the annual
 1254 allocation for the school readiness program is not determined in
 1255 the General Appropriations Act or the substantive bill
 1256 implementing the General Appropriations Act, it shall be
 1257 determined as follows:

1258 1. For each county in the early learning coalition, the
 1259 total number of unweighted full-time equivalent school readiness
 1260 children eligible population, as adopted by the Early Learning
 1261 Programs Estimating Conference pursuant to s. 216.136(8), shall
 1262 be multiplied by the appropriate care level factor to calculate
 1263 the weighted full-time equivalent school readiness children. For
 1264 purposes of this subparagraph, the term "care level factor"
 1265 means the adjustment made based on the relative differences in
 1266 reimbursement rates associated with the eligible school
 1267 readiness children pursuant to s. 1002.87 ~~county's comparable~~
 1268 ~~wage factor provided in s. 1011.62(2).~~

1269 2. The total weighted full-time equivalent school
 1270 readiness children shall be multiplied by the rate index to
 1271 calculate the adjusted weighted full-time equivalent school
 1272 readiness children. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term
 1273 "rate index" means the adjustment made based on the impact of
 1274 geographic location on reimbursement rates ~~If a county passed a~~
 1275 ~~local ordinance before January 1, 2022, that establishes the~~

1276 ~~county's staff-to-children ratio for licensed child care~~
 1277 ~~facilities below the ratio established in s. 402.305(4),~~
 1278 ~~multiply the product calculated in subparagraph 1. by the~~
 1279 ~~adjustment factor specified in the General Appropriations Act.~~

1280 3. The school readiness program funds shall be distributed
 1281 ~~Each county's school readiness allocation shall be based on each~~
 1282 ~~the county's proportionate share of the total adjusted weighted~~
 1283 ~~full-time equivalent school readiness children eligible school~~
 1284 ~~readiness population.~~

1285 Section 13. Subsections (8) and (9) of section 1002.895,
 1286 Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (6) and (7),
 1287 respectively, and subsections (1), (2), (3), (4), (6), and (7)
 1288 of that section are amended, to read:

1289 1002.895 Market rate schedule.—The school readiness
 1290 program market rate schedule shall be implemented as follows:

1291 (1) The department shall establish procedures for the
 1292 adoption of a market rate schedule. The schedule must include,
 1293 at a minimum, county-by-county rates and:

1294 ~~(a)~~ the market rate, to include ~~including~~ the minimum and
 1295 the maximum rates for child care providers that hold a Gold Seal
 1296 Quality Care designation under s. 1002.945 and adhere to its
 1297 accrediting association's teacher-to-child ratios and group size
 1298 requirements and.

1299 ~~(b)~~ ~~The market rate~~ for child care providers that do not
 1300 hold a Gold Seal Quality Care designation.

1301 (2) The market rate schedule must differentiate rates by
 1302 provider type, including, but not limited to:

1303 ~~(a) Child care providers that hold a Gold Seal Quality~~
 1304 ~~Care designation under s. 1002.945 and adhere to their~~
 1305 ~~accrediting association's teacher-to-child ratios and group size~~
 1306 ~~requirements.~~

1307 (a)~~(b)~~ Child care providers licensed under s. 402.305,
 1308 faith-based child care providers exempt from licensure under s.
 1309 402.316 ~~that do not hold a Gold Seal Quality Care designation,~~
 1310 and large family child care homes licensed under s. 402.3131
 1311 ~~that do not hold a Gold Seal Quality Care designation.~~

1312 (b)~~(e)~~ Public or nonpublic schools exempt from licensure
 1313 under s. 402.3025.

1314 (c)~~(d)~~ Family day care homes licensed or registered under
 1315 s. 402.313.

1316 ~~(e) Large family child care homes licensed under s.~~
 1317 ~~402.3131.~~

1318 (3) The market rate schedule must differentiate rates by
 1319 care level that includes ~~the type of child care services~~
 1320 ~~provided for children with special needs or risk categories,~~
 1321 infants, toddlers, 2-year-old children, 3-year-old children, 4-
 1322 year-old children, 5-year-old children, and school-age children.

1323 (4) The market rate schedule must differentiate rates
 1324 between full-time and part-time child care services ~~and consider~~
 1325 ~~discounted rates for child care services for multiple children~~

1326 ~~in a single family.~~

1327 ~~(6) The department shall establish procedures to annually~~
1328 ~~collect data regarding the cost of care to include, but not be~~
1329 ~~limited to:~~

1330 ~~(a) Data from the Department of Economic Opportunity's~~
1331 ~~Bureau of Workforce Statistics and Economic Research on the~~
1332 ~~average salary for child care personnel to include, at a~~
1333 ~~minimum, child care instructors and child care directors.~~

1334 ~~(b) Data from child care providers as part of data~~
1335 ~~collected under s. 1002.92(4) to include, at a minimum, the~~
1336 ~~average annual cost of materials and curriculum, the average~~
1337 ~~annual cost of food and maintenance costs, and the average~~
1338 ~~annual cost of any regulatory fees or operational costs per~~
1339 ~~child.~~

1340 ~~(7) The department shall provide all applicable data~~
1341 ~~collected in this section to the Early Learning Programs~~
1342 ~~Estimating Conference established pursuant to s. 216.136(8).~~

1343 Section 14. Section 1002.90, Florida Statutes, is
1344 repealed.

1345 Section 15. Paragraph (e) of subsection (4) of section
1346 1002.92, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1347 1002.92 Child care and early childhood resource and
1348 referral.—

1349 (4) A child care facility licensed under s. 402.305 and
1350 licensed and registered family day care homes must provide the

1351 statewide child care and resource and referral network with the
1352 following information annually:

1353 ~~(c) Data required under s. 1002.895.~~

1354 Section 16. Section 1003.4206, Florida Statutes, is
1355 created to read:

1356 1003.4206 Charity for Change program.—As authorized by and
1357 consistent with funding appropriated in the General
1358 Appropriations Act, the Charity for Change program is created to
1359 implement the character education standards required pursuant to
1360 s. 1003.42(2)(t). The program may use third-party providers to
1361 deliver after-school and summer services that empower students
1362 with an evidence-based curriculum that integrates character
1363 education, service learning, charitable and community
1364 engagement, and academics.

1365 Section 17. Section 1006.042, Florida Statutes, is created
1366 to read:

1367 1006.042 AMIkids, Inc., program.—As authorized by and
1368 consistent with funding appropriated in the General
1369 Appropriations Act, the AMIkids, Inc., program is created to
1370 provide alternatives to institutionalization or commitment for
1371 young men and women by providing services, including, but not
1372 limited to, education, behavior modification, skills
1373 development, mental health, workforce development, family
1374 functioning, and advocacy.

1375 Section 18. Paragraph (j) of subsection (7) of section

1376 1006.07, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1377 1006.07 District school board duties relating to student
1378 discipline and school safety.—The district school board shall
1379 provide for the proper accounting for all students, for the
1380 attendance and control of students at school, and for proper
1381 attention to health, safety, and other matters relating to the
1382 welfare of students, including:

1383 (7) THREAT MANAGEMENT TEAMS.—Each district school board
1384 and charter school governing board shall establish a threat
1385 management team at each school whose duties include the
1386 coordination of resources and assessment and intervention with
1387 students whose behavior may pose a threat to the safety of the
1388 school, school staff, or students.

1389 (j) Each district school board shall establish a threat
1390 management coordinator to serve as the primary point of contact
1391 regarding the district's coordination, communication, and
1392 implementation of the threat management program and to team
1393 ~~shall report quantitative data on its activities~~ to the Office
1394 of Safe Schools in accordance with guidance from the office.

1395 Section 19. Subsection (3) of section 1006.27, Florida
1396 Statutes, is amended to read:

1397 1006.27 Pooling of school buses and other vehicles and
1398 related purchases by district school boards; transportation
1399 services contracts.—

1400 ~~(3) The Driving Choice Grant Program is created within the~~

1401 ~~department to improve access to reliable and safe transportation~~
1402 ~~for students participating in public educational school choices~~
1403 ~~pursuant to s. 1002.20 (6) (a) and to support innovative solutions~~
1404 ~~that increase the efficiency of public school transportation.~~

1405 ~~(a) Grant proposals may include:~~

1406 ~~1. Transportation resource planning and sharing among~~
1407 ~~school districts and local governments.~~

1408 ~~2. developing or contracting with rideshare programs or~~
1409 ~~developing carpool strategies.~~

1410 ~~3. Developing options to reduce costs and increase~~
1411 ~~efficiencies while improving access to transportation options~~
1412 ~~for families.~~

1413 ~~4. Developing options to address personnel challenges.~~

1414 ~~5. Expanding the use of transportation funds under ss.~~
1415 ~~1002.394, 1002.395, and 1011.68 to help cover the cost of~~
1416 ~~transporting students to and from school.~~

1417 ~~(b) the department shall publish on its website, by~~
1418 ~~December 31, 2023, an interim report and by December 31, 2024, a~~
1419 ~~final report that includes:~~

1420 ~~1. The best practices used by grant recipients to increase~~
1421 ~~transportation options for students, including any~~
1422 ~~transportation barriers addressed by grant recipients.~~

1423 ~~2. The number of students served by grant recipients,~~
1424 ~~including the number of students transported to a school that is~~
1425 ~~different from the school to which the student is assigned.~~

1426 Section 20. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section
1427 1008.25, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1428 1008.25 Public school student progression; student
1429 support; coordinated screening and progress monitoring;
1430 reporting requirements.—

1431 (5) READING DEFICIENCY AND PARENTAL NOTIFICATION.—

1432 (b) A Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program student
1433 who exhibits a substantial deficiency in early literacy skills
1434 based upon the results of the administration of the final
1435 coordinated screening and progress monitoring under subsection
1436 (9) shall be referred to the local school district and may be
1437 eligible to receive instruction in early literacy skills before
1438 participating in kindergarten. A Voluntary Prekindergarten
1439 Education Program student who scores below the 10th percentile
1440 on the final administration of the coordinated screening and
1441 progress monitoring under subsection (9) shall be referred to
1442 the local school district and is eligible to receive early
1443 literacy skill instructional support through a summer bridge
1444 program the summer before participating in kindergarten. The
1445 summer bridge program must meet requirements adopted by the
1446 department and shall consist of 4 hours of instruction per day
1447 for a minimum of 100 total hours. A student with an individual
1448 education plan who has been retained pursuant to paragraph
1449 (2)(g) and has demonstrated a substantial deficiency in early
1450 literacy skills must receive instruction in early literacy

1451 skills.

1452 Section 21. Section 1009.896, Florida Statutes, is amended

1453 to read:

1454 1009.896 Florida First Responder ~~Law Enforcement Academy~~

1455 Scholarship Program.—

1456 (1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

1457 (a) "Commission" means the Criminal Justice Standards and

1458 Training Commission within the Department of Law Enforcement.

1459 (b) "Department" means the Department of Education.

1460 ~~(c) "Employing agency" has the same meaning as provided in~~

1461 ~~s. 943.10(4).~~

1462 (c) "Emergency medical technician" has the same meaning as

1463 provided in s. 401.23(12).

1464 (d) "Firefighter" has the same meaning as provided in s.

1465 633.102(9).

1466 (e)~~(d)~~ "Law enforcement officer" has the same meaning as

1467 provided in s. 943.10(1).

1468 (f) "Paramedic" has the same meaning as provided in s.

1469 401.23(18).

1470 (g) "Postsecondary institution" means a Florida College

1471 System institution under s. 1000.21(5) or a career center under

1472 s. 1001.44.

1473 (h)~~(e)~~ "Scholarship program" means the Florida First

1474 Responder ~~Law Enforcement Academy~~ Scholarship Program.

1475 (2) ESTABLISHMENT; ADMINISTRATION.—

1476 (a) Beginning with the 2024-2025 ~~2022-2023~~ academic year,
 1477 the Florida First Responder Law Enforcement Academy Scholarship
 1478 Program is created to assist in the recruitment of law
 1479 enforcement officers, emergency medical technicians, paramedics,
 1480 and firefighters within the state by providing financial
 1481 assistance to trainees who enroll in an approved ~~a commission-~~
 1482 ~~approved law enforcement officer basic recruit~~ training program.

1483 ~~(b)-(3)~~ The department shall administer the scholarship
 1484 program, in consultation with the Department of Law Enforcement,
 1485 the Department of Health, and the Department of Financial
 1486 Services, as applicable, according to the rules and procedures
 1487 established by the State Board of Education.

1488 ~~(c)-(4)~~ The scholarship shall be awarded on a first-come,
 1489 first-served basis based on the date the department receives
 1490 each completed application, and is contingent upon an
 1491 appropriation by the Legislature.

1492 (3) LAW ENFORCEMENT.-

1493 ~~(a)-(5)~~ To be eligible for the scholarship award a law
 1494 enforcement trainee must:

1495 1.(a) Be enrolled in a commission-approved basic recruit
 1496 training program at a postsecondary institution ~~Florida College~~
 1497 ~~System institution or school district technical center~~ for the
 1498 purposes of meeting the minimum qualifications under s.
 1499 943.13(9) for employment or appointment as a law enforcement
 1500 officer.

1501 2.~~(b)~~ Not be sponsored by an employing agency under s.
 1502 943.10(4) that is already covering the cost of a basic recruit
 1503 training program.

1504 (b)~~(6)~~ The award to eligible trainees shall be an amount
 1505 equal to any costs and fees described in this subsection which
 1506 are necessary to complete the basic recruit training program,
 1507 less any state financial aid received by the trainee. The award
 1508 to trainees shall cover:

1509 1.~~(a)~~ The cost of tuition.

1510 2.~~(b)~~ Any applicable fees required by ss. 1009.22(3), (6),
 1511 (7), and (8), and 1009.23(3), (4), (7), (8), (10), and (11);
 1512 however, any award for a nonresident trainee may ~~shall~~ not
 1513 include the out-of-state fee.

1514 3.~~(e)~~ Up to \$1,000 for eligible expenses, including:

1515 a.1. The officer certification examination fee established
 1516 pursuant to s. 943.1397.

1517 b.2. Textbooks.

1518 c.3. Uniforms.

1519 d.4. Ammunition.

1520 e.5. Required insurance.

1521 f.6. Any other costs or fees for necessary consumable
 1522 materials required to complete the basic recruit training
 1523 program.

1524 (4) EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS.—

1525 (a) To be eligible for the scholarship award an emergency

1526 medical technician trainee must:

1527 1. Be enrolled in an emergency medical technician training

1528 program under s. 401.2701 that is approved by the Department of

1529 Health as equivalent to the most recent Emergency Medical

1530 Technician-Basic National Standard Curriculum or the National

1531 EMS Education Standards of the United States Department of

1532 Transportation.

1533 2. Not be sponsored by an employer that is already

1534 covering the cost of the training program.

1535 (b) The award to eligible trainees shall be an amount

1536 equal to any costs and fees described in this subsection which

1537 are necessary to complete the emergency medical technician

1538 training program, less any state financial aid received by the

1539 trainee. The award to trainees shall cover:

1540 1. The cost of tuition.

1541 2. Any applicable fees required by ss. 1009.22 (3), (6),

1542 (7), and (8), and 1009.23 (3), (4), (7), (8), (10), and (11);

1543 however, any award for a nonresident trainee may not include the

1544 out-of-state fee.

1545 3. Up to \$1,000 for eligible expenses, including:

1546 a. The National Registry Emergency Medical Test (NREMT).

1547 b. Textbooks.

1548 c. Uniforms.

1549 d. Required equipment, such as a stethoscope.

1550 e. Required insurance.

1551 f. Any other costs or fees for necessary consumable
 1552 materials required to complete the emergency medical technician
 1553 training program.

1554 (5) PARAMEDICS.—

1555 (a) To be eligible for the scholarship award a paramedic
 1556 trainee must:

1557 1. Be enrolled in a paramedic training program under s.
 1558 401.2701 that is approved by the Department of Health as
 1559 equivalent to the most recent EMT-Paramedic National Standard
 1560 Curriculum or the National EMS Education Standards of the United
 1561 States Department of Transportation.

1562 2. Not be sponsored by an employer that is already
 1563 covering the cost of the training program.

1564 (b) The award to eligible trainees shall be an amount
 1565 equal to any costs and fees described in this subsection which
 1566 are necessary to complete the paramedic training program, less
 1567 any state financial aid received by the trainee. The award to
 1568 trainees shall cover:

1569 1. The cost of tuition.

1570 2. Any applicable fees required by ss. 1009.22 (3), (6),
 1571 (7), and (8), and 1009.23 (3), (4), (7), (8), (10), and (11);
 1572 however, any award for a nonresident trainee may not include the
 1573 out-of-state fee.

1574 3. Up to \$1,000 for eligible expenses including:

1575 a. The National Registry Emergency Medical Test (NREMT).

1576 b. Textbooks.

1577 c. Uniforms.

1578 d. Required equipment, such as a stethoscope.

1579 e. Required insurance.

1580 f. Any other costs or fees for necessary consumable
1581 materials required to complete the paramedic training program.

1582 (6) FIREFIGHTERS.—

1583 (a) To be eligible for the scholarship award a firefighter
1584 trainee must:

1585 1. Be enrolled in a Firefighter Minimum Standards Course
1586 training program at a Florida Certified Training Center approved
1587 by the Division of State Fire Marshal for the purpose of meeting
1588 the minimum qualifications under s. 633.408.

1589 2. Not be sponsored by an employer that is already
1590 covering the cost of the training program.

1591 (b) The award to eligible trainees shall be an amount
1592 equal to any costs and fees described in this subsection which
1593 are necessary to complete the Firefighter Minimum Standards
1594 Course training program, less any state financial aid received
1595 by the trainee. The award to trainees shall cover:

1596 1. The cost of tuition.

1597 2. Any applicable fees required by ss. 1009.22 (3), (6),
1598 (7), and (8), and 1009.23 (3), (4), (7), (8), (10), and (11);
1599 however, any award for a nonresident trainee may not include the
1600 out-of-state fee.

- 1601 3. Up to \$1,000 for eligible expenses, including:
 1602 a. The Firefighter Minimum Standards Course examinations
 1603 required under s. 633.408(4) (b) for certification as a
 1604 firefighter.
 1605 b. Textbooks.
 1606 c. Uniforms.
 1607 d. Required equipment and gear.
 1608 e. Required insurance.
 1609 f. Any other costs or fees for necessary consumable
 1610 materials required to complete the Firefighter Minimum Standards
 1611 Course training program.

1612 (7) RULEMAKING.—The State Board of Education shall adopt
 1613 rules necessary to administer this section.

1614 Section 22. Subsection (13) is added to section 1009.90,
 1615 Florida Statutes, to read:

1616 1009.90 Duties of the Department of Education.—The duties
 1617 of the department shall include:

1618 (13) The department shall have a system to track all
 1619 school bond referenda and debt incurred by a school district via
 1620 referendum for capital outlay or operational purposes. The
 1621 department shall have a database of bonds not yet retired,
 1622 present bonds in effect, as well as any future referendum being
 1623 considered by a school district. At a minimum, the database
 1624 system must keep ballot language from bond referenda and project
 1625 lists, be updated in near real-time, provide support services,

1626 and provide data reporting and customizable alerts to the
1627 department on all school bond issued debt.

1628 Section 23. Subsections (6) and (18) of section 1011.62,
1629 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1630 1011.62 Funds for operation of schools.—If the annual
1631 allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each
1632 district for operation of schools is not determined in the
1633 annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing
1634 the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as
1635 follows:

1636 (6) STATE-FUNDED DISCRETIONARY CONTRIBUTION.—The state-
1637 funded discretionary contribution is created to fund the
1638 nonvoted discretionary millage for operations pursuant to s.
1639 1011.71(1) and (3) for developmental research schools (lab
1640 schools) established in s. 1002.32, charter schools sponsored by
1641 a Florida College System institution or a state university
1642 pursuant to s. 1002.33(5), and the Florida Virtual School
1643 established in s. 1002.37.

1644 (a) To calculate the state-funded discretionary
1645 contribution for lab schools, multiply the maximum allowable
1646 nonvoted discretionary millage for operations pursuant to s.
1647 1011.71(1) and (3) by the value of 96 percent of the current
1648 year's taxable value for school purposes for the school district
1649 in which the lab school is located; divide the result by the
1650 total full-time equivalent membership of the school district;

1651 and multiply the result by the full-time equivalent membership
1652 of the lab school. The amount obtained shall be appropriated in
1653 the General Appropriations Act ~~to the Lab School Trust Fund~~
1654 ~~established pursuant to s. 1002.32(9).~~

1655 (b) To calculate the state-funded discretionary
1656 contribution for a charter school sponsored by a Florida College
1657 System institution or a state university and the Florida Virtual
1658 School, multiply the maximum allowable nonvoted discretionary
1659 millage for operations pursuant to s. 1011.71(1) and (3) by the
1660 value of 96 percent of the current year's taxable value for
1661 school purposes for the state; divide the result by the total
1662 full-time equivalent membership of the state; and multiply the
1663 result by the full-time equivalent membership of the Florida
1664 Virtual School.

1665 (18) EDUCATIONAL ENROLLMENT STABILIZATION PROGRAM.—

1666 (a) The educational enrollment stabilization program is
1667 created to provide supplemental state funds as needed to
1668 maintain the stability of the operations of public schools in
1669 each school district and to protect districts, including charter
1670 schools, from financial instability as a result of changes in
1671 full-time equivalent student enrollment throughout the school
1672 year. ~~This program shall be implemented to the extent funds are~~
1673 ~~available.~~

1674 (b) The Legislature shall ~~may~~ annually appropriate funds
1675 in the General Appropriations Act to the Department of Education

1676 | for this program in an amount necessary to maintain a projected
1677 | minimum balance of \$250 million at the beginning of the upcoming
1678 | fiscal year. The Department of Education shall use funds as
1679 | appropriated to ensure that based on each recalculation of the
1680 | Florida Education Finance Program pursuant to paragraph (1)(a),
1681 | a school district's funds per unweighted full-time equivalent
1682 | student are not less than the greater of either the school
1683 | district's funds per unweighted full-time equivalent student as
1684 | appropriated in the General Appropriations Act or the school
1685 | district's funds per unweighted full-time equivalent student as
1686 | recalculated based upon the receipt of the certified taxable
1687 | value for school purposes pursuant to s. 1011.62(4).

1688 | (c) Notwithstanding s. 216.301 and pursuant to s. 216.351,
1689 | the unexpended balance of funds appropriated pursuant to this
1690 | subsection which is not disbursed by June 30 of the fiscal year
1691 | in which the funds are appropriated may be carried forward for
1692 | up to 10 years after the effective date of the original
1693 | appropriation.

1694 | Section 24. Subsection (1) of section 1011.765, Florida
1695 | Statutes, is amended to read:

1696 | 1011.765 Florida Academic Improvement Trust Fund matching
1697 | grants.—

1698 | (1) MATCHING GRANTS.—The Florida Academic Improvement
1699 | Trust Fund shall be utilized to provide matching grants to the
1700 | Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind Endowment Fund and to

1701 any public school district education foundation that meets the
 1702 requirements of this section. For purposes of this section, a
 1703 public school district education foundation includes each
 1704 district school board direct-support organization established
 1705 pursuant to s. 1001.453 and the education foundation established
 1706 by the Florida Virtual School established pursuant to s. 1002.37
 1707 ~~and is recognized by the local school district as its designated~~
 1708 ~~K-12 education foundation.~~ Donations, state matching funds, or
 1709 proceeds from endowments established pursuant to this section
 1710 shall be used at the discretion of the public school district
 1711 education foundation or the Florida School for the Deaf and the
 1712 Blind for academic achievement within the school district or
 1713 school, and shall not be expended for the construction of
 1714 facilities or for the support of interscholastic athletics. No
 1715 public school district education foundation or the Florida
 1716 School for the Deaf and the Blind shall accept or purchase
 1717 facilities for which the state will be asked for operating funds
 1718 unless the Legislature has granted prior approval for such
 1719 acquisition.

1720 Section 25. Paragraph (d) of subsection (7) of section
 1721 1012.56, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1722 1012.56 Educator certification requirements.—

1723 (7) TYPES AND TERMS OF CERTIFICATION.—

1724 (d) The department shall issue a temporary apprenticeship
 1725 certificate to any applicant who÷

1726 ~~1.~~ meets the requirements of paragraphs (2) (a), (b), and
 1727 (d)-(f).

1728 ~~2. Completes the subject area content requirements~~
 1729 ~~specified in state board rule or demonstrates mastery of subject~~
 1730 ~~area knowledge as provided in subsection (5).~~

1731
 1732 At least 1 year before an individual's temporary certificate is
 1733 set to expire, the department shall electronically notify the
 1734 individual of the date on which his or her certificate will
 1735 expire and provide a list of each method by which the
 1736 qualifications for a professional certificate can be completed.

1737 Section 26. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section
 1738 1013.62, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1739 1013.62 Charter schools capital outlay funding.—

1740 (1) Charter school capital outlay funding shall consist of
 1741 state funds when such funds are appropriated in the General
 1742 Appropriations Act and revenue resulting from the discretionary
 1743 millage authorized in s. 1011.71(2).

1744 (b) A charter school is not eligible to receive capital
 1745 outlay funds if:

1746 1. It was created by the conversion of a public school and
 1747 operates in facilities provided by the charter school's sponsor
 1748 for a nominal fee, or at no charge, or if it is directly or
 1749 indirectly operated by the school district;

1750 2. It is a developmental research (laboratory) school that

1751 receives state funding for capital improvement purposes pursuant
1752 to s. 1002.32(9)(d); ~~s. 1002.32(9)(e)~~; ~~or~~

1753 3. A member of the governing board, or his or her family
1754 member as defined in s. 440.13(1)(b), has an interest in or is
1755 an employee of the lessor, excluding charter schools operating
1756 pursuant to s. 1002.33(15); or

1757 4. It is a Florida College System institution or state
1758 university sponsored charter school that receives state funding
1759 for capital improvement purposes pursuant to s.
1760 1002.33(17)(b)2.d.

1761 Section 27. The taxable value for the Wakulla County
1762 School District that was provided by the Department of Revenue
1763 by January 1, 2024, to the Department of Education shall be used
1764 for the remaining calculations of the fiscal year 2023-2024
1765 Florida Education Finance Program and for use in the Prior
1766 Period Funding Adjustment Millage calculation. This section is
1767 effective upon this act becoming a law and expires July 1, 2025.

1768 Section 28. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this
1769 act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon
1770 this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1,
1771 2024.