A bill to be entitled

An act relating to education; creating s. 413.0114, F.S.; requiring certain persons and entities to complete a written consumer disclosure for blind-related services; authorizing the State Board of Education to adopt rules; amending s. 413.208, F.S.; requiring certain service providers to apply to the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation; requiring the division to establish qualifications for certain service providers and an application process and period for such service providers; providing division and service provider requirements relating to such process; providing reporting and evaluation system requirements for the division relating to service provider effectiveness; providing requirements for rates for vocational rehabilitation services; amending s. 1001.7065, F.S.; revising certain academic and research excellence standards for preeminent state research universities; providing that such universities are ineligible for specified funding under certain circumstances; amending s. 1001.92, F.S.; revising state university performance-based metrics for the award of a State University System Performance-Based Incentive; amending s. 1003.437, F.S.; requiring the State Board of Education to

establish a uniform weighted grading system for specified courses and articulated acceleration mechanisms; requiring district school boards to use such system for specified purposes; amending s. 1004.06, F.S.; revising construction for the prohibition of certain expenditures; creating s. 1004.072, F.S.; providing limitations for student enrollment in a state university; amending s. 1004.39, F.S.; revising provisions relating to the College of Law at Florida International University; amending s. 1004.40, F.S.; revising provisions relating to the College of Law at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University; amending s. 1005.06, F.S.; prohibiting certain postsecondary institutions from being exempt from the purview of the Commission for Independent Education; amending s. 1006.71, F.S.; deleting a requirement that public postsecondary educational institutions develop a gender equity plan; amending s. 1007.25, F.S.; revising the number of days public postsecondary educational institutions have to submit comments for certain proposed degrees; prohibiting such institutions from imposing certain institution-wide graduation requirements; amending s. 1007.271, F.S.; revising postsecondary institution eligibility for participation in dual enrollment programs;

revising provisions relating to the calculation of student grade point averages; amending s. 1008.47, F.S.; revising the period of time in which a public postsecondary institution must seek and obtain specified accreditation; revising the accrediting agencies such institutions may seek accreditation from; providing that certain provisions apply to programmatic accreditors for postsecondary education institutions; amending s. 1009.25, F.S.; revising the requirements for a student to meet the definition of "homeless children and youths"; amending s. 1009.40, F.S.; requiring a person to be a United States citizen or lawfully present in the United States to receive state financial aid awards and tuition assistance grants; amending s. 1009.895, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference to changes made by the act; amending s. 1009.983, F.S.; revising provisions relating to the board of directors of the Florida Prepaid College Foundation, Inc.; amending s. 1009.986, F.S.; revising provisions relating to the board of directors of the Florida ABLE program; amending s. 1011.62, F.S.; revising the procedure to determine Florida Education Finance Program funds; providing a method for calculating additional full-time equivalent membership based on advanced courses and test scores; providing

specified bonuses; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 413.0114, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

413.0114 Consumer disclosure for blind-related services.—

(1) Any person, business, nonprofit, or other entity offering fee-based services to persons who are blind or visually impaired must, before entering into a contract or accepting payment, disclose in writing if equivalent or substantially similar services may be available at no cost through the Division of Blind Services or another public agency.

(2) The written disclosure must:

(a) Be provided in plain language and an accessible format, including, but not limited to, braille, large print, or audio upon request.

(b) Include contact information for the Division of Blind Services.

(c) Be signed or electronically acknowledged by the consumer or his or her representative.

(3) A violation of this section constitutes an unfair or deceptive trade practice under part II of chapter 501, and is subject to penalties and enforcement as provided therein.

(4) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to

implement this section.

Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 413.208, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

413.208 Service providers; quality assurance; fitness for responsibilities; background screening.—

(1) Service providers must apply to ~~register with~~ the division. To qualify for approval, a ~~registration, The division must ensure that the~~ service provider must maintain ~~maintains~~ an internal system of quality assurance, have ~~has~~ proven functional systems, meet the minimum qualifications, and be ~~is~~ subject to a due-diligence inquiry as to its fitness to undertake service responsibilities.

(a) The division shall establish minimum qualifications for service providers. The division may approve or deny any service provider application. The division shall establish an annual application period for service providers to submit applications. Beginning January 1, 2027, only service providers that meet the minimum qualifications established by the division, and that have been approved to provide employment-related services to individuals with disabilities, may participate in the vocational rehabilitation program.

(b) The division shall develop and make publicly available an annual report of service provider effectiveness which includes an evaluation system measuring the effectiveness of all service providers that are approved by the division to provide

employment-related services to individuals with disabilities.

(c) In order to maintain approved status with the division, service providers must meet minimum standards of effectiveness in the provision of vocational rehabilitation services, including placement of individuals in competitive and integrated employment.

(d) Rates for vocational rehabilitation services must be allocable, reasonable, and necessary, as determined by the division.

Section 3. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) and paragraph (c) of subsection (5) of section 1001.7065, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1001.7065 Preeminent state research universities program.—

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

(d) A 4-year graduation rate of 60 percent or higher for full-time, first-time-in-college students, excluding those enrolled in baccalaureate degree programs in engineering that require more than 120 semester hours.

(5) PREEMINENT STATE RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES PROGRAM SUPPORT.—

(c) The award of funds under this subsection is contingent

upon funding provided by the Legislature to support the preeminent state research universities program created under this section. Funding increases appropriated beyond the amounts funded in the previous fiscal year shall be distributed to each designated preeminent state research university that meets the criteria in paragraph (a). Each designated preeminent state research university shall receive an equal amount of funding. Each preeminent state research university must maintain a fall full-time, first-time-in-college enrollment ratio comprised of at least 95 percent Florida residents based on a three year average. Beginning July 1, 2030, a preeminent state research university that fails to meet this requirement is ineligible for funding under this section.

Section 4. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 1001.92, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1001.92 State University System Performance-Based Incentive.—

(1) A State University System Performance-Based Incentive shall be awarded to state universities using performance-based metrics adopted by the Board of Governors of the State University System. Beginning with the Board of Governors' determination of each university's performance improvement and achievement ratings, and the related distribution of annual fiscal year appropriation, the performance-based metrics must include:

(a) The 4-year graduation rate for first-time-in-college students, excluding those enrolled in baccalaureate degree programs in engineering that require more than 120 semester hours;

The Board of Governors may approve other metrics in a publicly noticed meeting. The board shall adopt benchmarks to evaluate each state university's performance on the metrics to measure the state university's achievement of institutional excellence or need for improvement and minimum requirements for eligibility to receive performance funding. Benchmarks and metrics may not be adjusted after university performance data has been received by the Board of Governors.

Section 5. Section 1003.437, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.437 Middle and high school grading system.—The grading system and interpretation of letter grades used to measure student success in grade 6 through grade 12 courses for students in public schools shall be as follows:

(1) Grade "A" equals 90 percent through 100 percent, has a grade point average value of 4, and is defined as "outstanding progress."

(2) Grade "B" equals 80 percent through 89 percent, has a grade point average value of 3, and is defined as "above average progress."

(3) Grade "C" equals 70 percent through 79 percent, has a grade point average value of 2, and is defined as "average progress."

(4) Grade "D" equals 60 percent through 69 percent, has a grade point average value of 1, and is defined as "lowest acceptable progress."

(5) Grade "F" equals zero percent through 59 percent, has a grade point average value of zero, and is defined as "failure."

(6) Grade "I" equals zero percent, has a grade point average value of zero, and is defined as "incomplete."

The State Board of Education must establish a statewide uniform weighted grading system for honors courses and articulated acceleration mechanisms identified in s. 1007.27. ~~For the purposes of class ranking,~~ District school boards shall use the ~~may exercise a~~ weighted grading system to calculate weighted high school grade point averages ~~pursuant to s. 1007.271~~.

Section 6. Subsection (3) of section 1004.06, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1004.06 Prohibited expenditures.—

(3) Subsection (2) does not prohibit programs, campus activities, or functions required for compliance with general or federal laws or regulations~~; for obtaining or retaining institutional or discipline-specific accreditation with the~~

~~approval of either the State Board of Education or the Board of Governors;~~ or for access programs for military veterans, Pell Grant recipients, first generation college students, nontraditional students, "2+2" transfer students from the Florida College System, students from low-income families, or students with unique abilities.

Section 7. Section 1004.072, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1004.072 Enrollment of noncitizen and nonresident students at state universities.—Based on the limitation on systemwide enrollment of nonresident degree-seeking students established by regulation of the Board of Governors, a state university must limit, within its enrollment of nonresident students, the number of enrolled nonresident degree-seeking students who are noncitizens and who are not permanent residents of the United States to no more than 5 percent from any specific country.

Section 8. **Subsections (3), (4), and (5) of section 1004.39, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

1004.39 College of law at Florida International University.—

(3) The college of law at Florida International University, to the extent consistent with the standards required by ~~the American Bar Association or any other~~ a nationally recognized association for the accreditation of colleges of law, shall develop a law library collection utilizing electronic

formats and mediums.

(4) The college of law at Florida International University shall develop and institute a program that is consistent with sound legal education principles as determined by ~~the American Bar Association or any other~~ a nationally recognized association for the accreditation of colleges of law and that, to the extent consistent with such sound legal education principles, is structured to serve the legal needs of traditionally underserved portions of the population by providing an opportunity for participation in a legal clinic program or pro bono legal service.

(5) The Florida International University Board of Trustees and the Board of Governors may accept grants, donations, gifts, and moneys available for this purpose, including moneys for planning and constructing the college. The Florida International University Board of Trustees may procure and accept any federal funds that are available for the planning, creation, and establishment of the college of law. If ~~the American Bar Association or any other~~ a nationally recognized association for the accreditation of colleges of law issues a third disapproval of an application for provisional approval or for full approval or fails to grant, within 5 years following the graduation of the first class, a provisional approval, to the college of law at Florida International University, the Board of Governors shall make recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature

as to whether the college of law will cease operations at the end of the full academic year subsequent to the receipt by the college of law of any such third disapproval, or whether the college of law will continue operations and any conditions for continued operations. If the college of law ceases operations pursuant to this section, the following conditions apply:

(a) The authority for the college of law at Florida International University and the authority of the Florida International University Board of Trustees and the Board of Governors provided in this section shall terminate upon the cessation of operations of the college of law at Florida International University. The college of law at Florida International University shall receive no moneys allocated for the planning, construction, or operation of the college of law after its cessation of operations other than moneys to be expended for the cessation of operations of the college of law. Any moneys allocated to the college of law at Florida International University not expended prior to or scheduled to be expended after the date of the cessation of the college of law shall be appropriated for other use by the Legislature of the State of Florida.

(b) Any buildings of the college of law at Florida International University constructed from the expenditure of capital outlay funds appropriated by the Legislature shall be owned by the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust

Fund and managed by the Florida International University Board of Trustees upon the cessation of the college of law.

Section 9. **Subsections (3), (4), and (5) of section 1004.40, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

1004.40 College of law at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.—

(3) The college of law at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, to the extent consistent with the standards required by ~~the American Bar Association or any other~~ a nationally recognized association for the accreditation of colleges of law, shall develop a law library collection utilizing electronic formats and mediums.

(4) The college of law at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University shall develop and institute a program that is consistent with sound legal education principles as determined by ~~the American Bar Association or any other~~ a nationally recognized association for the accreditation of colleges of law and that, to the extent consistent with such sound legal education principles, is structured to serve the legal needs of traditionally underserved portions of the population by providing an opportunity for participation in a legal clinic program or pro bono legal service.

(5) The Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University Board of Trustees and the Board of Governors may accept grants, donations, gifts, and moneys available for this purpose,

including moneys for planning and constructing the college. The Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University Board of Trustees may procure and accept any federal funds that are available for the planning, creation, and establishment of the college of law. If ~~the American Bar Association or any other~~ a nationally recognized association for the accreditation of colleges of law issues a third disapproval of an application for provisional approval or for full approval or fails to grant, within 5 years following the graduation of the first class, a provisional approval, to the college of law at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, the Board of Governors shall make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature as to whether the college of law will cease operations at the end of the full academic year subsequent to the receipt by the college of law of any such third disapproval, or whether the college of law will continue operations and any conditions for continued operations. If the college of law ceases operations of the college of law pursuant to this section, the following conditions apply:

(a) The authority for the college of law at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University and the authority of the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University Board of Trustees and the Board of Governors provided in this section shall terminate upon the cessation of operations of the college of law at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University. The college of law at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University shall

receive no moneys allocated for the planning, construction, or operation of the college of law after its cessation of operations other than moneys to be expended for the cessation of operations of the college of law. Any moneys allocated to the college of law at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University not expended prior to or scheduled to be expended after the date of the cessation of the college of law shall be appropriated for other use by the Legislature of the State of Florida.

(b) Any buildings of the college of law at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University constructed from the expenditure of capital outlay funds appropriated by the Legislature shall be owned by the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund and managed by the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University Board of Trustees upon the cessation of the college of law.

Section 10. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 1005.06, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

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

(b) Any college or~~,~~ school~~, or course~~ licensed or approved for establishment and operation by another agency of the state. Colleges or schools approved by another state agency to offer

one or more courses or programs under ~~part I of~~ chapter 464, chapter 466, or chapter 475, or any other chapter of the Florida Statutes may not qualify for exemption from the commission's jurisdiction under this subsection ~~requiring licensing or approval as defined in this chapter~~.

Section 11. Subsection (1) of section 1006.71, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1006.71 Gender equity in intercollegiate athletics.—

(1) PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH TITLE IX AND THE FLORIDA EDUCATIONAL EQUITY ACT ~~GENDER EQUITY PLAN~~.—

~~(a) Each Florida College System institution and state university shall develop a gender equity plan pursuant to s. 1000.05.~~

~~(b) The plan shall include consideration of equity in sports offerings, participation, availability of facilities, scholarship offerings, and funds allocated for administration, recruitment, comparable coaching, publicity and promotion, and other support costs.~~

~~(c) The Commissioner of Education shall annually assess the progress of each Florida College System institution's plan and advise the State Board of Education and the Legislature regarding compliance.~~

~~(d) The Chancellor of the State University System shall annually assess the progress of each state university's plan and advise the Board of Governors and the Legislature regarding~~

~~compliance.~~

~~(e) Each board of trustees of a Florida College System institution or state university shall annually evaluate the presidents on the extent to which the gender equity goals have been achieved.~~

~~(f) To determine the proper level of support for women's athletic scholarships, an equity plan may determine, where appropriate, that support for women's scholarships may be disproportionate to the support of scholarships for men.~~

(a) ~~(g)1.~~ If a Florida College System institution is not in compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the Florida Educational Equity Act, the State Board of Education shall:

1. ~~a.~~ Declare the Florida College System institution ineligible for competitive state grants.

2. ~~b.~~ Withhold funds sufficient to obtain compliance.

The Florida College System institution shall remain ineligible and the funds shall not be paid until the Florida College System institution comes into compliance or the Commissioner of Education approves a plan for compliance.

(b) ~~2.~~ If a state university is not in compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the Florida Educational Equity Act, the Board of Governors shall:

1. ~~a.~~ Declare the state university ineligible for

competitive state grants.

2.~~b.~~ Withhold funds sufficient to obtain compliance.

The state university shall remain ineligible and the funds shall not be paid until the state university comes into compliance or the Board of Governors approves a plan for compliance.

Section 12. Paragraph (b) of subsection (9) of section 1007.25, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (15) is added to that section, to read:

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

(9)

(b) An associate in arts specialized transfer degree must include 36 semester hours of general education coursework and require 60 semester hours or more of college credit. Specialized transfer degrees are designed for Florida College System institution students who need supplemental lower-level coursework in preparation for transfer to another institution. The State Board of Education shall establish criteria for the review and approval of new specialized transfer degrees. The approval process must require:

1. A Florida College System institution to submit a notice of its intent to propose a new associate in arts specialized degree program to the Division of Florida Colleges. The notice must include the recommended credit hours, the rationale for the

specialization, the demand for students entering the field, and the coursework being proposed to be included beyond the 60 semester hours required for the general transfer degree, if applicable. Notices of intent may be submitted by a Florida College System institution at any time.

2. The Division of Florida Colleges to forward the notice of intent within 10 business days after receipt to all Florida College System institutions and to the Chancellor of the State University System, who shall forward the notice to all state universities. State universities and Florida College System institutions shall have 30 ~~60~~ days after receipt of the notice to submit comments to the proposed associate in arts specialized transfer degree.

3. After the submission of comments pursuant to subparagraph 2., the requesting Florida College System institution to submit a proposal that, at a minimum, includes:

a. Evidence that the coursework for the associate in arts specialized transfer degree includes demonstration of competency in a foreign language pursuant to s. 1007.262 and demonstration of civic literacy competency as provided in subsection (5).

b. Demonstration that all required coursework will count toward the associate in arts degree or the baccalaureate degree.

c. An analysis of demand and unmet need for students entering the specialized field of study at the baccalaureate level.

d. Justification for the program length if it exceeds 60 credit hours, including references to the common prerequisite manual or other requirements for the baccalaureate degree. This includes documentation of alignment between the exit requirements of a Florida College System institution and the admissions requirements of a baccalaureate program at a state university to which students would typically transfer.

e. Articulation agreements for graduates of the associate in arts specialized transfer degree.

f. Responses to the comments received under subparagraph 2.

(15) A Florida College System institution or state university may not impose an institution-wide graduation requirement that includes a course that is in conflict with paragraph (3)(c).

Section 13. Subsections (1), (16), and (18) of section 1007.271, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1007.271 Dual enrollment programs.—

(1) The dual enrollment program is the enrollment of an eligible Florida secondary student or Florida home education student in a postsecondary course creditable toward high school completion and a career certificate or an associate or baccalaureate degree. Postsecondary institutions eligible to participate in the dual enrollment program are Florida College System institutions, state universities, and eligible not-for-

profit, independent colleges and universities pursuant to s. 1011.62(1)(i). A student who is enrolled in postsecondary instruction that is not creditable toward a high school diploma may not be classified as a dual enrollment student.

(16) Students who ~~meet the eligibility requirements of this section and who choose to~~ participate in dual enrollment programs are exempt from the payment of registration, tuition, and laboratory fees.

(18) School districts and postsecondary ~~Florida College System~~ institutions must weigh dual enrollment courses pursuant to s. 1003.437 ~~the same as advanced placement, International Baccalaureate, and Advanced International Certificate of Education courses~~ when grade point averages are calculated. High school grade point averages must be calculated based on the high school credit earned by the student in each course. Alternative grade calculation systems, alternative grade weighting systems, and information regarding student education options that discriminate against dual enrollment courses are prohibited.

Section 14. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (2) and subsection (3) of section 1008.47, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1008.47 Postsecondary education institution accreditation.—

(2) ACCREDITATION.—

(a) ~~By September 1, 2022,~~ The Board of Governors or the

State Board of Education, as applicable, shall identify and determine the accrediting agencies or associations best suited to serve as an accreditor for public postsecondary institutions. Such accrediting agencies or associations must be recognized by the database created and maintained by the United States Department of Education. Within 3 years ~~In the year~~ following reaffirmation or fifth-year review by its accrediting agencies or associations, each public postsecondary institution must seek and obtain accreditation from an accrediting agency or association identified by the Board of Governors or State Board of Education, respectively, before its next reaffirmation or fifth-year review date. The requirements in this section are limited to a one-time change in accreditation. The requirements of this subsection are not applicable to those professional, graduate, departmental, or certificate programs at public postsecondary institutions that have specific accreditation requirements or best practices, including, but not limited to, law, pharmacy, engineering, or other similarly situated educational programs.

(b) Once a public postsecondary institution is required to seek and obtain accreditation from an agency or association identified pursuant to paragraph (a), the institution shall seek accreditation from an ~~a regional~~ accrediting agency or association and provide quarterly reports of its progress to the Board of Governors or State Board of Education, as applicable.

If each ~~regional~~ accreditation agency or association identified pursuant to paragraph (a) has refused to grant candidacy status to an institution, the institution must seek and obtain accreditation from any accrediting agency or association that is different from its current accrediting agency or association and is recognized by the database created and maintained by the United States Department of Education. If a public postsecondary institution is not granted candidacy status before its next reaffirmation or fifth-year review date, the institution may remain with its current accrediting agency or association.

(3) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an accrediting agency or association, including programmatic accreditors, may not compel any public postsecondary institution to violate state law, and any adverse action upon the institution based upon the institution's compliance with state law constitutes a violation of this section that may be enforced through subsection (4), except to the extent that state law is preempted by a federal law that recognizes the necessity of the accreditation standard or requirement.

Section 15. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of section 1009.25, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1009.25 Fee exemptions.—

(1) The following students are exempt from the payment of tuition and fees, including lab fees, at a school district that

provides workforce education programs, Florida College System institution, or state university:

(e) A student who meets the definition of homeless children and youths in s. 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. s. 11434a(2), as previously determined by a public school in the state, and whose physical presence is in the state for the duration of the tuition and fee exemption. This includes a student who would otherwise meet the requirements of this paragraph, as determined by a college or university, but for his or her residence in college or university dormitory housing. The State Board of Education may adopt rules and the Board of Governors may adopt regulations regarding documentation and procedures to implement this paragraph. Such rules and regulations must consider documentation of a student's circumstance to be adequate if such documentation meets the standards under 20 U.S.C. s. 1087uu-2(a). Any student who is determined to be a homeless child or youth for a preceding award year is presumed to be a homeless child or youth for each subsequent year unless the student informs the institution that the student's circumstances have changed or the institution has specific conflicting information about the student's independence, and has informed the student of this information.

Section 16. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 1009.40, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1009.40 General requirements for student eligibility for state financial aid awards and tuition assistance grants.—

(1)(a) The general requirements for eligibility of students for state financial aid awards and tuition assistance grants consist of the following:

1. United States citizenship or lawful presence in the United States.

2.~~1.~~ Achievement of the academic requirements of and acceptance at a state university or Florida College System institution; a nursing diploma school approved by the Florida Board of Nursing; a Florida college or university which is accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the State Board of Education; a Florida institution the credits of which are acceptable for transfer to state universities; a career center; or a private career institution accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the State Board of Education.

3.~~2.~~ Residency in this state for no less than 1 year preceding the award of aid or a tuition assistance grant for a program established pursuant to s. 1009.50, s. 1009.505, s. 1009.51, s. 1009.52, s. 1009.521, s. 1009.53, s. 1009.60, s. 1009.62, s. 1009.72, s. 1009.73, s. 1009.75, s. 1009.77, s. 1009.89, or s. 1009.894. Residency in this state must be for purposes other than to obtain an education. Resident status for purposes of receiving state financial aid awards shall be determined in the same manner as resident status for tuition

purposes pursuant to s. 1009.21.

4.~~3.~~ Submission of certification attesting to the accuracy, completeness, and correctness of information provided to demonstrate a student's eligibility to receive state financial aid awards or tuition assistance grants. Falsification of such information shall result in the denial of a pending application and revocation of an award or grant currently held to the extent that no further payments shall be made. Additionally, students who knowingly make false statements in order to receive state financial aid awards or tuition assistance grants commit a misdemeanor of the second degree subject to the provisions of s. 837.06 and shall be required to return all state financial aid awards or tuition assistance grants wrongfully obtained.

Section 17. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 1009.895, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1009.895 Open Door Grant Program.—

(2) ELIGIBILITY.—In order to be eligible for the program, a student must:

(a) Meet the requirements under s. 1009.40(1)(a)3. and 4. ~~s. 1009.40(1)(a)2. and 3.~~;

An institution may not impose additional criteria to determine a student's eligibility to receive a grant under this section.

Section 18. **Subsection (5) of section 1009.983, Florida**

Statutes, is amended to read:

1009.983 Direct-support organization; authority.—

(5) The chair of the board or a designee who possesses knowledge, skill, and experience in the areas of accounting, risk management, or investment management, shall serve as a director of the direct-support organization. The chair and the executive director of the board shall jointly name, at a minimum, four other individuals to serve as directors of the organization.

Section 19. **Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section 1009.986, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

1009.986 Florida ABLE program.—

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

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

a. The chair of the Florida Prepaid College Board~~,~~ or ~~his or her~~ a designee who possesses knowledge, skill, and experience in the areas of accounting, risk management, or investment management.

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

c. One individual who possesses knowledge, skill, and

experience in the areas of accounting, risk management, or investment management, who shall be appointed by the Governor.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

access to observe and, if appropriate, to participate.

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

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

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

Section 20. Paragraph (h) is added to subsection (17) of section 1011.62, Florida Statutes, and existing paragraphs (h) and (i), are renumbered, to read:

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

(17) ACADEMIC ACCELERATION OPTIONS SUPPLEMENT.—The academic acceleration options supplement is created to assist school districts in providing academic acceleration options, career-themed courses, and courses that lead to digital tool certificates and industry certifications for prekindergarten through grade 12 students and shall be allocated annually in the

General Appropriations Act.

(h) Calculation of additional full-time equivalent membership based on Florida advanced courses and tests scores of students.—A value of 0.16 full-time equivalent student membership shall be calculated for each student in a Florida advanced course who achieves a minimum score on an assessment identified by the Department of Education pursuant to s. 1007.27(2) and added to the total full-time equivalent student membership in basic programs for grades 9 through 12 in the subsequent fiscal year. Each district shall allocate at least 80 percent of the funds provided to the district for advanced course instruction, in accordance with this paragraph, to the high school that generates the funds. The school district shall distribute to each classroom teacher who provided advanced course instruction:

1. A bonus in the amount of $50 for each student taught by the Florida advanced course teacher in each Florida advanced course who achieves a minimum score on an assessment identified by the Department of Education pursuant to s. 1007.27(2).

2. An additional bonus of $500 to each Florida advanced course teacher in a school designated with a grade of "D" or "F" who has at least one student who achieves a minimum score on an assessment identified by the Department of Education pursuant to s. 1007.27(2), regardless of the number of classes taught or of the number of students who achieve a minimum score on an

assessment identified by the Department of Education pursuant to s. 1007.27(2).

Section 21. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.