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1  
2 An act relating to education; amending s. 1002.33,  
3 F.S.; clarifying enforcement of policies agreed to by  
4 the sponsor and charter school which are subsequently  
5 amended; requiring a charter school sponsor to submit  
6 an annual report that includes specified information;  
7 authorizing a charter school operated by a Florida  
8 College System institution to serve students in  
9 kindergarten through grade 12 if certain criteria are  
10 met; authorizing a school district to enter into  
11 certain interlocal agreements and authorizing charter  
12 schools to use the school district for certain related  
13 services; revising provisions relating to the timely  
14 submission of charter school applications; providing  
15 requirements relating to the appeal of a denied  
16 application submitted by a high-performing charter  
17 school; prohibiting a sponsor from requiring a charter  
18 school to have a certificate of occupancy before the  
19 first day of school or to identify the students who  
20 will be enrolled; providing for modification of a  
21 charter; requiring a sponsor to make student academic  
22 achievement for all students a priority in deciding  
23 whether to renew a charter; modifying charter school  
24 requirements for financial records; imposing rules  
25 that follow the closing of a charter school or  
26 termination of a charter; requiring a charter school  
27 to maintain a public website with certain information;  
28 providing that certain district school duties also



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29 | apply to charter schools; restricting the membership  
30 | of a charter school governing board; amending s.  
31 | 1002.331, F.S.; modifying a limitation for increasing  
32 | student enrollment; providing that the sponsor may  
33 | deny a request to increase enrollment under certain  
34 | circumstances; establishing timeframes for a charter  
35 | school requesting that multiple charters be  
36 | consolidated; requiring the Commissioner of Education  
37 | to annually review a high-performing charter school's  
38 | eligibility for high-performing status; authorizing  
39 | declassification as a high-performing charter school;  
40 | amending s. 1002.332, F.S.; revising requirements for  
41 | classification as a high-performing charter school  
42 | system; requiring the commissioner to annually review  
43 | a high-performing charter school system's eligibility  
44 | for high-performing status; authorizing  
45 | declassification as a high-performing charter school  
46 | system; requiring that full implementation of online  
47 | assessments for Next Generation Sunshine State  
48 | Standards in English/language arts and mathematics for  
49 | all kindergarten through grade 12 public school  
50 | students occur only after the technology  
51 | infrastructure, connectivity, and capacity of all  
52 | public schools and school districts have been load  
53 | tested and independently verified as ready for  
54 | successful deployment and implementation; requiring  
55 | that the technology infrastructure, connectivity, and  
56 | capacity of all public schools and school districts



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57 | that administer statewide standardized assessments  
58 | pursuant to s. 1008.22, F.S., be load tested and  
59 | independently verified as appropriate, adequate,  
60 | efficient, and sustainable; requiring the Department  
61 | of Education to develop a proposed statewide, standard  
62 | charter contract; amending s. 1012.2315, F.S.;  
63 | providing that a student may not be assigned to an  
64 | unsatisfactory teacher, particularly in a single  
65 | subject if the student is in high school or middle  
66 | school, for two consecutive school years; allowing a  
67 | parent to choose for his or her child to be taught by  
68 | a particular teacher in an extracurricular course  
69 | under certain circumstances; amending s. 1002.31,  
70 | F.S.; providing a calculation for compliance with  
71 | class size maximums for a public school of choice;  
72 | creating s. 1002.451, F.S.; creating schools of  
73 | technology to allow school districts to be innovative  
74 | with industry-leading technology and earn flexibility  
75 | for high academic achievement; describing permissible  
76 | learning models; specifying student eligibility  
77 | requirements; providing guiding principles for schools  
78 | of innovation; providing guiding principles for  
79 | schools of technology; specifying requirements of a  
80 | performance contract between the State Board of  
81 | Education and an innovation school of technology;  
82 | establishing the term of the performance contract;  
83 | providing for funding; exempting schools of technology  
84 | from ch. 1000-1013, F.S., subject to certain



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85 | exceptions; exempting such schools from certain ad  
86 | valorem taxes and other requirements; specifying  
87 | school district eligibility; establishing an  
88 | application process; limiting the number of schools of  
89 | technology that may be operated and established in a  
90 | school district; providing for a Region of Technology  
91 | in which three or more school districts enter into a  
92 | joint performance contract; requiring the State Board  
93 | of Education to monitor schools of technology for  
94 | compliance with the act and performance contracts;  
95 | requiring the State Board of Education to adopt rules;  
96 | requiring a school district with an innovation school  
97 | of technology to submit an annual report to the State  
98 | Board of Education and the Legislature; specifying  
99 | requirements for such report; providing an effective  
100 | date.

101 |  
102 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

103 |  
104 | Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5), paragraphs  
105 | (b), (c), and (h) of subsection (6), paragraphs (a) and (c) of  
106 | subsection (7), and paragraph (a) of subsection (8) of section  
107 | 1002.33, Florida Statutes, are amended, to read:

108 | 1002.33 Charter schools.—

109 | (5) SPONSOR; DUTIES.—

110 | (b) *Sponsor duties*.—

111 | 1.a. The sponsor shall monitor and review the charter  
112 | school in its progress toward the goals established in the



113 charter.

114       b. The sponsor shall monitor the revenues and expenditures  
115 of the charter school and perform the duties provided in s.  
116 1002.345.

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

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

130       e. The sponsor shall ensure that the charter is innovative  
131 and consistent with the state education goals established by s.  
132 1000.03(5).

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

138       g. The sponsor shall not be liable for civil damages under  
139 state law for personal injury, property damage, or death  
140 resulting from an act or omission of an officer, employee,



141 agent, or governing body of the charter school.

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

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

147 j. The sponsor shall not impose additional reporting  
148 requirements on a charter school without providing reasonable  
149 and specific justification in writing to the charter school.

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

153 (I) The report shall include the following information:

154 (A) The number of draft applications received on or before  
155 May 1 and each applicant's contact information.

156 (B) The number of final applications received on or before  
157 August 1 and each applicant's contact information.

158 (C) The date each application was approved, denied, or  
159 withdrawn.

160 (D) The date each final contract was executed.

161 (II) Beginning August 31, 2013, and each year thereafter,  
162 the sponsor shall submit to the department the information for  
163 the applications submitted the previous year.

164 (III) The department shall compile an annual report, by  
165 district, and post the report on its website by November 1 of  
166 each year.

167 2. Immunity for the sponsor of a charter school under  
168 subparagraph 1. applies only with respect to acts or omissions



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169 not under the sponsor's direct authority as described in this  
170 section.

171 3. This paragraph does not waive a district school board's  
172 sovereign immunity.

173 4. A Florida College System institution may work with the  
174 school district or school districts in its designated service  
175 area to develop charter schools that offer secondary education.  
176 These charter schools must include an option for students to  
177 receive an associate degree upon high school graduation. If a  
178 Florida College System institution operates an approved teacher  
179 preparation program under s. 1004.04 or s. 1004.85, the  
180 institution may operate no more than one charter school that  
181 serves students in kindergarten through grade 12. In  
182 kindergarten through grade 8, the charter school shall implement  
183 innovative blended learning instructional models in which, for a  
184 given course, a student learns in part through online delivery  
185 of content and instruction with some element of student control  
186 over time, place, path, or pace and in part at a supervised  
187 brick-and-mortar location away from home. A student in a blended  
188 learning course must be a full-time student of the charter  
189 school and receive the online instruction in a classroom setting  
190 at the charter school. District school boards shall cooperate  
191 with and assist the Florida College System institution on the  
192 charter application. Florida College System institution  
193 applications for charter schools are not subject to the time  
194 deadlines outlined in subsection (6) and may be approved by the  
195 district school board at any time during the year. Florida  
196 College System institutions may not report FTE for any students



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197 who receive FTE funding through the Florida Education Finance  
198 Program.

199 5. A school district may enter into nonexclusive  
200 interlocal agreements with federal and state agencies, counties,  
201 municipalities, and other governmental entities that operate  
202 within the geographical borders of the school district to act on  
203 behalf of such governmental entities in the inspection,  
204 issuance, and other necessary activities for all necessary  
205 permits, licenses, and other permissions that a charter school  
206 needs in order for development, construction, or operation. A  
207 charter school may use, but may not be required to use, a school  
208 district for these services. The interlocal agreement must  
209 include, but need not be limited to, the identification of fees  
210 that charter schools will be charged for such services. The fees  
211 must consist of the governmental entity's fees plus a fee for  
212 the school district to recover no more than actual costs for  
213 providing such services. These services and fees are not  
214 included within the services to be provided pursuant to  
215 subsection (20).

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

218 (b) A sponsor shall receive and review all applications  
219 for a charter school using an evaluation instrument developed by  
220 the Department of Education. A sponsor shall receive and  
221 consider charter school applications received on or before  
222 August 1 of each calendar year for charter schools to be opened  
223 at the beginning of the school district's next school year, or  
224 to be opened at a time agreed to by the applicant and the





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225 | sponsor. A sponsor may not refuse to receive a charter school  
 226 | application submitted before August 1 and may receive an  
 227 | application submitted ~~applications~~ later than August 1 ~~this date~~  
 228 | if it chooses. In order to facilitate greater collaboration in  
 229 | the application process, an applicant may submit a draft charter  
 230 | school application on or before May 1 with an application fee of  
 231 | \$500. If a draft application is timely submitted, the sponsor  
 232 | shall review and provide feedback as to material deficiencies in  
 233 | the application by July 1. The applicant shall then have until  
 234 | August 1 to resubmit a revised and final application. The  
 235 | sponsor may approve the draft application. A sponsor may not  
 236 | charge an applicant for a charter any fee for the processing or  
 237 | consideration of an application, and a sponsor may not base its  
 238 | consideration or approval of a final ~~an~~ application upon the  
 239 | promise of future payment of any kind. Before approving or  
 240 | denying any final application, the sponsor shall allow the  
 241 | applicant, upon receipt of written notification, at least 7  
 242 | calendar days to make technical or nonsubstantive corrections  
 243 | and clarifications, including, but not limited to, corrections  
 244 | of grammatical, typographical, and like errors or missing  
 245 | signatures, if such errors are identified by the sponsor as  
 246 | cause to deny the final application.

247 |         1. In order to facilitate an accurate budget projection  
 248 | process, a sponsor shall be held harmless for FTE students who  
 249 | are not included in the FTE projection due to approval of  
 250 | charter school applications after the FTE projection deadline.  
 251 | In a further effort to facilitate an accurate budget projection,  
 252 | within 15 calendar days after receipt of a charter school



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253 application, a sponsor shall report to the Department of  
254 Education the name of the applicant entity, the proposed charter  
255 school location, and its projected FTE.

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

263 3.a. A sponsor shall by a majority vote approve or deny an  
264 application no later than 60 calendar days after the application  
265 is received, unless the sponsor and the applicant mutually agree  
266 in writing to temporarily postpone the vote to a specific date,  
267 at which time the sponsor shall by a majority vote approve or  
268 deny the application. If the sponsor fails to act on the  
269 application, an applicant may appeal to the State Board of  
270 Education as provided in paragraph (c). If an application is  
271 denied, the sponsor shall, within 10 calendar days after such  
272 denial, articulate in writing the specific reasons, based upon  
273 good cause, supporting its denial of the charter application and  
274 shall provide the letter of denial and supporting documentation  
275 to the applicant and to the Department of Education.

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

280 (I) The application does not materially comply with the



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281 requirements in paragraph (a);

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

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

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

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

294  
295 Material noncompliance is a failure to follow requirements or a  
296 violation of prohibitions applicable to charter school  
297 applications, which failure is quantitatively or qualitatively  
298 significant either individually or when aggregated with other  
299 noncompliance. An applicant is considered to be replicating a  
300 high-performing charter school if the proposed school is  
301 substantially similar to at least one of the applicant's high-  
302 performing charter schools and the organization or individuals  
303 involved in the establishment and operation of the proposed  
304 school are significantly involved in the operation of replicated  
305 schools.

306 c. If the sponsor denies an application submitted by a  
307 high-performing charter school, the sponsor must, within 10  
308 calendar days after such denial, state in writing the specific



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309 reasons, based upon the criteria in sub-subparagraph b.,  
310 supporting its denial of the application and must provide the  
311 letter of denial and supporting documentation to the applicant  
312 and to the Department of Education. The applicant may appeal the  
313 sponsor's denial of the application directly to the State Board  
314 of Education pursuant to sub-subparagraph (c)3.b.

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

321 5. Upon approval of a charter application, the initial  
322 startup shall commence with the beginning of the public school  
323 calendar for the district in which the charter is granted unless  
324 the sponsor allows a waiver of this subparagraph for good cause.

325 (c)1. An applicant may appeal any denial of that  
326 applicant's application or failure to act on an application to  
327 the State Board of Education no later than 30 calendar days  
328 after receipt of the sponsor's decision or failure to act and  
329 shall notify the sponsor of its appeal. Any response of the  
330 sponsor shall be submitted to the State Board of Education  
331 within 30 calendar days after notification of the appeal. Upon  
332 receipt of notification from the State Board of Education that a  
333 charter school applicant is filing an appeal, the Commissioner  
334 of Education shall convene a meeting of the Charter School  
335 Appeal Commission to study and make recommendations to the State  
336 Board of Education regarding its pending decision about the



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337 | appeal. The commission shall forward its recommendation to the  
338 | state board at least ~~no later than~~ 7 calendar days before ~~prior~~  
339 | ~~to~~ the date on which the appeal is to be heard. An appeal  
340 | regarding the denial of an application submitted by a high-  
341 | performing charter school pursuant to s. 1002.331 shall be  
342 | conducted by the State Board of Education in accordance with  
343 | this paragraph, except that the commission shall not convene to  
344 | make recommendations regarding the appeal. However, the  
345 | Commissioner of Education shall review the appeal and make a  
346 | recommendation to the state board.

347 |       2. The Charter School Appeal Commission or, in the case of  
348 | an appeal regarding an application submitted by a high-  
349 | performing charter school, the State Board of Education may  
350 | reject an appeal submission for failure to comply with  
351 | procedural rules governing the appeals process. The rejection  
352 | shall describe the submission errors. The appellant shall have  
353 | 15 calendar days after notice of rejection in which to resubmit  
354 | an appeal that meets the requirements set forth in State Board  
355 | of Education rule. An appeal submitted subsequent to such  
356 | rejection is considered timely if the original appeal was filed  
357 | within 30 calendar days after receipt of notice of the specific  
358 | reasons for the sponsor's denial of the charter application.

359 |       3.a. The State Board of Education shall by majority vote  
360 | accept or reject the decision of the sponsor no later than 90  
361 | calendar days after an appeal is filed in accordance with State  
362 | Board of Education rule. The State Board of Education shall  
363 | remand the application to the sponsor with its written decision  
364 | that the sponsor approve or deny the application. The sponsor



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365 shall implement the decision of the State Board of Education.  
 366 The decision of the State Board of Education is not subject to  
 367 the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, chapter 120.

368 b. If an appeal concerns an application submitted by a  
 369 high-performing charter school identified pursuant to s.  
 370 1002.331, the State Board of Education shall determine whether  
 371 the sponsor has shown, by clear and convincing evidence, that:

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

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

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

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

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

386  
 387 The State Board of Education shall approve or reject the  
 388 sponsor's denial of an application no later than 90 calendar  
 389 days after an appeal is filed in accordance with State Board of  
 390 Education rule. The State Board of Education shall remand the  
 391 application to the sponsor with its written decision that the  
 392 sponsor approve or deny the application. The sponsor shall



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393 | implement the decision of the State Board of Education. The  
394 | decision of the State Board of Education is not subject to the  
395 | Administrative Procedure Act, chapter 120.

396 |         (h) The terms and conditions for the operation of a  
397 | charter school shall be set forth by the sponsor and the  
398 | applicant in a written contractual agreement, called a charter.  
399 | The sponsor may ~~shall~~ not impose unreasonable rules or  
400 | regulations that violate the intent of giving charter schools  
401 | greater flexibility to meet educational goals. The sponsor has  
402 | 30 ~~shall have 60~~ days after approval of the application to  
403 | provide an initial proposed charter contract to the charter  
404 | school. The applicant and the sponsor have 40 ~~shall have 75~~ days  
405 | thereafter to negotiate and notice the charter contract for  
406 | final approval by the sponsor unless both parties agree to an  
407 | extension. The proposed charter contract shall be provided to  
408 | the charter school at least 7 calendar days prior to the date of  
409 | the meeting at which the charter is scheduled to be voted upon  
410 | by the sponsor. The Department of Education shall provide  
411 | mediation services for any dispute regarding this section  
412 | subsequent to the approval of a charter application and for any  
413 | dispute relating to the approved charter, except disputes  
414 | regarding charter school application denials. If the  
415 | Commissioner of Education determines that the dispute cannot be  
416 | settled through mediation, the dispute may be appealed to an  
417 | administrative law judge appointed by the Division of  
418 | Administrative Hearings. The administrative law judge has final  
419 | order authority to ~~may~~ rule on issues of equitable treatment of  
420 | the charter school as a public school, whether proposed



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421 provisions of the charter violate the intended flexibility  
422 granted charter schools by statute, or on any other matter  
423 regarding this section except a charter school application  
424 denial, a charter termination, or a charter nonrenewal and shall  
425 award the prevailing party reasonable attorney's fees and costs  
426 incurred to be paid by the losing party. The costs of the  
427 administrative hearing shall be paid by the party whom the  
428 administrative law judge rules against.

429 (7) CHARTER.—The major issues involving the operation of a  
430 charter school shall be considered in advance and written into  
431 the charter. The charter shall be signed by the governing board  
432 of the charter school and the sponsor, following a public  
433 hearing to ensure community input.

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

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

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

445 a. The charter shall ensure that reading is a primary  
446 focus of the curriculum and that resources are provided to  
447 identify and provide specialized instruction for students who  
448 are reading below grade level. The curriculum and instructional





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449 strategies for reading must be consistent with the Next  
450 Generation Sunshine State Standards and grounded in  
451 scientifically based reading research.

452 b. In order to provide students with access to diverse  
453 instructional delivery models, to facilitate the integration of  
454 technology within traditional classroom instruction, and to  
455 provide students with the skills they need to compete in the  
456 21st century economy, the Legislature encourages instructional  
457 methods for blended learning courses consisting of both  
458 traditional classroom and online instructional techniques.  
459 Charter schools may implement blended learning courses which  
460 combine traditional classroom instruction and virtual  
461 instruction. Students in a blended learning course must be full-  
462 time students of the charter school and receive the online  
463 instruction in a classroom setting at the charter school.  
464 Instructional personnel certified pursuant to s. 1012.55 who  
465 provide virtual instruction for blended learning courses may be  
466 employees of the charter school or may be under contract to  
467 provide instructional services to charter school students. At a  
468 minimum, such instructional personnel must hold an active state  
469 or school district adjunct certification under s. 1012.57 for  
470 the subject area of the blended learning course. The funding and  
471 performance accountability requirements for blended learning  
472 courses are the same as those for traditional courses.

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



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

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

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

485

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

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

500 5. In secondary charter schools, a method for determining  
501 that a student has satisfied the requirements for graduation in  
502 s. 1003.428, s. 1003.429, or s. 1003.43.

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



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505 |           7. The admissions procedures and dismissal procedures,  
506 | including the school's code of student conduct.

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

511 |           9. The financial and administrative management of the  
512 | school, including a reasonable demonstration of the professional  
513 | experience or competence of those individuals or organizations  
514 | applying to operate the charter school or those hired or  
515 | retained to perform such professional services and the  
516 | description of clearly delineated responsibilities and the  
517 | policies and practices needed to effectively manage the charter  
518 | school. A description of internal audit procedures and  
519 | establishment of controls to ensure that financial resources are  
520 | properly managed must be included. Both public sector and  
521 | private sector professional experience shall be equally valid in  
522 | such a consideration.

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

527 |           11. A description of procedures that identify various  
528 | risks and provide for a comprehensive approach to reduce the  
529 | impact of losses; plans to ensure the safety and security of  
530 | students and staff; plans to identify, minimize, and protect  
531 | others from violent or disruptive student behavior; and the  
532 | manner in which the school will be insured, including whether or



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533 | not the school will be required to have liability insurance,  
534 | and, if so, the terms and conditions thereof and the amounts of  
535 | coverage.

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

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

560 |       14. The qualifications to be required of the teachers and



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561 the potential strategies used to recruit, hire, train, and  
562 retain qualified staff to achieve best value.

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

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

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

581 18. Full disclosure of the identity of all relatives  
582 employed by the charter school who are related to the charter  
583 school owner, president, chairperson of the governing board of  
584 directors, superintendent, governing board member, principal,  
585 assistant principal, or any other person employed by the charter  
586 school who has equivalent decisionmaking authority. For the  
587 purpose of this subparagraph, the term "relative" means father,  
588 mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, first



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589 | cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, father-in-law, mother-in-  
590 | law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law,  
591 | stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother,  
592 | stepsister, half brother, or half sister.

593 |       19. Implementation of the activities authorized under s.  
594 | 1002.331 by the charter school when it satisfies the eligibility  
595 | requirements for a high-performing charter school. A high-  
596 | performing charter school shall notify its sponsor in writing by  
597 | March 1 if it intends to increase enrollment or expand grade  
598 | levels the following school year. The written notice shall  
599 | specify the amount of the enrollment increase and the grade  
600 | levels that will be added, as applicable.

601 |       (c) A charter may be modified during its initial term or  
602 | any renewal term upon the recommendation of the sponsor or the  
603 | charter school's governing board and the approval of both  
604 | parties to the agreement. Modification may include, but is not  
605 | limited to, consolidation of multiple charters into a single  
606 | charter if the charters are operated under the same governing  
607 | board and physically located on the same campus, regardless of  
608 | the renewal cycle.

609 |       (8) CAUSES FOR NONRENEWAL OR TERMINATION OF CHARTER.—

610 |       (a) The sponsor shall make student academic achievement  
611 | for all students the most important factor when determining  
612 | whether to renew or terminate the charter. The sponsor may also  
613 | choose not to renew or may terminate the charter for any of the  
614 | following grounds:

615 |       1. Failure to participate in the state's education  
616 | accountability system created in s. 1008.31, as required in this



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617 section, or failure to meet the requirements for student  
618 performance stated in the charter.

619 2. Failure to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal  
620 management.

621 3. Violation of law.

622 4. Other good cause shown.

623 Section 2. Paragraphs (g) and (n) of subsection (9),  
624 paragraph (i) of subsection (10), paragraph (a) of subsection  
625 (21), and subsection (27) of section 1002.33, Florida Statutes,  
626 are amended, paragraphs (o) and (p) are added to subsection (9)  
627 of that section, paragraph (c) is added to subsection (16) of  
628 that section, and paragraph (c) is added to subsection (26) of  
629 that section, to read:

630 1002.33 Charter schools.—

631 (9) CHARTER SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS.—

632 (g)1. In order to provide financial information that is  
633 comparable to that reported for other public schools, charter  
634 schools are to maintain all financial records that constitute  
635 their accounting system:

636 ~~a.1~~. In accordance with the accounts and codes prescribed  
637 in the most recent issuance of the publication titled "Financial  
638 and Program Cost Accounting and Reporting for Florida Schools";  
639 or

640 ~~b.2~~. At the discretion of the charter school's governing  
641 board, a charter school may elect to follow generally accepted  
642 accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, but must  
643 reformat this information for reporting according to this  
644 paragraph.



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645           2. Charter schools shall provide annual financial report  
646 and program cost report information in the state-required  
647 formats for inclusion in district reporting in compliance with  
648 s. 1011.60(1). Charter schools that are operated by a  
649 municipality or are a component unit of a parent nonprofit  
650 organization may use the accounting system of the municipality  
651 or the parent but must reformat this information for reporting  
652 according to this paragraph.

653           3. A charter school shall provide the sponsor with a  
654 concise, uniform, monthly financial statement summary sheet that  
655 contains a balance sheet and a statement of revenue,  
656 expenditures, and changes in fund balance. The balance sheet and  
657 the statement of revenue, expenditures, and changes in fund  
658 balance shall be in the governmental funds format prescribed by  
659 the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. A charter school  
660 shall provide a monthly financial statement to the sponsor  
661 unless the charter school is designated as A high-performing  
662 charter school pursuant to s. 1002.331, in which case the high-  
663 performing charter school may provide a quarterly financial  
664 statement in the same format and requirements as the uniform  
665 monthly financial statement summary sheet. The financial  
666 statement required under this paragraph shall be in a form  
667 prescribed by the Department of Education.

668           4. A charter school shall maintain and provide financial  
669 information as required in this paragraph. The financial  
670 statement required in subparagraph 3. must be in a form  
671 prescribed by the Department of Education.

672           (n)1. The director and a representative of the governing





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673 board of a charter school that has earned a grade of "D" or "F"  
674 pursuant to s. 1008.34(2) shall appear before the sponsor to  
675 present information concerning each contract component having  
676 noted deficiencies. The director and a representative of the  
677 governing board shall submit to the sponsor for approval a  
678 school improvement plan to raise student achievement. Upon  
679 approval by the sponsor, the charter school shall begin  
680 implementation of the school improvement plan. The department  
681 shall offer technical assistance and training to the charter  
682 school and its governing board and establish guidelines for  
683 developing, submitting, and approving such plans.

684 2.a. If a charter school earns three consecutive grades of  
685 "D," two consecutive grades of "D" followed by a grade of "F,"  
686 or two nonconsecutive grades of "F" within a 3-year period, the  
687 charter school governing board shall choose one of the following  
688 corrective actions:

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

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

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

696 (IV) Voluntarily close the charter school.

697 b. The charter school must implement the corrective action  
698 in the school year following receipt of a third consecutive  
699 grade of "D," a grade of "F" following two consecutive grades of  
700 "D," or a second nonconsecutive grade of "F" within a 3-year



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701 period.

702 c. The sponsor may annually waive a corrective action if  
703 it determines that the charter school is likely to improve a  
704 letter grade if additional time is provided to implement the  
705 intervention and support strategies prescribed by the school  
706 improvement plan. Notwithstanding this sub-subparagraph, a  
707 charter school that earns a second consecutive grade of "F" is  
708 subject to subparagraph 4.

709 d. A charter school is no longer required to implement a  
710 corrective action if it improves by at least one letter grade.  
711 However, the charter school must continue to implement  
712 strategies identified in the school improvement plan. The  
713 sponsor must annually review implementation of the school  
714 improvement plan to monitor the school's continued improvement  
715 pursuant to subparagraph 5.

716 e. A charter school implementing a corrective action that  
717 does not improve by at least one letter grade after 2 full  
718 school years of implementing the corrective action must select a  
719 different corrective action. Implementation of the new  
720 corrective action must begin in the school year following the  
721 implementation period of the existing corrective action, unless  
722 the sponsor determines that the charter school is likely to  
723 improve a letter grade if additional time is provided to  
724 implement the existing corrective action. Notwithstanding this  
725 sub-subparagraph, a charter school that earns a second  
726 consecutive grade of "F" while implementing a corrective action  
727 is subject to subparagraph 4.

728 3. A charter school with a grade of "D" or "F" that



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729 improves by at least one letter grade must continue to implement  
 730 the strategies identified in the school improvement plan. The  
 731 sponsor must annually review implementation of the school  
 732 improvement plan to monitor the school's continued improvement  
 733 pursuant to subparagraph 5.

734 4. The sponsor shall terminate a charter if the charter  
 735 school earns two consecutive grades of "F" unless:

736 a. The charter school is established to turn around the  
 737 performance of a district public school pursuant to s.  
 738 1008.33(4)(b)3. Such charter schools shall be governed by s.  
 739 1008.33;

740 b. The charter school serves a student population the  
 741 majority of which resides in a school zone served by a district  
 742 public school that earned a grade of "F" in the year before the  
 743 charter school opened and the charter school earns at least a  
 744 grade of "D" in its third year of operation. The exception  
 745 provided under this sub-subparagraph does not apply to a charter  
 746 school in its fourth year of operation and thereafter; or

747 c. The state board grants the charter school a waiver of  
 748 termination. The charter school must request the waiver within  
 749 15 ~~30~~ days after the department's official release ~~completion~~ of  
 750 school grades ~~grade appeals~~. The state board may waive  
 751 termination if the charter school demonstrates that the learning  
 752 gains of its students on statewide assessments are comparable to  
 753 or better than the learning gains of similarly situated students  
 754 enrolled in nearby district public schools. The waiver is valid  
 755 for 1 year and may only be granted once. Charter schools that  
 756 have been in operation for more than 5 years are not eligible



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757 for a waiver under this sub-subparagraph.

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

768 6. Notwithstanding any provision of this paragraph except  
769 sub-subparagraphs 4.a.-c., the sponsor may terminate the charter  
770 at any time pursuant to subsection (8).

771 (o)1. Upon initial notification of nonrenewal, closure, or  
772 termination of its charter, a charter school may not expend more  
773 than \$10,000 per expenditure without prior written approval from  
774 the sponsor unless such expenditure was included within the  
775 annual budget submitted to the sponsor pursuant to the charter  
776 contract, is for reasonable attorney fees and costs during the  
777 pendency of any appeal, or is for reasonable fees and costs to  
778 conduct an independent audit.

779 2. An independent audit shall be completed within 30 days  
780 after notice of nonrenewal, closure, or termination to account  
781 for all public funds and assets.

782 3. A provision in a charter contract that contains an  
783 acceleration clause requiring the expenditure of funds based  
784 upon closure or upon notification of nonrenewal or termination



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785 is void and unenforceable.

786 4. A charter school may not enter into a contract with an  
787 employee that exceeds the term of the school's charter contract  
788 with its sponsor.

789 5. A violation of this paragraph triggers a reversion or  
790 clawback power by the sponsor allowing for collection of an  
791 amount equal to or less than the accelerated amount that exceeds  
792 normal expenditures. The reversion or clawback plus legal fees  
793 and costs shall be levied against the person or entity receiving  
794 the accelerated amount.

795 (p) Each charter school shall maintain a website that  
796 enables the public to obtain information regarding the school;  
797 the school's academic performance; the names of the governing  
798 board members; the programs at the school; any management  
799 companies, service providers, or education management  
800 corporations associated with the school; the school's annual  
801 budget and its annual independent fiscal audit; the school's  
802 grade pursuant to s. 1008.34; and, on a quarterly basis, the  
803 minutes of governing board meetings.

804 (10) ELIGIBLE STUDENTS.—

805 (i) The capacity of a high-performing charter school  
806 identified pursuant to s. 1002.331 shall be determined annually  
807 by the governing board of the charter school. The governing  
808 board shall notify the sponsor of any increase in enrollment by  
809 March 1 of the school year preceding the increase. A sponsor may  
810 not require a charter school to identify the names of students  
811 to be enrolled or to enroll those students before the start of  
812 the school year as a condition of approval or renewal of a



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813 | charter.

814 |       (16) EXEMPTION FROM STATUTES.—

815 |       (c) For purposes of subparagraphs (b)4.-7.:

816 |       1. The duties assigned to a district school superintendent  
 817 | apply to charter school administrative personnel, as defined in  
 818 | s. 1012.01(3) (a) and (b), and the charter school governing board  
 819 | shall designate at least one administrative person to be  
 820 | responsible for such duties.

821 |       2. The duties assigned to a district school board apply to  
 822 | a charter school governing board.

823 |       3. A charter school may hire instructional personnel and  
 824 | other employees on an at-will basis.

825 |       4. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary,  
 826 | instructional personnel and other employees on contract may be  
 827 | suspended or dismissed any time during the term of the contract  
 828 | without cause.

829 |       (21) PUBLIC INFORMATION ON CHARTER SCHOOLS.—

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



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841 (26) STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE.—  
 842 (c) An employee of the charter school, or his or her  
 843 spouse, or an employee of a charter management organization, or  
 844 his or her spouse, may not be a member of the governing board of  
 845 the charter school.

846 (27) RULEMAKING.—The Department of Education, after  
 847 consultation with school districts and charter school directors,  
 848 shall recommend that the State Board of Education adopt rules to  
 849 implement specific subsections of this section. Such rules shall  
 850 require minimum paperwork and shall not limit charter school  
 851 flexibility authorized by statute. The State Board of Education  
 852 shall adopt rules, pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54, to  
 853 implement a charter model application form, standard evaluation  
 854 instrument, and standard charter and charter renewal contracts  
 855 ~~formats~~ in accordance with this section.

856 Section 3. Subsections (2) and (5) of section 1002.331,  
 857 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

858 1002.331 High-performing charter schools.—

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

860 (a) Increase its student enrollment once per school year  
 861 ~~by up to 15 percent~~ more than the capacity identified in the  
 862 charter, but student enrollment may not exceed the current  
 863 facility capacity.

864 (b) Expand grade levels within kindergarten through grade  
 865 12 to add grade levels not already served if any annual  
 866 enrollment increase resulting from grade level expansion is  
 867 within the limit established in paragraph (a).

868 (c) Submit a quarterly, rather than a monthly, financial



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869 statement to the sponsor pursuant to s. 1002.33(9)(g).

870 (d) Consolidate under a single charter the charters of  
871 multiple high-performing charter schools operated in the same  
872 school district by the charter schools' governing board  
873 regardless of the renewal cycle.

874 (e) Receive a modification of its charter to a term of 15  
875 years or a 15-year charter renewal. The charter may be modified  
876 or renewed for a shorter term at the option of the high-  
877 performing charter school. The charter must be consistent with  
878 s. 1002.33(7)(a)19. and (10)(h) and (i), is subject to annual  
879 review by the sponsor, and may be terminated during its term  
880 pursuant to s. 1002.33(8).

881  
882 A high-performing charter school shall notify its sponsor in  
883 writing by March 1 if it intends to increase enrollment or  
884 expand grade levels the following school year. The written  
885 notice shall specify the amount of the enrollment increase and  
886 the grade levels that will be added, as applicable. If a charter  
887 school notifies the sponsor of its intent to expand, the sponsor  
888 shall modify the charter within 90 days to include the new  
889 enrollment maximum and may not make any other changes. The  
890 sponsor may deny a request to increase the enrollment of a high-  
891 performing charter school if the commissioner has declassified  
892 the charter school as high-performing. If a high-performing  
893 charter school requests to consolidate multiple charters, the  
894 sponsor shall have 40 days after receipt of that request to  
895 provide an initial draft charter to the charter school. The  
896 sponsor and charter school shall have 50 days thereafter to





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897 negotiate and notice the charter contract for final approval by  
 898 the sponsor.

899 (5) The Commissioner of Education, upon request by a  
 900 charter school, shall verify that the charter school meets the  
 901 criteria in subsection (1) and provide a letter to the charter  
 902 school and the sponsor stating that the charter school is a  
 903 high-performing charter school pursuant to this section. The  
 904 commissioner shall annually determine whether a high-performing  
 905 charter school under subsection (1) continues to meet the  
 906 criteria in that subsection. Such high-performing charter school  
 907 shall maintain its high-performing status unless the  
 908 commissioner determines that the charter school no longer meets  
 909 the criteria in subsection (1), at which time the commissioner  
 910 shall send a letter providing notification of its  
 911 declassification as a high-performing charter school.

912 Section 4. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and paragraph  
 913 (a) of subsection (2) of section 1002.332, Florida Statutes, are  
 914 amended to read:

915 1002.332 High-performing charter school system.—

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

917 (b) "High-performing charter school system" means an  
 918 entity that:

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

922 2. Operated ~~Operates~~ a system of charter schools in which  
 923 at least 50 percent of the charter schools were ~~are~~ high-  
 924 performing charter schools pursuant to s. 1002.331 and no



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925 charter school earned a school grade of "D" or "F" pursuant to  
 926 s. 1008.34 in any of the previous 3 school years regardless of  
 927 whether the entity currently operates the charter school, except  
 928 that:

929 a. If the entity ~~has~~ assumed operation of a public school  
 930 pursuant to s. 1008.33(4)(b)3. with a school grade of "F," that  
 931 school's grade may not be considered in determining high-  
 932 performing charter school system status for a period of 3 years.

933 b. If the entity established ~~establishes~~ a new charter  
 934 school that served ~~serves~~ a student population the majority of  
 935 which resided ~~resides~~ in a school zone served by a public school  
 936 that earned a grade of "F" or three consecutive grades of "D"  
 937 pursuant to s. 1008.34, that charter school's grade may not be  
 938 considered in determining high-performing charter school system  
 939 status if it attained ~~attains~~ and maintained ~~maintains~~ a school  
 940 grade that was ~~is~~ higher than that of the public school serving  
 941 that school zone within 3 years after establishment; and

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

947 (2)(a) The Commissioner of Education, ~~upon request by an~~  
 948 ~~entity,~~ shall verify all charter schools served by an entity and  
 949 verify that the entity meets the criteria in this section  
 950 ~~subsection (1)~~ for the previous ~~prior~~ school year and provide a  
 951 letter to the entity stating that it is a high-performing  
 952 charter school system.



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953 | 1. As part of the commissioner's verification, the entity  
954 | shall identify all charter schools in this state which the  
955 | entity has operated or provided services for the previous 3  
956 | years, regardless of whether the entity currently operates or  
957 | provides services for the charter school. For all such charter  
958 | schools that the entity no longer operates, the entity shall  
959 | identify the reasons the entity terminated the operation or  
960 | services or grounds stated by the charter school's governing  
961 | board in terminating the operation or services of the entity.

962 | 2. The commissioner shall annually determine whether a  
963 | high-performing charter school system continues to meet the  
964 | criteria in this section. A high-performing charter school  
965 | system shall maintain its high-performing status unless the  
966 | commissioner determines that the charter school system no longer  
967 | meets the criteria in this section, at which time the  
968 | commissioner shall send a letter providing notification of its  
969 | declassification as a high-performing charter school system.

970 | Section 5. Subsection (6) is added to section 1012.2315,  
971 | Florida Statutes, to read:

972 | 1012.2315 Assignment of teachers.—

973 | (6) ASSIGNMENT OF TEACHERS BASED UPON PERFORMANCE  
974 | EVALUATIONS.—

975 | (a) If a high school or middle school student is currently  
976 | taught by a classroom teacher who, during that school year,  
977 | receives a performance evaluation rating of "needs improvement"  
978 | or "unsatisfactory" under s. 1012.34, the student may not be  
979 | assigned the following school year to a classroom teacher in the  
980 | same subject area who received a performance evaluation rating



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981 of "needs improvement" or "unsatisfactory" in the preceding  
982 school year.

983 (b) If an elementary school student is currently taught by  
984 a classroom teacher who, during that school year, receives a  
985 performance evaluation rating of "needs improvement" or  
986 "unsatisfactory" under s. 1012.34, the student may not be  
987 assigned the following school year to a classroom teacher who  
988 received a performance evaluation rating of "needs improvement"  
989 or "unsatisfactory" in the preceding school year.

990 (c) For a student enrolling in an extracurricular course  
991 as defined in s. 1003.01(15), a parent may choose to have the  
992 student taught by a teacher who received a performance  
993 evaluation of "needs improvement" or "unsatisfactory" in the  
994 preceding school year if the student and the student's parent  
995 receive an explanation of the impact of teacher effectiveness on  
996 student learning and the principal receives written consent from  
997 the parent.

998 Section 6. Full implementation of online assessments for  
999 Next Generation Sunshine State Standards in English/language  
1000 arts and mathematics adopted under s. 1003.41, Florida Statutes,  
1001 for all kindergarten through grade 12 public school students  
1002 shall occur only after the technology infrastructure,  
1003 connectivity, and capacity of all public schools and school  
1004 districts have been load tested and independently verified as  
1005 ready for successful deployment and implementation.

1006 Section 7. The technology infrastructure, connectivity,  
1007 and capacity of all public schools and school districts that  
1008 administer statewide standardized assessments pursuant to s.



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1009 1008.22, Florida Statutes, including online assessments, shall  
 1010 be load tested and independently verified as appropriate,  
 1011 adequate, efficient, and sustainable.

1012 Section 8. The Department of Education shall develop a  
 1013 proposed statewide, standard charter contract and a proposed  
 1014 definition of the term "management company" by consulting and  
 1015 negotiating with school districts and charter schools and  
 1016 provide the proposed charter contract to the Governor, the  
 1017 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
 1018 Representatives by November 1, 2013.

1019 Section 9. Subsection (9) is added to section 1002.31,  
 1020 Florida Statutes, to read:

1021 1002.31 Public school parental choice.—

1022 (9) For a school or program that is a public school of  
 1023 choice under this section, the calculation for compliance with  
 1024 maximum class size pursuant to s. 1003.03 is the average number  
 1025 of students at the school level.

1026 Section 10. Section 1002.451, Florida Statutes, is created  
 1027 to read:

1028 1002.451 District innovation school of technology  
 1029 program.—

1030 (1) DISTRICT INNOVATION SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY.—

1031 (a) A district school board may operate an innovation  
 1032 school of technology for the purpose of developing the  
 1033 innovative use of industry-leading technology while requiring  
 1034 high student academic achievement and accountability in exchange  
 1035 for flexibility and exemption from specified statutes and rules.  
 1036 The innovation school of technology shall operate within



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1037 existing resources.

1038 (b) An innovation school of technology is a school that  
1039 has, on a schoolwide basis, adopted and implemented a blended  
1040 learning program. A blended learning program is an education  
1041 program in which a student learns in part through online  
1042 delivery of content and instruction with some element of student  
1043 control over time, place, path, or pace and in part at a  
1044 supervised brick-and-mortar location away from home. Blended  
1045 learning models must include major components such as  
1046 differentiated instruction, data-driven placement, flexible  
1047 scheduling, differentiated teaching, and self-paced learning.  
1048 The school may use one of the following blended learning models:

1049 1. Flipped classroom model in which students use online  
1050 instructional videos and practice concepts in the classroom with  
1051 the support of the teacher;

1052 2. Flex model in which students learn primarily online and  
1053 teachers act as facilitators; or

1054 3. Rotation model in which students move between different  
1055 learning modalities, such as online instruction, teacher-  
1056 directed instruction, seminar or group projects, and one-on-one  
1057 teacher coaching. Rotation models include individual, station,  
1058 and laboratory models.

1059 (c) An innovation school of technology must be open to any  
1060 student covered in an interdistrict agreement or residing in the  
1061 school district in which the innovation school of technology is  
1062 located. An innovation school of technology shall enroll an  
1063 eligible student who submits a timely application if the number  
1064 of applications does not exceed the capacity of a program,



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1065 class, grade level, or building. If the number of applications  
1066 exceeds capacity, all applicants shall have an equal chance of  
1067 being admitted through a public random selection process.  
1068 However, a district may give enrollment preference to students  
1069 who identify the innovation school of technology as the  
1070 student's preferred choice pursuant to the district's controlled  
1071 open enrollment plan.

1072 (2) GUIDING PRINCIPLES.—An innovation school of technology  
1073 shall be guided by the following principles:

1074 (a) Meet high standards of student achievement in exchange  
1075 for flexibility with respect to statutes or rules.

1076 (b) Implement innovative learning methods and assessment  
1077 tools to implement a schoolwide transformation regarding  
1078 industry-leading technology to improve student learning and  
1079 academic achievement.

1080 (c) Promote enhanced academic success and financial  
1081 efficiency by aligning responsibility with accountability and  
1082 industry-leading technology.

1083 (d) Measure student performance based on student learning  
1084 growth, or based on student achievement if student learning  
1085 growth cannot be measured.

1086 (e) Provide a parent with sufficient information as to  
1087 whether his or her child is reading at grade level and making  
1088 learning gains each year.

1089 (f) Incorporate industry certifications and similar  
1090 recognitions into performance expectations.

1091 (g) Focus on utilizing industry-leading hardware and  
1092 software technology for student individual use and to develop



1093 the school's infrastructure in furtherance of this section.

1094 (3) TERM OF PERFORMANCE CONTRACT.—An innovation school of  
1095 technology may operate pursuant to a performance contract with  
1096 the State Board of Education for a period of 5 years.

1097 (a) Before expiration of the performance contract, the  
1098 school's performance shall be evaluated against the eligibility  
1099 criteria, purpose, guiding principles, and compliance with the  
1100 contract to determine whether the contract may be renewed. The  
1101 contract may be renewed every 5 years.

1102 (b) The performance contract shall be terminated by the  
1103 State Board of Education if:

1104 1. The school receives a grade of "F" as an innovation  
1105 school of technology for 2 consecutive years;

1106 2. The school or district fails to comply with the  
1107 criteria in this section;

1108 3. The school or district does not comply with terms of  
1109 the contract which specify that a violation results in  
1110 termination; or

1111 4. Other good cause is shown.

1112 (4) FUNDING.—A district school board operating an  
1113 innovation school of technology shall report full-time  
1114 equivalent students to the department in a manner prescribed by  
1115 the department, and funding shall be provided through the  
1116 Florida Education Finance Program as provided in ss. 1011.61 and  
1117 1011.62. An innovation school of technology may seek and receive  
1118 additional funding through incentive grants or public or private  
1119 partnerships.

1120 (5) EXEMPTION FROM STATUTES.—





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1121        (a) An innovation school of technology is exempt from  
1122 chapters 1000-1013. However, an innovation school of technology  
1123 shall comply with the following provisions of those chapters:

1124        1. Laws pertaining to the following:

1125            a. Schools of technology, including this section.  
1126            b. Student assessment program and school grading system.  
1127            c. Services to students who have disabilities.  
1128            d. Civil rights, including s. 1000.05, relating to  
1129 discrimination.

1130            e. Student health, safety, and welfare.

1131        2. Laws governing the election and compensation of  
1132 district school board members and election or appointment and  
1133 compensation of district school superintendents.

1134        3. Section 1003.03, governing maximum class size, except  
1135 that the calculation for compliance pursuant to s. 1003.03 is  
1136 the average at the school level.

1137        4. Sections 1012.22(1)(c) and 1012.27(2), relating to  
1138 compensation and salary schedules.

1139        5. Section 1012.33(5), relating to workforce reductions,  
1140 for annual contracts for instructional personnel. This  
1141 subparagraph does not apply to at-will employees.

1142        6. Section 1012.335, relating to contracts with  
1143 instructional personnel hired on or after July 1, 2011, for  
1144 annual contracts for instructional personnel. This subparagraph  
1145 does not apply to at-will employees.

1146        7. Section 1012.34, relating to requirements for  
1147 performance evaluations of instructional personnel and school  
1148 administrators.



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1149           (b) An innovation school of technology shall also comply  
 1150 with chapter 119 and s. 286.011, relating to public meetings and  
 1151 records, public inspection, and criminal and civil penalties.

1152           (c) An innovation school of technology is exempt from ad  
 1153 valorem taxes and the State Requirements for Educational  
 1154 Facilities when leasing facilities.

1155           (6) APPLICATION PROCESS AND PERFORMANCE CONTRACT.—

1156           (a) A district school board may apply to the State Board  
 1157 of Education for an innovation school of technology if the  
 1158 district:

1159           1. Has at least 20 percent of its total enrollment in  
 1160 public school choice programs or at least 5 percent of its total  
 1161 enrollment in charter schools;

1162           2. Has no material weaknesses or instances of material  
 1163 noncompliance noted in the annual financial audit conducted  
 1164 pursuant to s. 218.39; and

1165           3. Has received a district grade of "A" or "B" in each of  
 1166 the past 3 years.

1167           (b) A district school board may operate one innovation  
 1168 school of technology upon an application being approved by the  
 1169 State Board of Education.

1170           1. A district school board may apply to the State Board of  
 1171 Education to establish additional schools of technology if each  
 1172 existing innovation school of technology in the district:

1173           a. Meets all requirements in this section and in the  
 1174 performance contract;

1175           b. Has a grade of "A" or "B"; and

1176           c. Has at least 50 percent of its students exceed the



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1177 state average on the statewide assessment program pursuant to s.  
1178 1008.22. This comparison may take student subgroups, as defined  
1179 in the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), 20  
1180 U.S.C. s. 6311(b) (2) (C) (v) (II), into specific consideration so  
1181 that at least 50 percent of students in each student subgroup  
1182 meet or exceed the statewide average performance, rounded to the  
1183 nearest whole number, of that particular subgroup.

1184 2. Notwithstanding subparagraph 1., the number of schools  
1185 of technology in a school district may not exceed:

1186 a. Seven in a school district that has 100,000 or more  
1187 students.

1188 b. Five in a school district that has 50,000 to 99,999  
1189 students.

1190 c. Three in a school district that has fewer than 50,000  
1191 students.

1192 (c) A school district that meets the eligibility  
1193 requirements of paragraph (a) may apply to the State Board of  
1194 Education at any time to enter into a performance contract to  
1195 operate an innovation school of technology. The application  
1196 must, at a minimum:

1197 1. Demonstrate how the school district meets and will  
1198 continue to meet the requirements of this section;

1199 2. Identify how the school will accomplish the purposes  
1200 and guiding principles of this section;

1201 3. Identify the statutes or rules from which the district  
1202 is seeking a waiver for the school;

1203 4. Identify and provide supporting documentation for the  
1204 purpose and impact of each waiver, how each waiver would enable



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1205 the school to achieve the purpose and guiding principles of this  
1206 section, and how the school would not be able to achieve the  
1207 purpose and guiding principles of this section without each  
1208 waiver; and

1209 5. Confirm that the school board remains responsible for  
1210 the operation, control, and supervision of the school in  
1211 accordance with all applicable laws, rules, and district  
1212 procedures not waived pursuant to this section or waived  
1213 pursuant to other applicable law.

1214 (d) The State Board of Education shall approve or deny the  
1215 application within 90 days or, with the agreement of the school  
1216 district, at a later date.

1217 (e) The performance contract must address the terms under  
1218 which the State Board of Education may cancel the contract and,  
1219 at a minimum, the methods by which:

1220 1. Upon execution of the performance contract, the school  
1221 district will plan the program during the first year, begin at  
1222 least partial implementation of the program during the second  
1223 year, and fully implement the program by the third year. A  
1224 district may implement the program sooner than specified in this  
1225 subparagraph if authorized in the performance contract.

1226 2. The school will integrate industry-leading technology  
1227 into instruction, assessment, and professional development. The  
1228 school may also restructure the school day or school year in a  
1229 way that allows it to best accomplish its goals.

1230 3. The school and district will monitor performance  
1231 progress based on skills that help students succeed in college  
1232 and careers, including problem solving, research,



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1233 interpretation, and communication.

1234 4. The school will incorporate industry certifications and  
 1235 similar recognitions into performance expectations.

1236 5. The school and district will comply with this section  
 1237 and the performance contract.

1238 (f) Three or more contiguous school districts may apply to  
 1239 enter into a joint performance contract as a Region of  
 1240 Technology, subject to terms and conditions contained in this  
 1241 section for a single school district.

1242 (g) The State Board of Education shall monitor schools of  
 1243 technology to ensure that the respective school district is in  
 1244 compliance with this section and the performance contract.

1245 (h) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules  
 1246 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement this section,  
 1247 including, but not limited to, an application, evaluation  
 1248 instrument, and renewal evaluation instrument.

1249 (i) This section does not supersede the provisions of s.  
 1250 768.28.

1251 (7) REPORTS.—The school district of an innovation school  
 1252 of technology shall submit to the State Board of Education, the  
 1253 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
 1254 Representatives an annual report by December 1 of each year  
 1255 which delineates the performance of the innovation school of  
 1256 technology as it relates to the academic performance of  
 1257 students. The annual report shall be submitted in a format  
 1258 prescribed by the Department of Education and must include, but  
 1259 need not be limited to, the following:

1260 (a) Evidence of compliance with this section.



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- 1261           (b) Efforts to close the achievement gap.
- 1262           (c) Longitudinal performance of students, by grade level
- 1263 and subgroup, in mathematics, reading, writing, science, and any
- 1264 other subject that is included as a part of the statewide
- 1265 assessment program in s. 1008.22.
- 1266           (d) Longitudinal performance for students who take an
- 1267 Advanced Placement Examination, organized by age, gender, and
- 1268 race, and for students who participate in the National School
- 1269 Lunch Program.
- 1270           (e) Number and percentage of students who take an Advanced
- 1271 Placement Examination.
- 1272           (f) Identification and analysis of industry-leading
- 1273 technology used to comply with this section, including, but not
- 1274 limited to, recommendations and lessons learned from such use.
- 1275           Section 11. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.