

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to education; amending s. 1002.321,
 3 F.S.; creating a grant program for school districts to
 4 implement artificial intelligence in support of
 5 students and teachers; establishing requirements;
 6 amending s. 1002.411, F.S.; expanding eligibility for
 7 New Worlds Scholarship Accounts to certain students
 8 enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
 9 Program; revising program eligibility criteria;
 10 revising eligible expenses for students who have an
 11 account; requiring parents to use a specified system
 12 to make direct purchases if such system is available;
 13 providing that certain organizations are
 14 administrators for purposes of establishing
 15 scholarship accounts; revising school district and
 16 private prekindergarten provider notification
 17 requirements; revising requirements for the Department
 18 of Education to release scholarship funds; authorizing
 19 certain organizations to develop a system for the
 20 direct purchase of qualifying expenditures; deleting
 21 provisions relating to fund transfers and certain
 22 payment methods; deleting a requirement for quarterly
 23 payments of scholarships; amending s. 1003.485, F.S.;
 24 providing that the University of Florida Lastinger
 25 Center for Learning is the administrator for the New

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

26 | Worlds Reading Initiative; revising definitions;
 27 | deleting a requirement that the department designate
 28 | an administrator for the initiative; requiring the
 29 | department to provide specified data to the
 30 | administrator within specified timeframe; requiring
 31 | the administrator to include certain information in a
 32 | specified annual report; revising eligibility criteria
 33 | for the initiative; deleting obsolete language;
 34 | creating s. 1004.646, F.S.; creating the Lastinger
 35 | Center for Learning at the University of Florida;
 36 | providing duties and responsibilities of the center;
 37 | amending s. 1008.25, F.S.; making technical changes;
 38 | requiring progress monitoring results to be provided
 39 | to prekindergarten instructors within a specified
 40 | timeframe; creating s. 1008.366, F.S.; providing
 41 | academic supports for students; authorizing a
 42 | nonprofit scholarship funding organization to
 43 | administer a tutoring program; providing duties and
 44 | responsibilities of the organization; requiring the
 45 | organization to annually provide a report to the
 46 | Legislature and the department by a specified date;
 47 | providing an effective date.

48 |
 49 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
 50 |

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

51 Section 1. Subsection (3) of section 1002.321, Florida
 52 Statutes, is amended to read:

53 1002.321 Digital learning.—

54 (3) CUSTOMIZED AND ACCELERATED LEARNING.—Artificial
 55 intelligence provides opportunities to customize and accelerate
 56 learning for students and reduce teacher workload. A school
 57 district may receive grant funds for subscription fees and
 58 professional learning to support and accelerate learning for
 59 students in grades 6 through 12 during the school day. Grant
 60 recipients must select an artificial intelligence platform that:

61 1. Uses large language models based on GPT-4, its
 62 equivalent, or successor.

63 2. Provides professional learning to teachers.

64 3. Provides one on one tutoring aligned to the Benchmarks
 65 for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards for reading.

66 4. Provides standards aligned lesson plans and provides
 67 insights on student progress.

68 (4) VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION.--A school district must establish
 69 multiple opportunities for student participation in part-time
 70 and full-time kindergarten through grade 12 virtual instruction.
 71 Options include, but are not limited to:

72 (a) School district operated part-time or full-time
 73 virtual instruction programs under s. 1002.45(1)(b) for
 74 kindergarten through grade 12 students enrolled in the school
 75 district. A full-time program shall operate under its own Master

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

76 School Identification Number.

77 (b) Florida Virtual School instructional services
78 authorized under s. 1002.37.

79 (c) Blended learning instruction provided by charter
80 schools authorized under s. 1002.33.

81 (d) Virtual charter school instruction authorized under s.
82 1002.33.

83 (e) Courses delivered in the traditional school setting by
84 personnel providing direct instruction through virtual
85 instruction or through blended learning courses consisting of
86 both traditional classroom and online instructional techniques
87 pursuant to s. 1003.498.

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

91 Section 2. Subsection (2), paragraph (a) of subsection
92 (3), subsections (4) and (6), and paragraphs (c) and (e) through
93 (h) of subsection (7) of section 1002.411, Florida Statutes, are
94 amended to read:

95 1002.411 New Worlds Scholarship Accounts.—

96 (2) ELIGIBILITY.—Contingent upon available funds, and on a
97 first-come, first-served basis, each student who is enrolled in
98 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program pursuant to s.
99 1002.53 or a Florida public school in kindergarten through grade
100 5 is eligible for a scholarship account if the student:

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

101 (a) Exhibits a substantial deficiency in early literacy
 102 skills based upon the results of the most recent progress
 103 monitoring administered pursuant to s. 1008.25(9), has a
 104 substantial reading deficiency or exhibits characteristics of
 105 dyslexia as identified under s. 1008.25(5) (a) , or scored below a
 106 Level 3 on the most recent statewide, standardized English
 107 Language Arts (ELA) assessment ~~in the prior school year~~. An
 108 eligible student who is classified as an English Language
 109 Learner and is enrolled in a program or receiving services that
 110 are specifically designed to meet the instructional needs of
 111 English Language Learner students shall receive priority.

112 (b) Exhibits a substantial deficiency in early mathematics
 113 skills based upon the results of the most recent progress
 114 monitoring administered pursuant to s. 1008.25(9), has a
 115 substantial deficiency in mathematics or the characteristics of
 116 dyscalculia as identified under s. 1008.25(6) (a) , or scored
 117 below a Level 3 on the most recent statewide, standardized
 118 Mathematics assessment ~~in the prior school year~~.

119 (3) PARENT AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR
 120 PARTICIPATION.—

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

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

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

126 2. If available, utilize the administrator's system to
 127 make direct purchases ~~Submit eligible expenses to the eligible~~
 128 ~~nonprofit scholarship-funding organization for reimbursement~~ of
 129 qualifying expenditures, which may include:
 130 a. Instructional materials.
 131 b. Curriculum. As used in this sub-subparagraph, the term
 132 "curriculum" means a complete course of study for a particular
 133 content area or grade level, including any required supplemental
 134 materials and associated online instruction.
 135 c. Tuition and fees for part-time tutoring services
 136 provided by a person who holds a valid Florida educator's
 137 certificate pursuant to s. 1012.56, a person who holds a
 138 baccalaureate or graduate degree in the subject area, a person
 139 who holds an adjunct teaching certificate pursuant to s.
 140 1012.57, ~~or~~ a person who has demonstrated a mastery of subject
 141 area knowledge pursuant to s. 1012.56(5), a person who holds a
 142 micro-credential under s. 1003.485, or, for a prekindergarten
 143 student, a person who holds a credential under s.
 144 1002.55(3)(c)1. or an educational credential under s.
 145 1002.55(4)(a) or (b).
 146 d. Fees for summer education programs designed to improve
 147 reading, literacy, or mathematics skills.
 148 e. Fees for after-school education programs designed to
 149 improve reading, literacy, or mathematics skills.
 150

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

151 A provider of any services receiving payments pursuant to this
 152 subparagraph may not share any moneys from the scholarship with,
 153 or provide a refund or rebate of any moneys from such
 154 scholarship to, the parent or participating student in any
 155 manner. A parent, student, or provider of any services may not
 156 bill an insurance company, Medicaid, or any other agency for the
 157 same services that are paid for using scholarship funds.

158 (4) ADMINISTRATOR ADMINISTRATION.—An eligible nonprofit
 159 scholarship-funding organization as defined in s. 1002.395(2)
 160 shall be the administrator and participating in the Florida Tax
 161 Credit Scholarship Program established by s. 1002.395 may
 162 establish scholarship accounts for eligible students in
 163 accordance with the requirements of eligible nonprofit
 164 scholarship-funding organizations under this chapter.

165 (6) SCHOOL DISTRICT AND PRIVATE PREKINDERGARTEN PROVIDER
 166 OBLIGATIONS; PARENTAL OPTIONS.—

167 (a) Each ~~By September 30,~~ the school district and private
 168 prekindergarten provider shall notify the parent of each
 169 eligible student of the process to request and receive a
 170 scholarship, subject to available funds, when providing results
 171 from the standardized coordinated screening and progress
 172 monitoring pursuant to s. 1008.25(9)(c).

173 (b) A school district may not prohibit instructional
 174 personnel from providing services pursuant to this section on
 175 the instructional personnel's school campus outside regular work

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

176 | hours, subject to school district policies for safety and
 177 | security operations to protect students, instructional
 178 | personnel, and educational facilities.

179 | (7) ACCOUNT FUNDING AND PAYMENT.—

180 | (c) Upon ~~notification from the eligible nonprofit~~
 181 | ~~scholarship-funding organization that~~ a student being ~~has been~~
 182 | determined eligible for a scholarship, the department shall,
 183 | within 45 days, release the student's scholarship funds to such
 184 | organization to be deposited into the student's account.

185 | (e) The eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding
 186 | organization may develop a system that permits eligible students
 187 | to use program funds to make direct purchases of qualifying
 188 | expenditures for payment of scholarship funds by funds transfer,
 189 | ~~including, but not limited to, debit cards, electronic payment~~
 190 | ~~cards, or any other means of payment that the department deems~~
 191 | ~~to be commercially viable or cost-effective. A student's~~
 192 | ~~scholarship award may not be reduced for debit card or~~
 193 | ~~electronic payment fees.~~ Commodities or services related to the
 194 | development of such a system shall be procured by competitive
 195 | solicitation unless they are purchased from a state term
 196 | contract pursuant to s. 287.056.

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

200 | (f)-(g) Moneys received pursuant to this section do not

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

201 constitute taxable income to the qualified student or his or her
 202 parent.

203 ~~(g)-(h)~~ A student's scholarship account must be closed and
 204 any remaining funds shall revert to the state after:

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

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

212 Section 3. Section 1003.485, Florida Statutes, is amended
 213 to read:

214 1003.485 The New Worlds Reading Initiative.—

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

216 (a) "Administrator" means the a state University of
 217 Florida Lastinger Center for Learning ~~registered with the~~
 218 ~~department under s. 1002.395(15)(i) and designated to administer~~
 219 ~~the initiative under paragraph (3)(a).~~

220 (b) "Annual tax credit amount" means, for any state fiscal
 221 year, the sum of the amount of tax credits approved under
 222 paragraph (5)(b), including tax credits to be taken under s.
 223 211.0252, s. 212.1833, s. 220.1876, s. 561.1212, or s.
 224 624.51056, which are approved for taxpayers whose taxable years
 225 begin on or after January 1 of the calendar year preceding the

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

226 | start of the applicable state fiscal year.

227 | (c) "Department" means the Department of Education.

228 | (d) "Division" means the Division of Alcoholic Beverages

229 | and Tobacco of the Department of Business and Professional

230 | Regulation.

231 | (e) "Eligible contribution" means a monetary contribution

232 | from a taxpayer, subject to the restrictions provided in this

233 | section, to the administrator.

234 | (f) "Initiative" means the New Worlds Reading Initiative.

235 | (g) "Micro-credential" means evidence-based professional

236 | learning development activities grounded in the science of

237 | reading which are competency-based, personalized, and on-demand.

238 | Educators must demonstrate their competence via evidence

239 | submitted and reviewed by trained evaluators.

240 | (2) NEW WORLDS READING INITIATIVE; PURPOSE.—The purpose of

241 | the New Worlds Reading Initiative established under the

242 | department is to instill a love of reading by providing high-

243 | quality, free books to students in prekindergarten through grade

244 | 5 who are reading below grade level and to improve the literacy

245 | skills of students in prekindergarten through grade 12. The New

246 | Worlds Reading Initiative shall consist of:

247 | (a) The program established under this section to provide

248 | high-quality, free books to students.

249 | (b) The New Worlds Scholarship Program under s. 1002.411.

250 | (c) The New Worlds Scholar program under s. 1008.365,

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

251 | which rewards high school students who instill a love of reading
 252 | and improve the literacy skills of students in kindergarten
 253 | through grade 3.

254 | (d) The New Worlds micro-credential program established
 255 | under this section which emphasizes strong core instruction and
 256 | a tiered model of reading interventions for struggling readers.

257 | (3) DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES.—The department shall:

258 | ~~(a) Designate an administrator to implement the initiative~~
 259 | ~~and to receive funding as provided in this section. The~~
 260 | ~~administrator must have an academic innovation institution with~~
 261 | ~~extensive experience in:~~

262 | 1. ~~Conducting academic research in early literacy~~
 263 | ~~instruction.~~

264 | 2. ~~Implementing online delivery of early learning and~~
 265 | ~~literacy training for educators nationally.~~

266 | 3. ~~Developing online support materials that assist parents~~
 267 | ~~and caregivers in developing early literacy skills.~~

268 | 4. ~~Conducting fundraising and public awareness campaigns~~
 269 | ~~to support the development and growth of evidence-based~~
 270 | ~~educational initiatives that support learning at home and in~~
 271 | ~~schools.~~

272 | ~~(a)(b)~~ Publish information about the initiative and tax
 273 | credits under subsection (5) on its website, including the
 274 | process for a taxpayer to select the administrator as the
 275 | recipient of funding through a tax credit.

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

276 (b)(e) ~~Beginning September 30, 2022,~~ and Annually
 277 ~~thereafter,~~ report on its website the number of students
 278 participating in the initiative in each school district,
 279 information from the annual financial report under paragraph
 280 (4)(j), and the academic achievement and learning gains, as
 281 applicable, of participating students based on data provided by
 282 school districts as permitted under s. 1002.22. The department
 283 shall establish a date by which the administrator and each
 284 school district must annually provide the data necessary to
 285 complete the report.

286 (c) Provide the administrator with progress monitoring
 287 data for eligible prekindergarten through grade 12 students
 288 within 30 days after the close of each progress monitoring
 289 period.

290 (4) ADMINISTRATOR RESPONSIBILITIES.—The administrator
 291 shall:

292 (a) Develop, in consultation with the Just Read, Florida!
 293 Office under s. 1001.215, a selection of high-quality books
 294 encompassing diverse subjects and genres for each grade level to
 295 be mailed to students in the initiative.

296 (b) Distribute books at no cost to students as provided in
 297 paragraph (6)(c) either directly or through an agreement with a
 298 book distribution company.

299 (c) Assist local implementation of the initiative by
 300 providing marketing materials to school districts and any

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

301 | partnering nonprofit organizations to assist with public
 302 | awareness campaigns and other activities designed to increase
 303 | family engagement and instill a love of reading in students.

304 | (d) Maintain a clearinghouse for information on national,
 305 | state, and local nonprofit organizations that support efforts to
 306 | improve literacy and provide books to children.

307 | (e) Develop, for parents of students in the initiative,
 308 | resources and training materials that engage families in reading
 309 | and support the reading achievement of their students. The
 310 | administrator shall periodically send to parents hyperlinks to
 311 | these resources and materials, including video modules, via text
 312 | message and e-mail.

313 | (f) Provide professional learning development and
 314 | resources to teachers that correlate with the books provided
 315 | through the initiative.

316 | (g) Develop, in consultation with the Just Read, Florida!
 317 | Office under s. 1001.215, an online repository of digital
 318 | science of reading materials and science of reading
 319 | instructional resources that is accessible to public school
 320 | teachers, school leaders, parents, and educator preparation
 321 | programs and associated faculty.

322 | (h) Develop a micro-credential that requires teachers to
 323 | demonstrate competency to:

324 | 1. Diagnose literacy difficulties and determine the
 325 | appropriate range of literacy interventions based upon the age

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

326 and literacy deficiency of the student;

327 2. Use evidence-based instructional and intervention

328 practices grounded in the science of reading, including

329 strategies identified by the Just Read, Florida! Office pursuant

330 to s. 1001.215(7); and

331 3. Effectively use progress monitoring and intervention

332 materials.

333 (i) Administer the early literacy micro-credential program

334 established under this section, which must include components on

335 content, student learning, pedagogy, and professional learning

336 ~~development~~ and must build on a strong foundation of

337 scientifically researched and evidence-based reading

338 instructional and intervention programs that incorporate

339 explicit, systematic, and sequential approaches to teaching

340 phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and text

341 comprehension and incorporate decodable or phonetic text

342 instructional strategies, as identified by the Just Read,

343 Florida! Office, pursuant to s. 1001.215(7).

344 1. At a minimum, the micro-credential curriculum must be

345 designed specifically for instructional personnel in

346 prekindergarten through grade 3 based upon the strategies and

347 techniques identified in s. 1002.59 and address foundational

348 literacy skills of students in grades 4 through 12.

349 2. The micro-credential must be competency based and

350 designed for eligible instructional personnel to complete the

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

351 credentialing process in no more than 60 hours, in an online
 352 format. The micro-credential may be delivered in an in-person
 353 format. Eligible instructional personnel may receive the micro-
 354 credential once competency is demonstrated even if it is before
 355 ~~prior to~~ the completion of 60 hours.

356 3. The micro-credential must be available by December 31,
 357 2022, at no cost, to instructional personnel as defined in s.
 358 1012.01(2); prekindergarten instructors as specified in ss.
 359 1002.55, 1002.61, and 1002.63; and child care personnel as
 360 defined in ss. 402.302(3) and 1002.88(1)(e).

361 (j) Annually submit to the department an annual financial
 362 report that includes, at a minimum, the amount of eligible
 363 contributions received by the administrator; the amount spent on
 364 each activity required by this subsection, including
 365 administrative expenses; the number of micro-credentials and
 366 reading endorsements earned; and the number of students and
 367 households served under each component of the initiative, by
 368 school district, including the means by which additional
 369 literacy support was provided to students.

370 (k) Maintain separate accounts for operating funds and
 371 funds for the purchase and delivery of books.

372 (l) Expend eligible contributions received only for the
 373 purchase and delivery of books and to implement the requirements
 374 of this section, as well as for administrative expenses not to
 375 exceed 2 percent of total eligible contributions.

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

376 Notwithstanding s. 1002.395(6)(1)2., the administrator may carry
 377 forward up to 25 percent of eligible contributions made before
 378 January 1 of each state fiscal year and 100 percent of eligible
 379 contributions made on or after January 1 of each state fiscal
 380 year to the following state fiscal year for purposes authorized
 381 by this subsection. Any eligible contributions in excess of the
 382 allowable carry forward not used to provide additional books
 383 throughout the year to eligible students shall revert to the
 384 state treasury.

385 (m) Upon receipt of a contribution, provide the taxpayer
 386 that made the contribution with a certificate of contribution. A
 387 certificate of contribution must include the taxpayer's name
 388 and, if available, its federal employer identification number;
 389 the amount contributed; the date of contribution; and the name
 390 of the administrator.

391 (6) ELIGIBILITY; NOTIFICATION; SCHOOL DISTRICT
 392 OBLIGATIONS.—

393 (a) A student in prekindergarten through grade 5 must be
 394 provided books through the initiative if the student is not yet
 395 reading on grade level, has a substantial reading deficiency
 396 identified under s. 1008.25(5)(a) ~~or (b)~~, has a substantial
 397 deficiency in early literacy skills based upon the results of
 398 the coordinated screening and progress monitoring under s.
 399 1008.25(9), or scored below a Level 3 on the most recent
 400 ~~preceding year's~~ statewide, standardized English Language Arts

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

401 assessment under s. 1008.22.

402 (b) Each school district shall notify the parent of a
 403 student who meets the criteria under paragraph (a) that the
 404 student is eligible to receive books at no cost through the New
 405 Worlds Reading Initiative and provide the parent with the
 406 application form developed by the administrator, which must
 407 allow for the selection of specific book topics or genres for
 408 the student.

409 (c) Once an eligible student is identified, the school
 410 district shall coordinate with the administrator to initiate
 411 book delivery on a monthly basis during the school year, which
 412 must begin no later than October and continue through at least
 413 June. ~~However, for the 2021-2022 school year only, delivery may~~
 414 ~~begin no later than December 31, 2021, provided that no fewer~~
 415 ~~than 9 books are delivered to each student before book~~
 416 ~~deliveries begin for the 2022-2023 school year.~~

417 (d) Upon enrollment and at the beginning of each school
 418 year, students must be provided options for specific book topics
 419 or genres in order to maximize student interest in reading.

420 (e) A student's eligibility for the initiative continues
 421 until promotion to grade 6 or until the student's parent opts
 422 out of the initiative.

423 (f) Each school district shall participate in the
 424 initiative by partnering with local nonprofit organizations,
 425 raising awareness of the initiative using marketing materials

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

426 developed by the administrator, coordinating book delivery, and
 427 identifying students and notifying parents pursuant to this
 428 subsection.

429 (g) Each school district shall coordinate with each
 430 charter school it sponsors for purposes of identifying eligible
 431 students, notifying parents, coordinating book delivery,
 432 providing the opportunity to annually select book topics and
 433 genres, and raising awareness of the initiative as provided by
 434 this section.

435 (h) School districts and partnering nonprofit
 436 organizations shall raise awareness of the initiative, including
 437 information on eligibility and video training modules under
 438 paragraph (4)(e), through, at least, the following:

439 1. The student handbook and the read-at-home plan under s.
 440 1008.25(5)(d).

441 2. A parent or curriculum night or separate initiative
 442 awareness event at each elementary school.

443 3. Partnering with the county library to host awareness
 444 events, which should coincide with other initiatives such as
 445 library card drives, family library nights, summer access
 446 events, and other family engagement programming.

447 (i) Each school district shall establish a data sharing
 448 agreement with the initiative's administrator which allows for a
 449 streamlined student verification and enrollment process.

450 (7) ADMINISTRATION; RULES.—

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

451 (a) The Department of Revenue, the division, and the
 452 Department of Education may develop a cooperative agreement to
 453 assist in the administration of this section, as needed.

454 (b) The Department of Revenue may adopt rules necessary to
 455 administer this section and ss. 211.0252, 212.1833, 220.1876,
 456 561.1212, and 624.51056, including rules establishing
 457 application forms, procedures governing the approval of tax
 458 credits and carryforward tax credits under subsection (5), and
 459 procedures to be followed by taxpayers when claiming approved
 460 tax credits on their returns.

461 (c) The division may adopt rules necessary to administer
 462 its responsibilities under this section and s. 561.1212.

463 (d) The Department of Education may adopt rules necessary
 464 to administer this section.

465 (e) Notwithstanding any provision of s. 213.053 to the
 466 contrary, sharing information with the division related to this
 467 tax credit is considered the conduct of the Department of
 468 Revenue's official duties as contemplated in s. 213.053(8)(c),
 469 and the Department of Revenue and the division are specifically
 470 authorized to share information as needed to administer this
 471 section.

472 Section 4. Section 1004.646, Florida Statutes, is created
 473 to read:

474 1004.646 University of Florida Lastinger Center For
 475 Learning.—There is created at the University of Florida, the

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

476 Lastinger Center for Learning. The center shall:

477 (1) Develop and administer programs to improve student
 478 achievement outcomes in early learning, literacy, and
 479 mathematics.

480 (2) Provide professional learning for educators to improve
 481 the quality of instruction in early learning, literacy, and
 482 mathematics. Professional learning shall include the development
 483 of micro-credentials that require educators to demonstrate
 484 competency. Micro-credentials must be provided at low or no cost
 485 and be personalized, and may be provided online or in person.

486 (3) Provide technical assistance and support to school
 487 districts and schools in improving student achievement.

488 (4) Conduct and publish research on teaching and learning
 489 in early learning, literacy, and mathematics as well as
 490 professional learning for educators.

491 Section 5. Paragraph (d) of subsection (5), paragraph (c)
 492 of subsection (6), and paragraph (c) of subsection (9) of
 493 section 1008.25, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

494 1008.25 Public school student progression; student
 495 support; coordinated screening and progress monitoring;
 496 reporting requirements.—

497 (5) READING DEFICIENCY AND PARENTAL NOTIFICATION.—

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

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

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

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

508 3. A description of the proposed intensive interventions
 509 and supports that will be provided to the child that are
 510 designed to remediate the identified area of reading deficiency.

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

515 5. Strategies, including multisensory strategies and
 516 programming, through a read-at-home plan the parent can use in
 517 helping his or her child succeed in reading. The read-at-home
 518 plan must provide access to the resources identified in
 519 paragraph (e)~~(f)~~.

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

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

526 7. The district's specific criteria and policies for a
 527 portfolio as provided in subparagraph (7)(b)4. and the evidence
 528 required for a student to demonstrate mastery of Florida's
 529 academic standards for English Language Arts. A school must
 530 immediately begin collecting evidence for a portfolio when a
 531 student in grade 3 is identified as being at risk of retention
 532 or upon the request of the parent, whichever occurs first.

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

537 9. Information about the student's eligibility for the New
 538 Worlds Reading Initiative under s. 1003.485 and the New Worlds
 539 Scholarship Accounts under s. 1002.411 and information on parent
 540 training modules and other reading engagement resources
 541 available through the initiative.

542
 543 After initial notification, the school shall apprise the parent
 544 at least monthly of the student's progress in response to the
 545 intensive interventions and supports. Such communications must
 546 be in writing and must explain any additional interventions or
 547 supports that will be implemented to accelerate the student's
 548 progress if the interventions and supports already being
 549 implemented have not resulted in improvement.

550 (6) MATHEMATICS DEFICIENCY AND PARENTAL NOTIFICATION.—

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

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

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

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

561 3. A description of the proposed intensive interventions
 562 and supports that will be provided to the child that are
 563 designed to remediate the identified area of mathematics
 564 deficiency.

565 4. Strategies, including multisensory strategies and
 566 programming, through a home-based plan the parent can use in
 567 helping his or her child succeed in mathematics. The home-based
 568 plan must provide access to the resources identified in
 569 paragraph (d)~~(e)~~.

570
 571 After the initial notification, the school shall apprise the
 572 parent at least monthly of the student's progress in response to
 573 the intensive interventions and supports. Such communications
 574 must be in writing and must explain any additional interventions
 575 or supports that will be implemented to accelerate the student's

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

576 | progress if the interventions and supports already being
 577 | implemented have not resulted in improvement.

578 | (9) COORDINATED SCREENING AND PROGRESS MONITORING SYSTEM.—

579 | (c) To facilitate timely interventions and supports
 580 | pursuant to subsection (4), the system must provide results from
 581 | the first two administrations of the progress monitoring to a
 582 | student's teacher or prekindergarten instructor within 1 week
 583 | and to the student's parent within 2 weeks after ~~of~~ the
 584 | administration of the progress monitoring. Delivery of results
 585 | from the comprehensive, end-of-year progress monitoring ELA
 586 | assessment for grades 3 through 10 and Mathematics assessment
 587 | for grades 3 through 8 must be in accordance with s.
 588 | 1008.22 (7) (h).

589 | 1. A student's results from the coordinated screening and
 590 | progress monitoring system must be recorded in a written, easy-
 591 | to-comprehend individual student report. Each school district
 592 | shall provide a parent secure access to his or her child's
 593 | individual student reports through a web-based portal as part of
 594 | its student information system. Each early learning coalition
 595 | shall provide parents the individual student report in a format
 596 | determined by state board rule.

597 | 2. In addition to the information under subparagraph
 598 | (a)5., the report must also include parent resources that
 599 | explain the purpose of progress monitoring, assist the parent in
 600 | interpreting progress monitoring results, and support informed

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

601 parent involvement. Parent resources may include personalized
602 video formats.

603 3. The department shall annually update school districts
604 and early learning coalitions on new system features and
605 functionality and collaboratively identify with school districts
606 and early learning coalitions strategies for meaningfully
607 reporting to parents results from the coordinated screening and
608 progress monitoring system. The department shall develop ways to
609 increase the utilization, by instructional staff and parents, of
610 student assessment data and resources.

611 4. An individual student report must be provided in a
612 printed format upon a parent's request.

613 Section 6. Section 1008.366, Florida Statutes, is created
614 to read:

615 1008.366 Academic support for students.-

616 (1) An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization
617 as defined in s. 1002.395(2) shall administer a tutoring program
618 that supports school districts and schools in improving student
619 achievement in reading and mathematics by:

620 (a) Providing best practice science of reading guidelines
621 for districts in consultation with the Just Read, Florida!
622 Office.

623 (b) Providing best practice guidelines for mathematics
624 tutoring in alignment with Florida's Benchmarks for Excellent
625 Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards for mathematics.

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

626 (c) Establishing minimum standards that each school
 627 district must meet to participate in the program. The minimum
 628 standards must address:

- 629 1. Appropriate group sizes for tutoring sessions.
- 630 2. The frequency and duration of tutoring sessions.
- 631 3. Minimum staffing qualifications for tutors.
- 632 4. The use of ongoing, informal and formal assessments to
 633 target instructional interventions.
- 634 5. Prioritization strategies for tutoring students.

635 (d) Providing access during the school day to additional
 636 literacy or mathematics support through evidence-based automated
 637 literacy tutoring software that provides each student with real-
 638 time interventions that are based in science of reading
 639 principles or mathematics instructional best practices and
 640 individually tailored to the needs and ability of each student.
 641 Access shall be provided to students in kindergarten through
 642 grade 5 enrolled in a public school who have a substantial
 643 deficiency in reading or mathematics in accordance with s.
 644 1008.25. Evidence-based has the same meaning as provided in s.
 645 1003.4201(6).

646 (e) Awarding grants to school districts that may be used
 647 for stipends for in-person tutoring during the school day,
 648 before and after school, or during a summer program. In-person
 649 tutoring may be provided to, at a minimum, prekindergarten
 650 through grade 5 students enrolled in a public school who have a

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

651 substantial deficiency in reading or mathematics in accordance
 652 with s. 1008.25. To identify eligible students, the department
 653 shall provide the administrator with math and reading progress
 654 monitoring data for eligible prekindergarten through grade 12
 655 students within 30 days after the close of each progress
 656 monitoring period.

657 (f) Providing technical assistance and professional
 658 learning to school districts, including:

659 1. Advising district staff on tutoring program design and
 660 intervention selection upon request.

661 2. Assisting districts in reviewing tutoring programs,
 662 professional learning programs, curriculum, and resources to
 663 ensure that they adhere to the science of reading or best
 664 practices in mathematics.

665 3. Providing professional learning to district staff to
 666 build their knowledge and skills around the science of reading
 667 or best practices in mathematics.

668 (2) Annually, by July 1, the organization shall provide to
 669 the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
 670 Representatives, and the Commissioner of the Department of
 671 Education a report summarizing school district use of program
 672 funds and student academic outcomes as a result of the
 673 additional literacy or mathematics support provided under this
 674 section.

675 Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.