

Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Conforming Bill  
Relating to School Choice

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1 An act relating to school choice; amending s. 1002.394,  
2 F.S.; requiring the department to assign a Florida student  
3 identification number to certain students; requiring  
4 parents of students participating in the scholarship  
5 program to notify the district of the withdrawal using the  
6 standard withdrawal form; revising funding requirements  
7 for the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program; amending  
8 s. 1002.395, F.S., requiring the Department of Education  
9 to assign a Florida student identification number to each  
10 eligible scholarship student if the student has not  
11 previously been assigned one; amending s. 1002.421, F.S.;  
12 requiring the Department of Education to develop a  
13 standard withdrawal form for parents who are withdrawing  
14 their students from public school to enroll in a  
15 scholarship program; requiring eligible nonprofit  
16 scholarship-funding organizations to verify student  
17 eligibility through proof of a standard withdrawal form;  
18 requiring school districts to sign a completed withdrawal  
19 form; requiring school districts to publish the withdrawal  
20 form on its website; amending s. 1008.386, F.S.; requiring  
21 the Department of Education to establish a process for  
22 assigning a unique Florida student identification number  
23 to each student in the state; prohibiting school districts  
24 and eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations  
25 from using social security numbers as student  
26 identification numbers amending s. 1011.62, F.S.; revising  
27 provisions relating to the Florida Education Finance  
28 Program; revising the calculation of the annual allocation

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to school districts and scholarships; and providing an effective date.

**Section 1. Paragraph (a) subsection (8), paragraph (a) of subsection (10), subsection (11), and paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (12) of section 1002.394, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

1002.394 - The Family Empowerment Scholarship Program.

(8) DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OBLIGATIONS.—

(a) The department shall:

1. Publish and update, as necessary, information on the department website about the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program, including, but not limited to, student eligibility criteria, parental responsibilities, and relevant data.

2.a. Assign a Florida student identification number pursuant to s. 1008.386 to each eligible scholarship student who has not previously been assigned a Florida student identification number.

b. Report, as part of the determination of full-time equivalent membership pursuant to s. 1011.62(1)(a), all scholarship students funded through the Florida Education Finance Program, and cross-check the list of scholarship students submitted by the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization with the full-time equivalent student membership survey data to avoid duplication.

3. Maintain and annually publish a list of nationally norm-referenced tests identified for purposes of satisfying the testing requirement in subparagraph (9)(c)1. The tests must meet

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industry standards of quality in accordance with state board rule.

4. Notify eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations of the deadlines for submitting the verified list of eligible scholarship students.

5. Deny or terminate program participation upon a parent's failure to comply with subsection (10).

6. Notify the parent and the organization when a scholarship account is closed and program funds revert to the state.

7. Notify an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization of any of the organization's or other organization's identified students who are receiving scholarships under this chapter.

8. Maintain on its website a list of approved providers as required by s. 1002.66, eligible postsecondary educational institutions, eligible private schools, and eligible organizations and may identify or provide links to lists of other approved providers.

9. Require each organization to verify eligible expenditures before the distribution of funds for any expenditures made pursuant to subparagraphs (4)(b)1. and 2. Review of expenditures made for services specified in subparagraphs (4)(b)3.-15. may be completed after the purchase is made.

10. Investigate any written complaint of a violation of this section by a parent, a student, a participating private school, a public school, a school district, an organization, a

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85 provider, or another appropriate party in accordance with the  
86 process established under s. 1002.421.

87 11. Require quarterly reports by an organization, which  
88 must include, at a minimum, the number of students participating  
89 in the program; the demographics of program participants; the  
90 disability category of program participants; the matrix level of  
91 services, if known; the program award amount per student; the  
92 total expenditures for the purposes specified in paragraph  
93 (4) (b); the types of providers of services to students; the  
94 number of scholarship applications received, the number of  
95 applications processed within 30 days after receipt, and the  
96 number of incomplete applications received; data related to  
97 reimbursement submissions, including the average number of days  
98 for a reimbursement to be reviewed and the average number of  
99 days for a reimbursement to be approved; any parent input and  
100 feedback collected regarding the program; and any other  
101 information deemed necessary by the department.

102 12. Notify eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding  
103 organizations that scholarships may not be awarded in a school  
104 district in which the award will exceed 99 percent of the school  
105 district's share of state funding through the Florida Education  
106 Finance Program as calculated by the department.

107 13. Adjust payments to eligible nonprofit scholarship-  
108 funding organizations and, when the Florida Education Finance  
109 Program is recalculated, adjust the amount of state funds  
110 allocated to school districts through the Florida Education  
111 Finance Program based upon the results of the cross-check  
112 completed pursuant to subparagraph 2.

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113 14. Establish performance metrics that a scholarship-  
114 funding organization must meet and maintain to continue to be  
115 considered an eligible scholarship-funding organization for the  
116 purposes of this section. The department shall verify the  
117 scholarship-funding organizations eligibility annually.

118 (10) PARENT AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PROGRAM  
119 PARTICIPATION.-

120 (a) A parent who applies for a scholarship under paragraph  
121 (3) (a) whose student will be enrolled full time in an eligible  
122 private school must:

123 4. Inform the applicable school district when the parent  
124 withdraws his or her student from a public school to attend an  
125 eligible private school using the standard withdrawal form  
126 developed by the department pursuant to s. 1002.421.

127 (11) OBLIGATIONS OF ELIGIBLE SCHOLARSHIP-FUNDING  
128 ORGANIZATIONS.-

129 (a) An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization  
130 awarding scholarships to eligible students pursuant to paragraph  
131 (3) (a) shall:

132 1. Establish a process for parents who are in compliance  
133 with paragraph (10) (a) to renew their students' scholarships.  
134 Renewal applications for the 2025-2026 school year and  
135 thereafter must provide for a renewal timeline beginning  
136 February 1 of the prior school year and ending April 30 of the  
137 prior school year. A student's renewal is contingent upon an  
138 eligible private school providing confirmation of student  
139 admission pursuant to subsection (9). The process must require

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that parents confirm that the scholarship is being renewed or declined by May 31.

2. Establish a process that allows a parent to apply for a new scholarship. The process may begin no earlier than February 1 of the prior school year and must authorize submission of applications until November 15. The process must be in a manner that creates a written or electronic record of the application request and the date of receipt of the application request. Applications received after the deadline may be considered for scholarship award in the subsequent fiscal year. The process must require that parents confirm that the scholarship is being accepted or declined by December 15.

3. Verify the household income level of students seeking priority eligibility and submit the verified list of students to the department.

4. Award scholarships in priority order pursuant to paragraph (3) (a).

5. Establish and maintain separate scholarship accounts for each eligible student. For each account, the organization must maintain a record of accrued interest that is retained in the student's account and available only for authorized program expenditures.

6. Permit eligible students to use program funds for the purposes specified in paragraph (4) (a), as authorized in the organization's purchasing handbook, by paying for the authorized use directly, then submitting a reimbursement request to the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization. However, an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization may require

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the use of an online platform for direct purchases of products so long as such use does not limit a parent's choice of curriculum or academic programs. If a parent purchases a product identical to one offered by an organization's online platform for a lower price, the organization must reimburse the parent the cost of the product.

7. In a timely manner, submit the verified list of students and any information requested by the department relating to the scholarship under this section.

8. Notify the department about any violation of this section.

9. Document each student's eligibility for a fiscal year before granting a scholarship for that fiscal year. A student is ineligible for a scholarship if the student's account has been inactive for 2 consecutive fiscal years.

10. Notify each parent that participation in the scholarship program does not guarantee enrollment.

11. Commit scholarship funds on behalf of the student for tuition and fees for which the parent is responsible for payment at the participating private school before using scholarship account funds for additional authorized uses under paragraph (4) (a).

12. Meet annually and maintain the performance metrics established by the department pursuant to (8) (a).

(b) An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization awarding scholarships to eligible students pursuant to paragraph (3) (b) shall:

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195           1. Establish a process for parents who are in compliance  
196 with paragraph (10)(b) to renew their students' scholarships.  
197 Renewal applications for the 2025-2026 school year and  
198 thereafter must provide for a renewal timeline beginning  
199 February 1 of the prior school year and ending April 30 of the  
200 prior school year. A student's renewal is contingent upon an  
201 eligible private school providing confirmation of student  
202 admission pursuant to subsection (9), if applicable. The process  
203 must require that parents confirm that the scholarship is being  
204 renewed or declined by May 31.

205           2. Establish a process that allows a parent to apply for a  
206 new scholarship. The process may begin no earlier than February  
207 1 of the prior school year and must authorize the submission of  
208 applications until November 15. The process must be in a manner  
209 that creates a written or electronic record of the application  
210 request and the date of receipt of the application request.  
211 Applications received after the deadline may be considered for  
212 scholarship award in the subsequent fiscal year. The process  
213 must require that parents confirm that the scholarship is being  
214 accepted or declined by December 15.

215           3. Review applications and award scholarships using the  
216 following priorities:

- 217           a. Renewing students from the previous school year.  
218           b. An eligible student who meets the criteria for an  
219 initial award pursuant to paragraph (3)(b) on a first-come,  
220 first-served basis.

221           4. Establish and maintain separate accounts for each  
222 eligible student. For each account, the organization must

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maintain a record of accrued interest that is retained in the student's account and available only for authorized program expenditures.

5. Verify qualifying educational expenditures pursuant to the requirements of paragraph (4) (b).

6. Return any remaining program funds to the department pursuant to paragraph (6) (b).

7. Notify the parent about the availability of, and the requirements associated with requesting, an initial IEP or IEP reevaluation every 3 years for each student participating in the program.

8. Notify the parent of available state and local services, including, but not limited to, services under chapter 413.

9. In a timely manner, submit to the department the verified list of eligible scholarship students and any information requested by the department relating to the scholarship under this section.

10. Notify the department of any violation of this section.

11. Document each scholarship student's eligibility for a fiscal year before granting a scholarship for that fiscal year pursuant to paragraph (3) (b). A student is ineligible for a scholarship if the student's account has been inactive for 2 consecutive fiscal years.

12. Meet annually and maintain the performance metrics established by the department pursuant to (8) (a).

(12) SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING AND PAYMENT.—

(a)1. The calculated scholarship amount for a participating student determined eligible pursuant to paragraph (3) (a) shall

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251 be based upon the grade level and school district in which the  
252 student was assigned as 100 percent of the funds per unweighted  
253 full-time equivalent in the Florida Education Finance Program  
254 for a student in the basic program established pursuant to s.  
255 1011.62(1)(c)1., plus a per-full-time equivalent share of funds  
256 for the categorical programs established in s. 1011.62(5), and  
257 (7)(a), and ~~(16)~~, as funded in the General Appropriations Act.  
258 In addition, the calculation of the scholarship amount shall  
259 include multiplying the maximum allowable nonvoted discretionary  
260 millage for operations pursuant to s. 1011.71(1) and (3) by the  
261 value of 96 percent of the current year's taxable value for  
262 school purposes for the school district where the student is  
263 reported for purposes of the Florida Education Finance Program  
264 as appropriated in the General Appropriations Act; divide the  
265 result by the school district's total unweighted full-time  
266 equivalent membership as appropriated in the General  
267 Appropriations Act; and multiply the result by the total  
268 unweighted full-time equivalent membership associated with the  
269 number of Family Empowerment Scholarship students. The prior  
270 year's base amount shall be adjusted based on changes in the  
271 eligible number of unweighted full-time equivalent membership  
272 associated with the number of Family Empowerment Scholarship  
273 students.

274 2.a. For renewing scholarship students, the organization  
275 must verify the student's continued eligibility to participate  
276 in the scholarship program at least 30 days before each payment.  
277 Upon receiving the verified list of eligible scholarship  
278 students, the department shall release, from state funds only,

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the amount calculated pursuant to subparagraph 1. to the organization for deposit into the student's account in quarterly payments no later than August 1, November 1, February 1, and April 1 of each school year in which the scholarship is in force.

b. For new scholarship students, the organization must verify the student's eligibility to participate in the scholarship program at least 30 days before each payment. Upon receiving the verified list of eligible scholarship students, the department shall release, from state funds only, the amount calculated pursuant to subparagraph 1. to the organization for deposit into the student's account in quarterly payments no later than September 1, November 1, February 1, and April 1 of each school year in which the scholarship is in force. For a student exiting a Department of Juvenile Justice commitment program who chooses to participate in the scholarship program, the amount calculated pursuant to subparagraph 1. must be transferred from the school district in which the student last attended a public school before commitment to the Department of Juvenile Justice.

c. The department is authorized to release the state funds contingent upon verification that the organization will comply with s. 1002.395(6)(1) based upon the organization's submitted verified list of eligible scholarship students pursuant to s. 1002.395.

3. The initial payment shall be made after the organization's verification of admission acceptance, and subsequent payments shall be made upon verification of continued

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enrollment and attendance at the participating private school. Payments for tuition and fees for full-time enrollment shall be made within 7 business days after approval by the parent pursuant to paragraph (10) (a) and the private school pursuant to paragraph (9) (b). Payment must be by funds transfer or any other means of payment that the department deems to be commercially viable or cost-effective. An organization shall ensure that the parent has approved a funds transfer before any scholarship funds are deposited.

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

(b)1. For the 2024-2025 school year, the maximum number of scholarships funded under paragraph (3) (b) shall be 72,615. Beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, the maximum number of scholarships funded under paragraph (3) (b) shall annually increase by 5 percent of the state's total exceptional student education full-time equivalent student membership, not including gifted students. The maximum number of scholarships funded shall increase by 1 percent of the state's total exceptional student education full-time equivalent student membership, not including gifted students, in the school year following any school year in which the number of scholarships funded exceeds 95 percent of the number of available scholarships for that school year. An eligible student who meets any of the following requirements shall be excluded from the maximum number of students if the student:

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334           a. Received specialized instructional services under the  
335 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program pursuant to s.  
336 1002.66 during the previous school year and the student has a  
337 current IEP developed by the district school board in accordance  
338 with rules of the State Board of Education;

339           b. Is a dependent child of a law enforcement officer or a  
340 member of the United States Armed Forces, a foster child, or an  
341 adopted child; or

342           c. Spent the prior school year in attendance at a Florida  
343 public school or the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.  
344 For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "prior school year  
345 in attendance" means that the student was enrolled and reported  
346 by:

347           (I) A school district for funding during either the  
348 preceding October or February full-time equivalent student  
349 membership surveys in kindergarten through grade 12, which  
350 includes time spent in a Department of Juvenile Justice  
351 commitment program if funded under the Florida Education Finance  
352 Program;

353           (II) The Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind during  
354 the preceding October or February full-time equivalent student  
355 membership surveys in kindergarten through grade 12;

356           (III) A school district for funding during the preceding  
357 October or February full-time equivalent student membership  
358 surveys, was at least 4 years of age when enrolled and reported,  
359 and was eligible for services under s. 1003.21(1)(e); or

360           (IV) Received a John M. McKay Scholarship for Students with  
361 Disabilities in the 2021-2022 school year.

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2. For a student who has a Level I to Level III matrix of services or a diagnosis by a physician or psychologist, the calculated scholarship amount for a student participating in the program must be based upon the grade level and school district in which the student would have been enrolled as the total funds per unweighted full-time equivalent in the Florida Education Finance Program for a student in the basic exceptional student education program pursuant to s. 1011.62(1)(c) and (d), plus a per full-time equivalent share of funds for the categorical programs established in s. 1011.62(5), (7)(a), and (8), and ~~(16),~~ as funded in the General Appropriations Act. For the categorical program established in s. 1011.62(8), the funds must be allocated based on the school district's average exceptional student education guaranteed allocation funds per exceptional student education full-time equivalent student. In addition, the calculation of the scholarship amount shall include multiplying the maximum allowable nonvoted discretionary millage for operations pursuant to s. 1011.71(1) and (3) by the value of 96 percent of the current year's taxable value for school purposes for the school district where the student is reported for purposes of the Florida Education Finance Program as appropriated in the General Appropriations Act; divide the result by the school district's total unweighted full-time equivalent membership as appropriated in the General Appropriations Act; and multiply the result by the total unweighted full-time equivalent membership associated with the number of Family Empowerment Scholarship students. The prior year's base amount shall be adjusted based on changes in the

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eligible number of unweighted full-time equivalent membership  
associated with the number of Family Empowerment Scholarship  
students.

3. For a student with a Level IV or Level V matrix of services, the calculated scholarship amount must be based upon the school district to which the student would have been assigned as the total funds per full-time equivalent for the Level IV or Level V exceptional student education program pursuant to s. 1011.62(1)(c)2.a. or b., plus a per-full time equivalent share of funds for the categorical programs established in s. 1011.62(5), and (7)(a), and ~~(16)~~, as funded in the General Appropriations Act. In addition, the calculation of the scholarship amount shall include multiplying the maximum allowable nonvoted discretionary millage for operations pursuant to s. 1011.71(1) and (3) by the value of 96 percent of the current year's taxable value for school purposes for the school district where the student is reported for purposes of the Florida Education Finance Program as appropriated in the General Appropriations Act; divide the result by the school district's total unweighted full-time equivalent membership as appropriated in the General Appropriations Act; and multiply the result by the total unweighted full-time equivalent membership associated with the number of Family Empowerment Scholarship students. The prior year's base amount shall be adjusted based on changes in the eligible number of unweighted full-time equivalent membership associated with the number of Family Empowerment Scholarship students.

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417           4. For a student who received a Gardiner Scholarship  
418 pursuant to former s. 1002.385 in the 2020-2021 school year, the  
419 amount shall be the greater of the amount calculated pursuant to  
420 subparagraph 2. or the amount the student received for the 2020-  
421 2021 school year.

422           5. For a student who received a John M. McKay Scholarship  
423 pursuant to former s. 1002.39 in the 2020-2021 school year, the  
424 amount shall be the greater of the amount calculated pursuant to  
425 subparagraph 2. or the amount the student received for the 2020-  
426 2021 school year.

427           6. The organization must verify the student's eligibility  
428 to participate in the scholarship program at least 30 days  
429 before each payment.

430           7.a. For renewing scholarship students, upon receiving the  
431 verified list of eligible scholarship students, the department  
432 shall release, from state funds only, the amount calculated  
433 pursuant to subparagraph 1. to the organization for deposit into  
434 the student's account in quarterly payments no later than August  
435 1, November 1, February 1, and April 1 of each school year in  
436 which the scholarship is in force.

437           b. For new scholarship students, upon receiving the  
438 verified list of eligible scholarship students, the department  
439 shall release, from state funds only, the amount calculated  
440 pursuant to subparagraph 1. to the organization for deposit into  
441 the student's account in quarterly payments no later than  
442 September 1, November 1, February 1, and April 1 of each school  
443 year in which the scholarship is in force.

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8. If a scholarship student is attending an eligible private school full time, the initial payment shall be made after the organization's verification of admission acceptance, and subsequent payments shall be made upon verification of continued enrollment and attendance at the eligible private school. Payments for tuition and fees for full-time enrollment shall be made within 7 business days after approval by the parent pursuant to paragraph (10)(b) and the private school pursuant to paragraph (9)(b).

9. Accrued interest in the student's account is in addition to, and not part of, the awarded funds. Program funds include both the awarded funds and accrued interest.

10. The organization may develop a system for payment of benefits by funds transfer, including, but not limited to, debit cards, electronic payment cards, or any other means of payment which the department deems to be commercially viable or cost-effective. A student's scholarship award may not be reduced for debit card or electronic payment fees. Commodities or services related to the development of such a system must be procured by competitive solicitation unless they are purchased from a state term contract pursuant to s. 287.056.

11. An organization may not transfer any funds to an account of a student determined to be eligible pursuant to paragraph (3)(b) which has a balance in excess of \$50,000.

12. Moneys received pursuant to this section do not constitute taxable income to the qualified student or the parent of the qualified student.

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**Section 2. Paragraph (1) of subsection (9) of section 1002.395, Florida Statutes, is created to read:**

(9) DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OBLIGATIONS.—The Department of Education shall:

(1) Assign a Florida student identification number pursuant to 1008.386 to each eligible scholarship student if the student has not previously been assigned a Florida student identification number.

**Section 3. Subparagraph 9. of paragraph (a) of subsection (2) is amended and subsections (4)-(5) are renumbered to be subsections (6)-(7) and subsections (4)-(5) of section 1002.421, Florida Statutes, are created to read:**

1002.421 State school choice scholarship programs ~~program~~ ~~accountability and oversight.~~—

(2) DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OBLIGATIONS.—

(a) The Department of Education shall:

9. Develop a standard withdrawal form for parents who are withdrawing their students from public school to enroll in a scholarship program under this chapter. The form must include the student's Florida student identification number pursuant to s. 1008.386, full name, date of birth, school or program from which the student is withdrawing, and date of withdrawal.

(4) ENROLLMENT VERIFICATION.—Upon receipt of an application, the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization must verify each student's eligibility.

(a) Prior to disbursing any funds to an eligible student, the organization must obtain proof that a student is not enrolled in public school. For a student who was enrolled in a

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public school prior to participation in the scholarship program,  
this proof is the standard withdrawal form developed by the  
department pursuant to s. 1002.421.

(5) SCHOOL DISTRICT OBLIGATIONS.-

(d) A school district must sign a completed form within 10  
days after receipt. The school district must also publish the  
withdrawal form on its website in a downloadable format no later  
than 10 days after adoption by the department.

**Section 4. Subsection (2) of section 1008.386, Florida  
Statutes, is amended to read:**

1008.386 Florida student identification.-

(2) The department shall establish a process for assigning  
a unique Florida student identification number to each student  
in the state, including students participating in a state  
scholarship program under chapter 1002. ~~at which time~~ A school  
district and an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding  
organization administering the state scholarship program  
pursuant to chapter 1002 may not use social security numbers as  
student identification numbers ~~in its management information  
systems.~~

**Section 5. Subsections (16) and (19) of section 1011.62,  
Florida Statutes are amended and subsection (20) is created to  
read:**

1011.62 - Funds for operation of schools.

(16) SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING ALLOCATION~~STATE-FUNDED  
DISCRETIONARY SUPPLEMENT.-~~

(a) The scholarship funding allocation ~~state-funded  
discretionary supplement~~ is created to fund the nonvoted

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~~discretionary millage for operations pursuant to s. 1011.71(1)~~  
~~and (3) for students awarded a Family Empowerment Scholarship in~~  
~~accordance with s. 1002.394. The scholarship funding allocation~~  
~~shall be calculated pursuant to s. 1002.394 (12), Florida~~  
~~Statutes and any Department of Education scholarship payment~~  
~~adjustments necessary to comply with the provisions of s.~~  
~~1002.394. To calculate the state-funded discretionary supplement~~  
~~for inclusion in the amount of the scholarship funding:~~

~~1. For fiscal year 2023-2024, multiply the maximum~~  
~~allowable nonvoted discretionary millage for operations pursuant~~  
~~to s. 1011.71(1) and (3) by the value of 96 percent of the~~  
~~current year's taxable value for school purposes for the school~~  
~~district where the student is reported for purposes of the~~  
~~Florida Education Finance Program as appropriated in the General~~  
~~Appropriations Act; divide the result by the school district's~~  
~~total unweighted full-time equivalent membership as appropriated~~  
~~in the General Appropriations Act; and multiply the result by~~  
~~the total unweighted full-time equivalent membership associated~~  
~~with the number of Family Empowerment Scholarship students~~  
~~included in the school district's total unweighted full-time~~  
~~equivalent membership. A base amount as specified in the General~~  
~~Appropriations Act shall be added to this amount for purposes of~~  
~~calculating the total amount of the supplement.~~

~~2. Beginning in fiscal year 2024-2025 and thereafter,~~  
~~multiply the maximum allowable nonvoted discretionary millage~~  
~~for operations pursuant to s. 1011.71(1) and (3) by the value of~~  
~~96 percent of the current year's taxable value for school~~  
~~purposes for the school district where the student is reported~~

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~~for purposes of the Florida Education Finance Program as appropriated in the General Appropriations Act; divide the result by the school district's total unweighted full-time equivalent membership as appropriated in the General Appropriations Act; and multiply the result by the total unweighted full-time equivalent membership associated with the number of Family Empowerment Scholarship students. The prior year's base amount shall be adjusted based on changes in the eligible number of unweighted full-time equivalent membership associated with the number of Family Empowerment Scholarship students.~~

~~(b) The state-funded discretionary supplement shall be recalculated during the fiscal year based on actual full-time equivalent student membership.~~

(19) EDUCATIONAL ENROLLMENT STABILIZATION PROGRAM.—

(a) The educational enrollment stabilization program is created to provide supplemental state funds as needed to fully fund the Scholarship Funding Allocation pursuant to s. 1011.62 ~~(16) maintain the stability of the operations of public schools in each school district and to protect districts, including charter schools, from financial instability as a result of changes in full-time equivalent student enrollment throughout the school year. This program shall be implemented to the extent funds are available.~~

(b) The Legislature shall annually appropriate funds in the General Appropriations Act to the Department of Education for this program in an amount necessary to maintain a projected minimum balance of \$2500 million at the beginning of the

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upcoming fiscal year. The Department of Education shall use funds as appropriated to ensure that based on each recalculation of the Florida Education Finance Program pursuant to paragraph (1) (a) and any Department of Education payment adjustments to comply with the provisions of s. 1002.394, that there is sufficient funding to fully fund the Scholarship Funding Allocation pursuant to s. 1011.62 (16). ~~a school district's funds per unweighted full-time equivalent student are not less than the greater of either the school district's funds per unweighted full-time equivalent student as appropriated in the General Appropriations Act or the school district's funds per unweighted full-time equivalent student as recalculated based upon the receipt of the certified taxable value for school purposes pursuant to s. 1011.62(4).~~

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

(20) DECLINING ENROLLMENT SUPPLEMENT.-

(a) In those districts where there is a decline between prior year and current year unweighted FTE students, a percentage of the decline in the unweighted FTE students, as specified in the General Appropriation Act, shall be multiplied by the current year base amount for the Florida Education Finance Program, as determined in subsection (1) (n), per

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610 | unweighted FTE student and shall be added to the allocation for  
611 | that district.

612 |       **Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.**