A bill to be entitled
An act relating to education funding; amending s. 212.099, F.S.; revising a definition; deleting a provision authorizing certain eligible contributions to be used for the Gardiner Scholarship Program; amending s. 212.1832, F.S.; deleting obsolete language; amending s. 1002.20, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 1002.385, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 1002.39, F.S.; revising the calculation of a John M. McKay Scholarship award; amending s. 1002.395, F.S.; revising eligibility requirements for the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program; revising eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization obligations; revising the calculation of the amount available for use as administrative expenses; revising the formula for calculation of a scholarship through the program; amending s. 1002.40, F.S.; revising the calculation of a maximum award under the Hope Scholarship Program; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; providing that a certain percentage of specified contributions may be carried forward to the following state fiscal year; providing requirements for contributions that are carried forward; requiring
certain eligible contributions be used to fund scholarships through the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program; revising a specified form to include information relating to the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program; amending s. 1002.411, F.S.; revising the amount awarded per reading scholarship; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 1011.62, F.S.; revising the calculation of the district cost differential; revising the funds a district school board may transfer under certain circumstances to maintain academic classroom instruction and school safety; requiring a district school board to include information relating to funds transferred from categorical funds to meet school safety needs in a specified report; revising the approved uses for the research-based reading allocation; revising the calculation for the virtual education contribution to include specified allocations; conforming cross-references to changes made by the act; deleting the funding compression allocation; deleting obsolete language; amending ss. 1011.71 and 1012.584, F.S.; conforming and correcting cross-references; amending s. 1012.731, F.S.; renaming the Florida Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship Program as the Florida best and brightest teacher
allocation; revising classroom teacher eligibility criteria; revising the amount of funds distributed to an eligible teacher through the allocation; deleting a requirement that a classroom teacher submit specified information to his or her school district; revising a definition; amending s. 1012.732, F.S.; renaming the Florida Best and Brightest Principal Scholarship Program as the Florida best and brightest principal allocation; revising a definition; amending ch. 2018-6, 2018, Laws of Florida; authorizing the Department of Revenue to adopt emergency rules to administer specified provisions; providing effective dates.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and subsection (7) of section 212.099, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

212.099 Credit for contributions to eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations—

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(b) "Eligible contribution" or "contribution" means a monetary contribution from an eligible business to an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization to be used pursuant to s. 1002.385 or s. 1002.395. The eligible business making the
contribution may not designate a specific student as the
beneficiary of the contribution.

(7)(a) Eligible contributions may be used to fund the
program established under s. 1002.395 if funds
appropriated in a state fiscal year for the program are
insufficient to fund eligible students.

(b) If the conditions in paragraph (a) are met, the
organization shall first use eligible contributions received
during a state fiscal year to fund scholarships for students in
the priority set forth in s. 1002.385(12)(d). Remaining
contributions may be used to fund scholarships for students
eligible pursuant to s. 1002.395(3)(b)1. or 2.

(b)(c) The organization shall separately account for each
scholarship funded pursuant to this section.

(d) Notwithstanding s. 1002.385(6)(b), any funds remaining
from a closed scholarship account funded pursuant to this
section shall be used to fund other scholarships pursuant to s.
1002.385.

(c)(e) The organization may, subject to the limitations of
s. 1002.395(6)(j)1., use up to 3 percent of eligible
contributions received during the state fiscal year in which
such contributions are collected for administrative expenses.

Section 2. Subsection (l) of section 212.1832, Florida
Statutes, is amended to read:

212.1832 Credit for contributions to eligible nonprofit

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.
The purchaser of a motor vehicle shall be granted a credit of 100 percent of an eligible contribution made to an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization under s. 1002.40 against any tax imposed by the state under this chapter and collected from the purchaser by a dealer, designated agent, or private tag agent as a result of the purchase or acquisition of a motor vehicle on or after October 1, 2018, except that a credit may not exceed the tax that would otherwise be collected from the purchaser by a dealer, designated agent, or private tag agent. For purposes of this subsection, the term "purchase" does not include the lease or rental of a motor vehicle.

Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (6) of section 1002.20, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.20 K-12 student and parent rights.—Parents of public school students must receive accurate and timely information regarding their child's academic progress and must be informed of ways they can help their child to succeed in school. K-12 students and their parents are afforded numerous statutory rights including, but not limited to, the following:

(6) EDUCATIONAL CHOICE.—

(b) Private educational choices.—Parents of public school students may seek private educational choice options under certain programs established under chapter 1002.

1. Under the McKay Scholarships for Students with...
Disabilities Program, the parent of a public school student with a disability may request and receive a McKay Scholarship for the student to attend a private school in accordance with s. 1002.39.

2. Under the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program, the parent of a student who qualifies for free or reduced-price school lunch or who is currently placed, or during the previous state fiscal year was placed, in foster care as defined in s. 39.01 may seek a scholarship from an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization in accordance with s. 1002.395.

3. Under the Florida Personal Learning Scholarship Accounts Program, the parent of a student with a qualifying disability may apply for a personal learning scholarship to be used for individual educational needs in accordance with s. 1002.385.

Section 4. Paragraph (g) of subsection (13) of section 1002.385, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.385 The Gardiner Scholarship.—

(13) FUNDING AND PAYMENT.—

(g) In addition to funds appropriated for scholarship awards and subject to a separate, specific legislative appropriation, an organization may receive an amount equivalent to not more than 3 percent of the amount of each scholarship award from state funds for administrative expenses if the organization has operated as a nonprofit entity for at least the
preceding 3 fiscal years and did not have any findings of material weakness or material noncompliance in its most recent audit under s. 1002.395(6)(m). Such administrative expenses must be reasonable and necessary for the organization's management and distribution of scholarships under this section. Funds authorized under this paragraph may not be used for lobbying or political activity or expenses related to lobbying or political activity. An organization may not charge an application fee for a scholarship. Administrative expenses may not be deducted from funds appropriated for scholarship awards.

Section 5. Paragraph (a) of subsection (10) of section 1002.39, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.39 The John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program.—There is established a program that is separate and distinct from the Opportunity Scholarship Program and is named the John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program.

(10) JOHN M. MCKAY SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING AND PAYMENT.—

(a)1. The basis for the scholarship amount awarded to maximum scholarship granted for an eligible student with disabilities shall be equivalent to the base student allocation in the Florida Education Finance Program, as provided in s. 1011.62 and the General Appropriations Act, multiplied by the appropriate cost factor for the educational program that would have been provided for the student in the district school to
which he or she was assigned, multiplied by the district cost differential.

2.a. In addition, A share of the guaranteed allocation for exceptional students shall be determined and added to the amount in subparagraph 1. The calculation shall be based on the methodology and the data used to calculate the guaranteed allocation for exceptional students for each district in chapter 2000-166, Laws of Florida. Except as provided in subparagraphs 3. and 4., the calculation shall be based on the student's grade, matrix level of services, and the difference between the 2000-2001 basic program and the appropriate level of services cost factor, multiplied by the 2000-2001 base student allocation and the 2000-2001 district cost differential for the sending district.

b. In addition, The calculated amount shall include the school district per-student share of supplemental academic instruction funds, instructional materials funds, technology funds, reading instruction funds, and other categorical funds as provided in the General Appropriations Act shall be added to the amounts in subparagraph 1. and sub-subparagraph a.

3. The scholarship amount for a student who is eligible under sub-subparagraph (2)(a)2.b. shall be calculated as provided in subparagraphs 1. and 2. However, the calculation shall be based on the school district in which the parent resides at the time of the scholarship request.
4. Until the school district completes the matrix required by paragraph (5)(b), the calculation shall be based on the matrix that assigns the student to support Level I of service as it existed prior to the 2000-2001 school year. When the school district completes the matrix, the amount of the payment shall be adjusted as needed.

5. The scholarship amount for a student eligible under s. 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 shall be based on the program cost factor the student currently generates through the Florida Education Finance Program.

5.6. The scholarship amount granted for an eligible student with disabilities is not subject to the maximum value for funding a student under s. 1011.61(4).

Section 6. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3), paragraphs (d), (e), and (j) of subsection (6), and paragraph (a) of subsection (11) of section 1002.395, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1002.395 Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program.—
(3) PROGRAM; SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY.—
(b) Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, a student is eligible for a Florida tax credit scholarship under this section if the student has not been awarded a scholarship under this chapter and meets one or more of the following criteria:

1. The student is on the direct certification list or the student's household income level does not exceed 185 percent of
the federal poverty level; or
2. The student is currently placed, or during the previous state fiscal year was placed, in foster care or in out-of-home care as defined in s. 39.01; or
3. The student's household income level is greater than 185 percent of the federal poverty level but does not exceed 260 percent of the federal poverty level.

A student who initially receives a scholarship based on eligibility under subparagraph (b)2. remains eligible to participate until the student graduates from high school or attains the age of 21 years, whichever occurs first, regardless of the student's household income level. A sibling of a student who is participating in the scholarship program under this subsection is eligible for a scholarship if the student resides in the same household as the sibling.

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

(d) Must provide scholarships, from eligible contributions, to eligible students for the cost of:

1. Tuition and fees for an eligible private school; or
2. Transportation to a Florida public school that is located outside the district in which the student resides or to a lab school as defined in s. 1002.32.
(e) Must award scholarships based on the following priority:

1. Give first priority to Eligible students who received a scholarship from an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization or from the State of Florida during the previous school year.

2. New Beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization shall give priority to new applicants whose household income levels do not exceed 185 percent of the federal poverty level or who are in foster care or out-of-home care.

3. New applicants whose household income levels are greater than 185 percent of the federal poverty level but do not exceed 260 percent of the federal poverty level.

(j)1. May use up to 3 percent of eligible contributions received pursuant to this section and ss. 212.099, 212.1832, and 1002.40 during the state fiscal year in which such contributions are collected for administrative expenses if the organization has operated as an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization for at least the preceding 3 fiscal years and did not have any findings of material weakness or material noncompliance in its most recent audit under paragraph (m). Administrative expenses may not exceed 3 percent of the total amount of all scholarships awarded by an eligible scholarship-funding organization under this chapter. Such administrative
expenses must be reasonable and necessary for the organization's management and distribution of scholarships awarded eligible contributions under this chapter section. No funds authorized under this subparagraph shall be used for lobbying or political activity or expenses related to lobbying or political activity. Up to one-third of the funds authorized for administrative expenses under this subparagraph may be used for expenses related to the recruitment of contributions from taxpayers. An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization may not charge an application fee.

2. Must expend for annual or partial-year scholarships an amount equal to or greater than 75 percent of the net eligible contributions remaining after administrative expenses during the state fiscal year in which such contributions are collected. No more than 25 percent of such net eligible contributions may be carried forward to the following state fiscal year. All amounts carried forward, for audit purposes, must be specifically identified for particular students, by student name and the name of the school to which the student is admitted, subject to the requirements of ss. 1002.22 and 1002.221 and 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g, and the applicable rules and regulations issued pursuant thereto. Any amounts carried forward shall be expended for annual or partial-year scholarships in the following state fiscal year. Net eligible contributions remaining on June 30 of each year that are in excess of the 25 percent that may be
carried forward shall be transferred to other eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations to provide scholarships for eligible students. All transferred funds must be deposited by each eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization receiving such funds into its scholarship account. All transferred amounts received by any eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization must be separately disclosed in the annual financial audit required under paragraph (m).

3. Must, before granting a scholarship for an academic year, document each scholarship student's eligibility for that academic year. A scholarship-funding organization may not grant multiyear scholarships in one approval process.

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

(11) SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT AND PAYMENT.—
(a) Except as provided in subparagraph 2., The scholarship amount provided to any student for any single school year by an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization from eligible contributions shall be for total costs authorized under paragraph (6)(d), not to exceed annual limits, which shall be determined as follows:

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1. Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, the scholarship amount awarded to an eligible student shall be calculated based upon the grade level and school district in which the student resides as 97 percent of the district average for basic programs identified in s. 1011.62(1)(c)1. and the General Appropriations Act.

1.a. The base amount awarded to a student enrolled in an eligible private school shall be determined as a percentage of the unweighted FTE funding amount for that state fiscal year and thereafter as follows:

(I) Eighty-eight percent for a student enrolled in kindergarten through grade 5.

(II) Ninety-two percent for a student enrolled in grade 6 through grade 8.

(III) Ninety-six percent for a student enrolled in grade 9 through grade 12.

2.b. The scholarship amount awarded to a student enrolled in a Florida public school that is located outside the district in which the student resides or in a lab school as defined in s. 1002.32, is limited to $750.

2. The annual limit for a scholarship under subparagraph 1.a. shall be reduced by:

a. Twelve percent if the student's household income level is greater than or equal to 200 percent, but less than 215 percent, of the federal poverty level.
b. Twenty-six percent if the student's household income level is greater than or equal to 215 percent, but less than 230 percent, of the federal poverty level.

e. Forty percent if the student's household income level is greater than or equal to 230 percent, but less than 245 percent, of the federal poverty level.

d. Fifty percent if the student's household income level is greater than or equal to 245 percent, but less than or equal to 260 percent, of the federal poverty level.

Section 7. Effective upon becoming law, paragraphs (a) and (g) of subsection (11) and paragraph (a) of subsection (13) of section 1002.40, Florida Statutes are amended, and paragraph (i) is added to subsection (11) of that section, to read:

1002.40 The Hope Scholarship Program.—

(11) FUNDING AND PAYMENT.—

(a) The maximum amount awarded to a student enrolled in an eligible private school shall be calculated based upon the grade level and school district in which the student resides as 97 percent of the district average for the basic programs identified in s. 1011.62(1)(c)1. and the General Appropriations Act, determined as a percentage of the unweighted FTE funding amount for that state fiscal year and thereafter as follows:

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

2. Ninety-two percent for a student enrolled in grade 6
through grade 8.

3. Ninety-six percent for a student enrolled in grade 9 through grade 12.

(g) An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization, subject to the limitations of s. 1002.395(6)(j)1., may use up to 3 percent of eligible contributions received during the state fiscal year in which such contributions are collected for administrative expenses if the organization has operated as an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization for at least the preceding 3 fiscal years and did not have any findings of material weakness or material noncompliance in its most recent audit under s. 1002.395(6)(m).

Such administrative expenses must be reasonable and necessary for the organization’s management and distribution of eligible contributions under this section. Funds authorized under this paragraph may not be used for lobbying or political activity or expenses related to lobbying or political activity. Up to one-third of the funds authorized for administrative expenses under this paragraph may be used for expenses related to the recruitment of contributions. An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization may not charge an application fee.

(i) Notwithstanding s. 1002.395(6)(j)2., no more than 5 percent of net eligible contributions may be carried forward to the following state fiscal year by an eligible scholarship-funding organization. All amounts carried forward, for audit...
purposes, must be specifically identified for particular
students by student name and the name of the school to which the
student is admitted, subject to the requirements of ss. 1002.21
and 1002.22 and 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g, and the applicable rules and
regulations issued pursuant to such requirements. Any amounts
carried forward shall be expended for annual scholarships or
partial-year scholarships in the following state fiscal year.
Net eligible contributions remaining on June 30 of each year
which are in excess of the 5 percent that may be carried forward
shall be transferred to other eligible nonprofit scholarship-
funding organizations participating in the Hope Scholarship
Program to provide scholarships for eligible students. All
transferred funds must be deposited by each eligible nonprofit
scholarship-funding organization receiving such funds into the
scholarship account of eligible students. All transferred
amounts received by an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding
organization must be separately disclosed in the annual
financial audit under to s. 1002.395(6)(m). If no other eligible
nonprofit scholarship-funding organization participates in the
Hope Scholarship Program, net eligible contributions in excess
of 5 percent may be used to fund scholarships for students
eligible under s. 1002.395(3).

(13) SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING TAX CREDITS.—
(a) A tax credit is available under s. 212.1832(1) for use
by a person that makes an eligible contribution. Eligible
contributions shall be used to fund scholarships under this section and may be used to fund scholarships under s. 1002.395. Each eligible contribution is limited to a single payment of $105 per motor vehicle purchased at the time of purchase of a motor vehicle or a single payment of $105 per motor vehicle purchased at the time of registration of a motor vehicle that was not purchased from a dealer, except that a contribution may not exceed the state tax imposed under chapter 212 that would otherwise be collected from the purchaser by a dealer, designated agent, or private tag agent. Payments of contributions shall be made to a dealer at the time of purchase of a motor vehicle or to a designated agent or private tag agent at the time of registration of a motor vehicle that was not purchased from a dealer. An eligible contribution shall be accompanied by a contribution election form provided by the Department of Revenue. The form shall include, at a minimum, the following brief description of the Hope Scholarship Program and the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program: "THE HOPE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM PROVIDES A PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT WHO WAS SUBJECTED TO AN INCIDENT OF VIOLENCE OR BULLYING AT SCHOOL THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP TO ATTEND AN ELIGIBLE PRIVATE SCHOOL RATHER THAN REMAIN IN AN UNSAFE SCHOOL. THE FLORIDA TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM PROVIDES A LOW-INCOME STUDENT THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP TO ATTEND AN ELIGIBLE PRIVATE SCHOOL." The form shall also
include, at a minimum, a section allowing the consumer to designate, from all participating scholarship funding organizations, which organization will receive his or her donation. For purposes of this subsection, the term "purchase" does not include the lease or rental of a motor vehicle.

Section 8. Paragraphs (a) and (g) of subsection (7) of section 1002.411, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1002.411  Reading scholarship accounts.—

(7) ACCOUNT FUNDING AND PAYMENT.—

(a) For the 2018-2019 school year, The amount of the scholarship shall be $500 per eligible student. Thereafter, the maximum amount granted for an eligible student shall be provided in the General Appropriations Act.

(g) In addition to funds appropriated for scholarships and subject to a separate, specific legislative appropriation, an organization may receive an amount equivalent to not more than 3 percent of the amount of each scholarship from state funds for administrative expenses if the organization has operated as a nonprofit entity for at least the preceding 3 fiscal years and did not have any findings of material weakness or material noncompliance in its most recent audit under s. 1002.395. Such administrative expenses must be reasonable and necessary for the organization's management and distribution of scholarships under this section. Funds authorized under this paragraph may not be used for lobbying or political activity or expenses related to
lobbying or political activity. An organization may not charge
an application fee for a scholarship. Administrative expenses
may not be deducted from funds appropriated for scholarships.

Section 9. Subsections (18) and (19) of section 1011.62,
Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (17) and (18),
respectively, and paragraph (f) of subsection (1), subsection
(2), paragraph (a) of subsection (4), paragraphs (a), (b), and
(c) of subsection (6), paragraphs (a), (c), and (d) of
subsection (9), subsections (11) and (14), and present
subsection (17), and paragraph (b) of present subsection (18)
are amended, to read:

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

(1) COMPUTATION OF THE BASIC AMOUNT TO BE INCLUDED FOR
OPERATION.—The following procedure shall be followed in
determining the annual allocation to each district for
operation:

(f) Supplemental academic instruction allocation.—
1. There is created the supplemental academic instruction
allocation to provide supplemental academic instruction to
students in kindergarten through grade 12.
2. The supplemental academic instruction allocation shall be provided annually in the Florida Education Finance Program as specified in the General Appropriations Act. These funds are in addition to the funds appropriated on the basis of FTE student membership in the Florida Education Finance Program and shall be included in the total potential funds of each district. Beginning with the 2018-2019 fiscal year, each school district that has a school earning a grade of "D" or "F" pursuant to s. 1008.34 must use that school's portion of the supplemental academic instruction allocation to implement intervention and support strategies for school improvement pursuant to s. 1008.33 and for salary incentives pursuant to s. 1012.2315(3) or salary supplements pursuant to s. 1012.22(1)(c)5.c. that are provided through a memorandum of understanding between the collective bargaining agent and the school board that addresses the selection, placement, and expectations of instructional personnel and school administrators. Each school district that has one or more of the 300 lowest-performing elementary schools based on a 3-year average of the state reading assessment data must use that school's portion of the allocation to provide an additional hour per day of intensive reading for the students in the school. The additional hour may be provided within the school day. Students enrolled in these schools who earned a level 4 or level 5 score on the statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment for the previous school year may
participate in the extra hour of instruction. For all other schools, the school district's use of the supplemental academic instruction allocation may include, but is not limited to, the use of a modified curriculum, reading instruction, after-school instruction, tutoring, mentoring, a reduction in class size, extended school year, intensive skills development in summer school, dropout prevention programs as defined in ss. 1003.52 and 1003.53(1)(a), (b), and (c), and other methods of improving student achievement. Supplemental academic instruction may be provided to a student in any manner and at any time during or beyond the regular 180-day term identified by the school as being the most effective and efficient way to best help that student progress from grade to grade and to graduate.

3. The supplemental academic instruction allocation shall consist of a base amount that has a workload adjustment based on changes in unweighted FTE. The supplemental academic instruction allocation shall be recalculated during the fiscal year. Upon recalculation of funding for the supplemental academic instruction allocation, if the total allocation is greater than the amount provided in the General Appropriations Act, the allocation shall be prorated to the level provided to support the appropriation, based on each district's share of the total.

4. Funding on the basis of FTE membership beyond the 180-day regular term shall be provided in the FEFP only for students enrolled in juvenile justice education programs or in education
programs for juveniles placed in secure facilities or programs under s. 985.19. Funding for instruction beyond the regular 180-day school year for all other K-12 students shall be provided through the supplemental academic instruction allocation and other state, federal, and local fund sources with ample flexibility for schools to provide supplemental instruction to assist students in progressing from grade to grade and graduating.

(2) DETERMINATION OF DISTRICT COST DIFFERENTIALS.—The Commissioner of Education shall annually compute for each district the current year’s district cost differential is established to account for the variation among counties in the cost of wages and salaries for hiring comparable personnel. By January 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, the Office of Economic and Demographic Research shall develop a methodology for calculating the variation in the cost of wages and salaries and calculate each district’s wage level index using applicable county-level and occupational-level wage data. To improve the integrity of the calculation, the office shall seek input from a broad range of stakeholders, including, but not limited to, school districts and the Department of Economic Opportunity, to verify factors that result in the cost differences among counties. The office shall submit each district's wage level index to the Department of Education. The district cost differential shall be calculated by adding each district's wage
price level index as published in the Florida Price Level Index for the most recent 3 years and dividing the resulting sum by 3. The result for each district shall be multiplied by 0.008 and to the resulting product shall be added 0.200; the resulting sum is thus obtained shall be the district cost differential for that district for that year.

(4) COMPUTATION OF DISTRICT REQUIRED LOCAL EFFORT.—The Legislature shall prescribe the aggregate required local effort for all school districts collectively as an item in the General Appropriations Act for each fiscal year. The amount that each district shall provide annually toward the cost of the Florida Education Finance Program for kindergarten through grade 12 programs shall be calculated as follows:

(a) Estimated taxable value calculations.—

1.a. Not later than 2 working days before July 19, the Department of Revenue shall certify to the Commissioner of Education its most recent estimate of the taxable value for school purposes in each school district and the total for all school districts in the state for the current calendar year based on the latest available data obtained from the local property appraisers. The value certified shall be the taxable value for school purposes for that year, and no further adjustments shall be made, except those made pursuant to paragraphs (c) and (d), or an assessment roll change required by final judicial decisions as specified in paragraph (17)(b)
(18)(b). Not later than July 19, the Commissioner of Education shall compute a millage rate, rounded to the next highest one one-thousandth of a mill, which, when applied to 96 percent of the estimated state total taxable value for school purposes, would generate the prescribed aggregate required local effort for that year for all districts. The Commissioner of Education shall certify to each district school board the millage rate, computed as prescribed in this subparagraph, as the minimum millage rate necessary to provide the district required local effort for that year.

b. The General Appropriations Act shall direct the computation of the statewide adjusted aggregate amount for required local effort for all school districts collectively from ad valorem taxes to ensure that no school district's revenue from required local effort millage will produce more than 90 percent of the district's total Florida Education Finance Program calculation as calculated and adopted by the Legislature, and the adjustment of the required local effort millage rate of each district that produces more than 90 percent of its total Florida Education Finance Program entitlement to a level that will produce only 90 percent of its total Florida Education Finance Program entitlement in the July calculation.

2. On the same date as the certification in sub-subparagraph 1.a., the Department of Revenue shall certify to the Commissioner of Education for each district:
a. Each year for which the property appraiser has certified the taxable value pursuant to s. 193.122(2) or (3), if applicable, since the prior certification under sub-subparagraph 1.a.

b. For each year identified in sub-subparagraph a., the taxable value certified by the appraiser pursuant to s. 193.122(2) or (3), if applicable, since the prior certification under sub-subparagraph 1.a. This is the certification that reflects all final administrative actions of the value adjustment board.

(6) CATEGORICAL FUNDS.—

(a) In addition to the K-12 base funding basic amount for current operations for the FEFP as determined in subsection (1), the Legislature may appropriate categorical funding for specified programs, activities, or purposes.

(b) If a district school board finds and declares in a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the school board that the funds received for any of the following categorical appropriations are urgently needed to maintain school board specified academic classroom instruction or improve school safety, the school board may consider and approve an amendment to the school district operating budget transferring the identified amount of the categorical funds to the appropriate account for expenditure:

1. Funds for student transportation.
2. Funds for research-based reading instruction if the required additional hour of instruction beyond the normal school day for each day of the entire school year has been provided for the students in each low-performing elementary school in the district pursuant to paragraph (9)(a).

3. Funds for instructional materials if all instructional material purchases necessary to provide updated materials that are aligned with applicable state standards and course descriptions and that meet statutory requirements of content and learning have been completed for that fiscal year, but no sooner than March 1. Funds available after March 1 may be used to purchase hardware for student instruction.

4. Funds for the digital classroom allocation.

(c) Each district school board shall include in its annual financial report to the Department of Education the amount of funds the school board transferred from each of the categorical funds identified in this subsection and the specific academic classroom instruction or school safety need for which the transferred funds were expended. The Department of Education shall provide instructions and specify the format to be used in submitting this required information as a part of the district annual financial report. The Department of Education shall submit a report to the Legislature that identifies by district and by categorical fund the amount transferred and the specific academic classroom activity or school safety need for which the
funds were expended.

(9) RESEARCH-BASED READING INSTRUCTION ALLOCATION.—

(a) The research-based reading instruction allocation is
created to provide a comprehensive system of reading instruction
to students in kindergarten through grade 12. Each school
district that has one or more of the 300 lowest-performing
elementary schools based on a 3-year average of the state
reading assessment data must use the school's portion of the
allocation to provide an additional hour per day of intensive
reading instruction for the students in each school. The
additional hour may be provided within the school day. Students
enrolled in these schools who earned a level 4 or level 5 score
on the statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment
for the previous school year may participate in the additional
hour of instruction. Exceptional student education centers may
not be included in the 300 schools. The intensive reading
instruction delivered in this additional hour shall include:
research-based reading instruction that has been proven to
accelerate progress of students exhibiting a reading deficiency;
differentiated instruction based on screening, diagnostic,
progress monitoring, or student assessment data to meet
students' specific reading needs; explicit and systematic
reading strategies to develop phonemic awareness, phonics,
fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension, with more extensive
opportunities for guided practice, error correction, and
feedback, and the integration of social studies, science, and mathematics—text reading, text discussion, and writing in response to reading.

(c) A school district that has one or more of the 300 lowest-performing elementary schools based on a 3-year average of the state reading assessment data may use the school's portion of the reading instruction allocation to provide an additional hour per day of intensive reading instruction for the students in each school. The additional hour may be provided within the school day. Students enrolled in these schools who earned a level 4 or level 5 score on the statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment for the previous school year may participate in the additional hour of instruction. Exceptional student education centers may not be included in the 300 schools. The intensive reading instruction provided in the additional hour shall include evidence-based reading instruction that has been proven to accelerate progress of students exhibiting a reading deficiency; differentiated instruction based on screening, diagnostic, progress monitoring, or student assessment data to meet students' specific reading needs; explicit and systematic reading strategies to develop phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension, with more extensive opportunities for guided practice, error correction, and feedback; and the integration of social studies, science, and mathematics—text reading, text discussion, and
writing in response to reading. For all other schools, the school district's use of the reading instruction allocation shall be used to implement best practices identified by the Just Read, Florida! Office Funds allocated under this subsection must be used to provide a system of comprehensive reading instruction to students enrolled in the K-12 programs, which may include the following:

1. An additional hour per day of intensive reading instruction to students in the 300 lowest-performing elementary schools by teachers and reading specialists who have demonstrated effectiveness in teaching reading as required in paragraph (a).

1.2 Kindergarten through grade 5 reading intervention teachers to provide intensive intervention during the school day and in the required extra hour for students identified as having a reading deficiency.

2.3 Highly qualified reading coaches to specifically support teachers in making instructional decisions based on student data, and improve teacher delivery of effective reading instruction, intervention, and reading in the content areas based on student need.

3.4 Professional development for K-12 school district teachers and reading coaches consistent with s. 1001.215(3) in scientifically based reading instruction, including strategies to teach reading in content areas and with an emphasis on
technical and informational text, to help school district
teachers and reading coaches earn a certification or an
endorsement in reading.

4.5. Summer reading camps, using only teachers or other
district personnel who are certified or endorsed in reading
consistent with s. 1008.25(7)(b)3., for all students in
kindergarten through grade 2 who demonstrate a reading
deficiency as determined by district and state assessments, and
students in grades 3 through 5 who score at Level 1 on the
statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment.

5.6. Supplemental instructional materials that are
grounded in scientifically based reading research as identifi-
cyed by the Just Read, Florida! Office pursuant to s. 1001.215(8).

6.7. Intensive interventions for students in kindergarten
through grade 12 who have been identified as having a reading
deficiency or who are reading below grade level as determined by
the statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment.

(d)1. Annually, by a date determined by the Department of
Education but before May 1, school districts shall submit a K-12
comprehensive reading plan for the specific use of the research-
based reading instruction allocation in the format prescribed by
the department for review and approval by the Just Read,
Florida! Office created pursuant to s. 1001.215. The plan
annually submitted by school districts shall be deemed approved
unless the department rejects the plan on or before June 1. If a
school district and the Just Read, Florida! Office cannot reach agreement on the contents of the plan, the school district may appeal to the State Board of Education for resolution. School districts shall be allowed reasonable flexibility in designing their plans and shall be encouraged to offer reading intervention through innovative methods, including career academies. The plan format shall be developed with input from school district personnel, including teachers and principals, and shall provide for intensive reading interventions through integrated curricula, provided that, beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, the interventions are delivered by a teacher who is certified or endorsed in reading. Such interventions must incorporate strategies identified by the Just Read, Florida! Office pursuant to s. 1001.215(8). No later than July 1 annually, the department shall release the school district's allocation of appropriated funds to those districts having approved plans. A school district that spends 100 percent of this allocation on its approved plan shall be deemed to have been in compliance with the plan. The department may withhold funds upon a determination that reading instruction allocation funds are not being used to implement the approved plan. The department shall monitor and track the implementation of each district plan, including conducting site visits and collecting specific data on expenditures and reading improvement results, identifying detailed best practices for improving student
reading performance, and making recommendations for efficient implementation of professional development to enable instructional personnel to earn a certification or an endorsement in reading. By February 1 of each year, the department shall report its findings to the Legislature.

2. Each school district that has a school designated as one of the 300 lowest-performing elementary schools as specified in paragraph (c) (a) shall specifically delineate in the comprehensive reading plan, or in an addendum to the comprehensive reading plan, the implementation design and reading intervention strategies that will be used for the required additional hour of reading instruction. The term "reading intervention" includes evidence-based strategies frequently used to remediate reading deficiencies and also includes individual instruction, tutoring, mentoring, or the use of technology that targets specific reading skills and abilities.

(11) VIRTUAL EDUCATION CONTRIBUTION.—The Legislature may annually provide in the Florida Education Finance Program a virtual education contribution. The amount of the virtual education contribution shall be the difference between the amount per FTE established in the General Appropriations Act for virtual education and the amount per FTE for each district and the Florida Virtual School, which may be calculated by taking the sum of the base FEFP allocation, the discretionary local
effort, the state-funded discretionary contribution, the
discretionary millage compression supplement, the research-based
reading instruction allocation, the Florida best and brightest
teachers allocation, the Florida best and brightest principals
allocation, and the instructional materials allocation, and then
dividing by the total unweighted FTE. This difference shall be
multiplied by the virtual education unweighted FTE for programs
and options identified in s. 1002.455 and the Florida Virtual
School and its franchises to equal the virtual education
contribution and shall be included as a separate allocation in
the funding formula.

(14) QUALITY ASSURANCE GUARANTEE.—The Legislature may
annually in the General Appropriations Act determine a
percentage increase in funds per K-12 unweighted FTE as a
minimum guarantee to each school district. The guarantee shall
be calculated from prior year base funding per unweighted FTE
student which shall include the adjusted FTE dollars as provided
in subsection (17) (18), quality guarantee funds, and actual
nonvoted discretionary local effort from taxes. From the base
funding per unweighted FTE, the increase shall be calculated for
the current year. The current year funds from which the
guarantee shall be determined shall include the adjusted FTE
dollars as provided in subsection (17) (18) and potential
nonvoted discretionary local effort from taxes. A comparison of
current year funds per unweighted FTE to prior year funds per
unweighted FTE shall be computed. For those school districts which have less than the legislatively assigned percentage increase, funds shall be provided to guarantee the assigned percentage increase in funds per unweighted FTE student. Should appropriated funds be less than the sum of this calculated amount for all districts, the commissioner shall prorate each district's allocation. This provision shall be implemented to the extent specifically funded.

(17) FUNDING COMPRESSION ALLOCATION. The Legislature may provide an annual funding compression allocation in the General Appropriations Act. The allocation is created to provide additional funding to school districts and developmental research schools whose total funds per FTE in the prior year were less than the statewide average. Using the most recent prior year FEFP calculation for each eligible school district, the total funds per FTE shall be subtracted from the state average funds per FTE, not including any adjustments made pursuant to paragraph (18)(b). The resulting funds per FTE difference, or a portion thereof, as designated in the General Appropriations Act, shall then be multiplied by the school district's total unweighted FTE to provide the allocation. If the calculated funds are greater than the amount included in the General Appropriations Act, they must be prorated to the appropriation amount based on each participating school district's share. This subsection expires July 1, 2019.
TOTAL ALLOCATION OF STATE FUNDS TO EACH DISTRICT

FOR CURRENT OPERATION.—The total annual state allocation to each district for current operation for the FEFP shall be distributed periodically in the manner prescribed in the General Appropriations Act.

(b) The amount thus obtained shall be the net annual allocation to each school district. However, if it is determined that any school district received an under allocation or over allocation for any prior year because of an arithmetical error, assessment roll change required by final judicial decision, full-time equivalent student membership error, or any allocation error revealed in an audit report, the allocation to that district shall be appropriately adjusted. An under allocation in a prior year caused by a school district's error may not be the basis for a positive allocation adjustment for the current year. Beginning with the 2011-2012 fiscal year, if a special program cost factor is less than the basic program cost factor, an audit adjustment may not result in the reclassification of the special program FTE to the basic program FTE. If the Department of Education audit adjustment recommendation is based upon controverted findings of fact, the Commissioner of Education is authorized to establish the amount of the adjustment based on the best interests of the state.

Section 10. Subsection (1) of section 1011.71, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
1011.71 District school tax.—

(1) If the district school tax is not provided in the General Appropriations Act or the substantive bill implementing the General Appropriations Act, each district school board desiring to participate in the state allocation of funds for current operation as prescribed by s. 1011.62(17) shall levy on the taxable value for school purposes of the district, exclusive of millage voted under s. 9(b) or s. 12, Art. VII of the State Constitution, a millage rate not to exceed the amount certified by the commissioner as the minimum millage rate necessary to provide the district required local effort for the current year, pursuant to s. 1011.62(4)(a)1. In addition to the required local effort millage levy, each district school board may levy a nonvoted current operating discretionary millage. The Legislature shall prescribe annually in the appropriations act the maximum amount of millage a district may levy.

Section 11. Subsection (4) of section 1012.584, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1012.584 Continuing education and inservice training for youth mental health awareness and assistance.—

(4) Each school district shall notify all school personnel who have received training pursuant to this section of mental health services that are available in the school district, and the individual to contact if a student needs services. The term
"mental health services" includes, but is not limited to, community mental health services, health care providers, and services provided under ss. 1006.04 and 1011.62(16) 1011.62(17).

Section 12. Section 1012.731, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1012.731 The Florida best and brightest teacher allocation Scholarship Program.—

(1) The Legislature recognizes that, second only to parents, teachers play the most critical role within schools in preparing students to achieve a high level of academic performance. The Legislature further recognizes that research has linked student outcomes to a teacher's own academic achievement. Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature to designate teachers who have achieved high academic standards during their own education as Florida's best and brightest teacher scholars.

(2) There is created the Florida best and brightest teacher allocation Scholarship Program to be administered by the Department of Education. The scholarship program shall provide categorical funding for scholarships to be awarded to classroom teachers, as defined in s. 1012.01(2)(a), who have demonstrated a high level of academic achievement.

(2) To be eligible for an award in the amount of $2,000, a classroom teacher must be evaluated as highly effective under s. 1012.34 in the school year immediately preceding the year in
which the award is funded.

(3) To be eligible for an award in an amount of up to $1,100, a classroom teacher must be evaluated as effective under s. 1012.34 in the school year immediately preceding the year in which the award is funded.

(4) A school district employee who is no longer a classroom teacher may receive an award if the employee was a classroom teacher in the previous school year and was rated highly effective or effective.

(3)(a) To be eligible for a scholarship in the amount of $6,000, a classroom teacher must:

1. Have achieved a composite score at or above the 80th percentile on either the SAT or the ACT based on the National Percentile Ranks in effect when the classroom teacher took the assessment and have been evaluated as highly effective pursuant to s. 1012.34 in the school year immediately preceding the year in which the scholarship will be awarded, unless the classroom teacher is newly hired by the district school board and has not been evaluated pursuant to s. 1012.34.

2. Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, have achieved a composite score at or above the 77th percentile or, if the classroom teacher graduated cum laude or higher with a baccalaureate degree, the 71st percentile on either the SAT, ACT, GRE, LSAT, GMAT, or MCAT based on the National Percentile Ranks in effect when the classroom teacher took the assessment.
and have been evaluated as highly effective pursuant to s. 1012.34, or have been evaluated as highly effective based on a commissioner-approved student learning growth formula pursuant to s. 1012.34(8), in the school year immediately preceding the year in which the scholarship will be awarded, unless the classroom teacher is newly hired by the district school board and has not been evaluated pursuant to s. 1012.34.

(b)1. In order to demonstrate eligibility for an award, an eligible classroom teacher must submit to the school district, no later than November 1, an official record of his or her qualifying assessment score and, beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, an official transcript demonstrating that he or she graduated cum laude or higher with a baccalaureate degree, if applicable. Once a classroom teacher is deemed eligible by the school district, the teacher shall remain eligible as long as he or she remains employed by the school district as a classroom teacher at the time of the award and receives an annual performance evaluation rating of highly effective pursuant to s. 1012.34 or is evaluated as highly effective based on a commissioner-approved student learning growth formula pursuant to s. 1012.34(8) for the 2019-2020 school year or thereafter.

2. A school district employee who is no longer a classroom teacher may receive an award if the employee was a classroom teacher in the prior school year, was rated highly effective, and met the requirements of this section as a classroom teacher.
(e) Notwithstanding the requirements of this subsection, for the 2017-2018, 2018-2019, and 2019-2020 school years, any classroom teacher who:

1. Was evaluated as highly effective pursuant to s. 1012.34 in the school year immediately preceding the year in which the scholarship will be awarded shall receive a scholarship of $1200, including a classroom teacher who received an award pursuant to paragraph (a).

2. Was evaluated as effective pursuant to s. 1012.34 in the school year immediately preceding the year in which the scholarship will be awarded a scholarship of up to $800. If the number of eligible classroom teachers under this subparagraph exceeds the total allocation, the department shall prorate the per-teacher scholarship amount.

This paragraph expires July 1, 2020.

(5)(4) Annually, by December 1, each school district shall submit to the Department of Education:

(a) The number of eligible classroom teachers who qualify for the award scholarship.

(b) The name and master school identification number (MSID) of each school in the district to which an eligible classroom teacher is assigned.

(c) The name of the school principal of each eligible classroom teacher's school if he or she has served as the
school's principal for at least 2 consecutive school years including the current school year.

(6)(5) Annually, by February 1, the department shall calculate and disburse the scholarship funds allocated to each school district for each eligible classroom teacher to receive an award a scholarship in accordance with this section.

(7)(6) Annually, by April 1, each school district shall distribute the funds award the scholarship to each eligible classroom teacher.

(8)(7) For purposes of this section, the term "school district" includes the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind and charter school governing boards.

Section 13. Section 1012.732, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1012.732 The Florida best and brightest principal allocation Scholarship Program.—

(1) The Legislature recognizes that the most effective school principals establish a safe and supportive school environment for students and faculty. Research shows that these principals increase student learning by providing opportunities for the professional growth, collaboration, and autonomy that classroom teachers need to become and remain highly effective educational professionals. As a result, these principals are able to recruit and retain more of the best classroom teachers and improve student outcomes at their schools, including schools
serving low income and high need student populations. Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature to designate school principals whose school faculty has a high percentage of classroom teachers who are designated as Florida's best and brightest teacher scholars pursuant to s. 1012.731 as Florida's best and brightest principals.

(1) There is created the Florida best and brightest principal allocation which Scholarship Program to be administered by the Department of Education. The program shall provide categorical funding for scholarships to be awarded to school principals, as defined in s. 1012.01(3)(c)1., who have recruited and retained a high percentage of best and brightest teachers.

(2) A school principal identified pursuant to s. 1012.731(5)(c) is eligible to receive an award under this section if he or she has served as school principal at his or her school for at least 2 consecutive school years including the current school year and his or her school has a ratio of best and brightest teachers identified pursuant to s. 1012.731 to other classroom teachers that is at the 80th percentile or higher for schools within the same grade group, statewide, including elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, and schools with a combination of grade levels.

(3) Annually, by February 1, the Department of Education shall identify eligible school principals and
calculate and disburse the funds allocated to each school
district for each eligible school principal to receive an award
a scholarship. An award a scholarship of $5,000 must be awarded
to every eligible school principal assigned to a Title I school
and an award a scholarship of $4,000 to every eligible school
principal who is not assigned to a Title I school.

(4) (5) Annually, by April 1, each school district must
distribute funds award a scholarship to each eligible school
principal.

(5) (6) A school district must provide a best and brightest
principal with the additional authority and responsibilities
provided in s. 1012.28(8) for a minimum of 2 years.

(6) (7) For purposes of this section, the term "school
district" includes the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind
and charter school governing boards.

Section 14. Subsection (1) of section 49 of chapter 2018-
6, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

Section 49. (1) The Department of Revenue is authorized,
and all conditions are deemed to be met, to adopt emergency
rules pursuant to s. 120.54(4), Florida Statutes, for the
purpose of administering the provisions of this act and s.
1002.40, Florida Statutes, as amended by this act.

Section 15. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this
act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon
this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1,