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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to education technology; amending s.
3 1011.62, F.S.; providing the purpose for the Florida
4 digital classrooms allocation; requiring a school
5 district to adopt a district digital classrooms plan
6 and submit the plan to the Department of Education for
7 approval; providing requirements for the plan;
8 requiring that allocated funds be used for a specified
9 purpose; requiring a district school board to submit
10 to the department the district's digital classrooms
11 plan; providing requirements for the district's plan;
12 requiring the Commissioner of Education to adopt a
13 Florida digital classrooms plan that establishes
14 certain protocols, parameters, requirements, and
15 digital tools; providing requirements for the plan;
16 providing calculations for funding; requiring the
17 commissioner to support statewide, coordinated
18 partnerships and efforts of education practitioners to
19 identify and share best practices, corrective actions,
20 and other identified needs; requiring each district
21 school board to report by a specified date to the
22 department the district's use of funds and student
23 performance outcomes; requiring the commissioner to
24 provide by a specified date to the Governor and the
25 Legislature a summary of each district's use of funds,
26 student performance outcomes, and progress toward
27 meeting statutory requirements and timelines; amending
28 s. 1002.33, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes
29 made by the act; creating s. 1007.2616, F.S.;

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30 requiring public schools to provide students in grades
31 K-12 opportunities for learning computer coding and
32 programming; requiring grade-specific instruction in
33 specified areas; requiring elementary schools and
34 middle schools to establish digital classrooms for
35 specified purposes; requiring high schools to provide
36 students with opportunities to take certain computer
37 programming courses to satisfy requirements for high
38 school graduation; requiring a Florida College System
39 institution, and authorizing a state university, to
40 offer students the option of completing a certain
41 number of years of instruction in a computer
42 programming language in lieu of completing the same
43 number of years of foreign language instruction under
44 certain circumstances; including such computer
45 programming courses in the statewide course numbering
46 system; providing that a preeminent state research
47 university is not required to accept computer
48 programming language as the equivalent to a certain
49 number of years of foreign language education;
50 authorizing the State Board of Education to adopt
51 rules; providing an effective date.

52
53 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

54
55 Section 1. Subsection (15) is added to section 1011.62,
56 Florida Statutes, to read:

57 1011.62 Funds for operation of schools.—If the annual
58 allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each

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59 district for operation of schools is not determined in the
60 annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing
61 the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as
62 follows:

63 (15) FLORIDA DIGITAL CLASSROOMS.-

64 (a) The Florida digital classrooms allocation is created to
65 improve outcomes related to student performance by emphasizing
66 and supporting technology-enhanced classroom teaching and
67 learning. The outcomes must be measurable and may also be unique
68 to the needs of individual schools and school districts within
69 general parameters established by the Department of Education.

70 (b) Each district school board shall adopt a district
71 digital classrooms plan that meets the unique needs of students,
72 schools, and personnel and submit the plan for approval to the
73 department. The district's plan must be within the general
74 parameters established in the Florida digital classrooms plan
75 pursuant to paragraph (c). Funds allocated under this subsection
76 must be used to support implementation of district digital
77 classrooms plans. By October 1, 2014, and by March 1 of each
78 year thereafter on a date determined by the department, each
79 district school board shall submit to the department, in a
80 format prescribed by the department, a digital classrooms plan.
81 At a minimum, such plan must include, and shall be annually
82 updated to reflect, the following:

83 1. Measurable student performance outcomes. Outcomes
84 related to student performance must result from the
85 implementation of the district's digital classrooms plan for the
86 current school year and subsequent 3 years, including outcomes
87 for students with disabilities. Results of the outcomes shall be

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88 reported at least annually and be accompanied by an independent
89 evaluation and validation of the reported results.

90 2. Digital learning and technology infrastructure purchases
91 and operational activities. Such purchases and activities must
92 meet the measurable outcomes under subparagraph 1., including,
93 but not limited to, connectivity, broadband access, wireless
94 capacity, Internet speed, and data security, all of which must
95 meet or exceed minimum requirements and protocols established by
96 the department. For each year that the district uses funds for
97 infrastructure, a third-party, independent evaluation of the
98 district's technology inventory and infrastructure needs must
99 accompany the district's plan.

100 3. Professional development purchases and operational
101 activities. Such purchases and activities must meet the
102 measurable outcomes under subparagraph 1., including, but not
103 limited to, using technology in the classroom and improving
104 digital literacy and competency.

105 4. Digital tool purchases and operational activities. Such
106 purchases and activities must meet the measurable outcomes under
107 subparagraph 1., including, but not limited to, competency-based
108 credentials that measure and demonstrate digital competency and
109 certifications; third-party assessments that demonstrate
110 acquired knowledge and use of digital applications; and devices
111 that meet or exceed minimum requirements and protocols
112 established by the department.

113 5. Online assessment-related purchases and operational
114 activities. Such purchases and activities must meet the
115 measurable outcomes under subparagraph 1., including, but not
116 limited to, expanding the capacity to administer assessments and

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117 compatibility with minimum assessment protocols and requirements
118 established by the department.

119 (c) The commissioner shall adopt a Florida digital
120 classrooms plan that, at a minimum, establishes minimum
121 protocols, parameters, and requirements for district-level
122 infrastructure, school-level infrastructure, and digital tools
123 that accommodate statutory requirements and timelines for
124 instruction, learning, assessments, and accountability. The
125 Florida digital classrooms plan shall be prepared for the
126 current school year and the subsequent 5 years. The plan shall
127 be reviewed and updated annually and must specify the criteria
128 for the annual review and approval of the districts' digital
129 classrooms plans.

130 (d) The Legislature shall annually provide in the General
131 Appropriations Act a Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)
132 allocation for implementation of the digital classrooms plan to
133 be calculated in an amount up to 1 percent of the base student
134 allocation multiplied by the total K-12 full-time equivalent
135 student enrollment included in the FEFP calculations for the
136 Legislative appropriation or as provided in the General
137 Appropriations Act. Each school district shall be provided a
138 minimum of \$100,000, with the remaining balance of the
139 allocation to be distributed based on each district's proportion
140 of the total K-12 full-time equivalent student enrollment.
141 Distribution of funds for the Florida digital classrooms
142 allocation shall begin following submittal of each district's
143 digital classrooms plan, which must include formal verification
144 of the superintendent's approval of the digital classrooms plan
145 of each charter school in the district and approval of the plan

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146 by the department. District allocations shall be recalculated
147 during the fiscal year consistent with the periodic
148 recalculation of the FEFP. School districts shall provide a
149 proportionate share of the digital classrooms allocation to each
150 charter school in the district, as required for categorical
151 programs in s. 1002.33(17)(b). A school district may use a
152 competitive process to distribute funds for the Florida digital
153 classrooms allocation to the schools within the school district.

154 (e) For purposes of implementing the Florida digital
155 classrooms plan and facilitating implementation of the district
156 digital classrooms plans and charter school digital classrooms
157 plans, the commissioner shall support statewide, coordinated
158 partnerships and efforts of this state's education practitioners
159 in the field, including, but not limited to, superintendents,
160 principals, and teachers, to identify and share best practices,
161 corrective actions, and other identified needs.

162 (f) Beginning in the 2015-2016 fiscal year, and each year
163 thereafter, each district school board shall report to the
164 department its use of funds provided through the Florida digital
165 classrooms allocation and student performance outcomes in
166 accordance with the district's digital classrooms plan. No later
167 than October 1 of each year, beginning in the 2015-2016 fiscal
168 year, the commissioner shall provide to the Governor, the
169 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
170 Representatives, a summary of each district's use of funds,
171 student performance outcomes, and progress toward meeting
172 statutory requirements and timelines.

173 Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (17) of section
174 1002.33, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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175 1002.33 Charter schools.—

176 (17) FUNDING.—Students enrolled in a charter school,
177 regardless of the sponsorship, shall be funded as if they are in
178 a basic program or a special program, the same as students
179 enrolled in other public schools in the school district. Funding
180 for a charter lab school shall be as provided in s. 1002.32.

181 (b) The basis for the agreement for funding students
182 enrolled in a charter school shall be the sum of the school
183 district's operating funds from the Florida Education Finance
184 Program as provided in s. 1011.62 and the General Appropriations
185 Act, including gross state and local funds, discretionary
186 lottery funds, and funds from the school district's current
187 operating discretionary millage levy; divided by total funded
188 weighted full-time equivalent students in the school district;
189 multiplied by the weighted full-time equivalent students for the
190 charter school. Charter schools whose students or programs meet
191 the eligibility criteria in law are ~~shall be~~ entitled to their
192 proportionate share of categorical program funds included in the
193 total funds available in the Florida Education Finance Program
194 by the Legislature, including transportation and the Florida
195 digital classrooms allocation. Total funding for each charter
196 school shall be recalculated during the year to reflect the
197 revised calculations under the Florida Education Finance Program
198 by the state and the actual weighted full-time equivalent
199 students reported by the charter school during the full-time
200 equivalent student survey periods designated by the Commissioner
201 of Education.

202 Section 3. Section 1007.2616, Florida Statutes, is created
203 to read:

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204 1007.2616 Computer and technology-related coding,
205 programming, and rapid prototype printing instruction.-

206 (1) Public schools shall provide students in grades K-12
207 opportunities for learning computer coding and computer
208 programming. Such opportunities must include coding instruction
209 in elementary school and middle school, instruction to develop
210 students' computer usage and digital literacy skills in middle
211 school, and courses in computer coding and computer programming
212 in high school, including earning related industry
213 certifications.

214 (2) Elementary schools and middle schools shall establish
215 digital classrooms in which students are provided opportunities
216 to improve digital literacy and competency; to learn digital
217 skills, such as coding, multiple media presentation, and the
218 manipulation of multiple digital graphic images; and to earn
219 digital tools, such as recognitions and certifications pursuant
220 to s. 1003.4203 and grade-appropriate, technology-related
221 industry certifications.

222 (3) High schools shall provide students with opportunities
223 to take computer programming courses to satisfy high school
224 graduation requirements, including, but not limited to, the
225 following:

226 (a) High school computer programming courses of sufficient
227 rigor, as identified by the commissioner, such that 1 credit in
228 computer programming language and the earning of related
229 industry certifications constitute the equivalent of 1 credit of
230 mathematics required for high school graduation. Computer
231 programming language courses and technology-related industry
232 certifications, which are identified as eligible for meeting

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233 mathematics requirements for high school graduation, shall be
234 included in the Course Code Directory.

235 (b) Levels of competency, as identified by the
236 commissioner, in a computer programming language and the earning
237 of technology-related industry certifications constitute the
238 equivalent of the successful completion of 2 years of sequential
239 high school foreign language instruction. Courses tied to the
240 levels of competency in computer programming language and
241 technology-related industry certifications shall be included in
242 the Course Code Directory.

243 (c) High school computer technology courses in 3D rapid
244 prototype printing of sufficient rigor, as identified by the
245 commissioner, such that 1 or more credits in such courses and
246 related industry certifications earned may satisfy up to 2
247 credits of mathematics required for high school graduation.
248 Computer technology courses in 3D rapid prototype printing and
249 related industry certifications which are identified as eligible
250 for meeting mathematics requirements for high school graduation
251 shall be included in the Course Code Directory.

252 (d) Courses in computer programming language, such that 1
253 credit, at the discretion of the local district school board,
254 may satisfy 1 credit in physical education which is required for
255 high school graduation.

256 (4) A Florida College System institution shall, and a state
257 university may, offer students the option of completing 2 years
258 of instruction in the same computer programming language in lieu
259 of completing 2 years of foreign language instruction if
260 computer programming language is appropriate for the student's
261 major. Computer programming courses that meet this requirement

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262 shall be included in the statewide course numbering system. A
263 preeminent state research university under s. 1001.7065 is not
264 required to accept computer programming languages as the
265 equivalent of 2 years of foreign language education.

266 (5) The State Board of Education may adopt rules pursuant
267 to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement this section.

268 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.