

Personal Learning Scholarship Accounts

Section	Issue	Change
1. 1002.385	Student Eligibility [Lines 63-73]	Expands the definition of “autism” to include all students on the autism spectrum disorder and include students with muscular dystrophy.
	Provider Eligibility [Lines 79-81]	Includes institutions that are eligible to participate in the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant Program.
	Private School Eligibility [Lines 91-92]	Clarifies that a private school wishing to participate in the PLSA must meet the requirements of private schools that participate in the McKay Scholarship Program and the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program.
	Authorized Use of Funds [Lines 152- 205]	<p>Clarifies that funds must be used to meet the individual educational needs of the student. [Lines 151-153]</p> <p>Expands the types of services for which a PLSA may use, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A program offered by an eligible postsecondary ed. institution. [Lines 174-175] • Tuition and fees for part-time tutoring services provided by qualified individuals (certified teacher, certified adjunct teacher, or person who has demonstrated a mastery of subject area knowledge). [Lines 194-201] • Fees for an annual evaluation of a home education student. [Lines 202-203] • Fees associated with use of an electronic payment system. [Lines 204-205]

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	<p>Term of Program [Lines 214-252].</p>	<p>Specifies that payments to a PLSA account continue until:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The parent does not renew program eligibility; • The SFO determines the student is not eligible for renewal; • The Commissioner of Education denies, suspends, or revokes program participation or the use of funds; • A student participates in any prohibited activities (see Lines 122-150); • A student returns to public school, graduates from high school, or turns 22, whichever occurs first; [Lines 216-227] <p>Specifies that a PLSA account will be closed and funds will revert if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student’s program eligibility is denied or revoked; • The SFO denies the student’s application; • The student does not enroll in an eligible postsecondary educational institution within 4 years of high school graduation or completion; or • The student is no longer enrolled in an eligible postsecondary educational institution or a program offered by the institution. [Lines 235-248] <p>The SFO must notify the parent when a PLSA is closed. [Lines 250-252]</p>
	<p>Private School Requirements [Line 327]</p>	<p>Corrects a cross-reference to the agreed-upon procedures required of participating private schools.</p>
	<p>DOE Requirements [lines 345-364]</p>	<p>Requires DOE to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require SFOs to review expenditures made for services after the <u>purchase</u> has been made, rather than after <u>payment</u> has been made. [Lines 349-351] • Compare the list of PLSA students to the list of students participating in the McKay Scholarship and Florida Tax Credit Scholarship program prior to each program payment. [Lines 360-364]

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	<p>Commissioner of Education Authority & Obligations [Lines 373-414]</p>	<p>Clarifies the circumstances under which the commissioner may deny, suspend, or revoke the authorized use of program funds for failure to meet program requirements. [Lines 373-383]</p> <p>Expands the commissioner’s authority to deny, suspend or revoke, not only program participation, but the use of program funds by a student, private school, SFO, postsecondary institution, or other appropriate party for violation of program requirements. [Lines 384-390]</p> <p>Authorizes the commissioner to determine the length of a suspension or revocation and to determine the conditions for lifting a suspension or revocation. [Lines 390-392]</p> <p>Requires commissioner to deny or revoke a student’s participation if the parent engages in any activity (see Lines 415-506) that causes forfeiture of the program. [Lines 393-395]</p> <p>Authorizes the commissioner, when determining whether to deny, suspend, revoke, or lift a suspension or revocation, to also consider whether <u>a person</u> or entity had similar actions taken as a participant in any state or federal program. [Lines 396-414]</p>

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	<p>Parent Responsibilities [Lines 425-489]</p>	<p>Specifies that the annual parent agreement with the SFO is not only required for enrollment, but is also required to maintain program eligibility. [Lines 425-428]</p> <p>Clarifies language used in the sworn compliance form to ensure funds are used for the student’s educational needs. [Lines 434-436]</p> <p>Provides a parent the opportunity to request a student participate in the statewide, standardized assessments, similar to students participating in the McKay or FTC Scholarship programs. [Lines 439-443]</p> <p>Requires that a high-risk child who reaches the age of 6, must provide documentation of one of the qualifying disabilities in order to continue in the program. [Lines 464-469]</p> <p>Clarifies that only students who opt to enroll in a home education program, under the PLSA, must comply with all the requirements of a home education program, i.e, maintenance of a portfolio. [Lines 475-489]</p>
	<p>Program Administration [Lines 518-545]</p>	<p>Removes language referencing reporting of students for funding. The scholarships are not based on FEFP, so students do not have to be reported. [Lines 518-520]</p> <p>Requires that eligible students who participated in the previous year are given priority for re-enrollment each year. [Lines 523-526]</p> <p>Requires SFO to maintain a record of accrued interest retained in each student’s account that is available for authorized expenditures. [Lines 767-1123]</p>
	<p>Funding and Payment [Lines 581-583]</p>	<p>Requires that 100% of the appropriated program funds be released to DOE at the beginning of the first quarter each fiscal year. This will prevent delays in reimbursements to parents.</p>

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	Auditor General [Lines 611-614]	Clarifies that the Auditor General must provide a copy of each required annual operational audit to the commissioner within 10 days of the audit’s completion.
	Program Implementation [Lines 637-642]	Removes obsolete language.
2. 1002.395	Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program – Surety Bond [Lines 679-731]	Clarifies that claims to a required surety bond held by an SFO may only be made by another eligible SFO to provide scholarships to eligible students. [Lines 679-684 & 691-696] Specifies that if an SFO is disapproved for participation, all remaining funds shall be transferred to other eligible SFOs to provide scholarships to eligible students. An SFO receiving transferred funds must be separately disclosed in the annual financial and compliance audit. [Lines 722-731]
3. 1009.98	Florida Prepaid College Program [Lines 732-748]	Requires the Florida Prepaid College Board to develop procedures, contracts, and other documentation required to allow parents to use PLSA funds, along with other funds, to purchase a Florida Prepaid College plan. PLSA contributions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be tracked and accounted for separately from other funds; • Must revert to the state if the PLSA account is closed; and • May be used only after private funds have been exhausted.
4.	Effective Date [Line 749]	The bill shall take effect July 1, 2015.