

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Action Item

July 18, 2018

SUBJECT: New Rule 6A-6.0951, The Hope Scholarship Program

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1002.40, Florida Statutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Hope Scholarship Program is established to provide the parent of a public school student who was subjected to an incident, as defined below, an opportunity to transfer the student to another public school or to request a scholarship for the student to enroll in and attend an eligible private school.

Section 1002.40(3), Florida Statutes, defines an incident as battery; harassment; hazing; bullying; kidnapping; physical attack; robbery; sexual offenses, harassment, assault, or battery; threat or intimidation; or fighting at school, as defined by the department in accordance with section 1006.09(6), Florida Statutes.

The proposed rule:

1. Clarifies that an eligible Scholarship funding Organization (SFO) approved under section 1002.395, Florida Statutes, may establish Hope Scholarships for eligible students.
2. Clarifies that an eligible private school must comply with all requirements for private schools participating in state school choice scholarship programs pursuant to sections 1002.40 and 1002.421, Florida Statutes, and State Board Rule 6A-6.03315, Florida Administrative Code.
3. Specifies the district's obligation to timely notify parents of the Hope Scholarship by providing a Hope Scholarship Notification Form (IEPC-HS1), and incorporates the form by reference.
4. Establishes the Hope Scholarship parent application procedure.
5. Clarifies the SFO's responsibility for creating a process to determine student eligibility and award funding. This process is subject to the annual financial and compliance audit required by law.
6. Establishes the format, data and timing of the quarterly reports that SFOs must submit to the department.

The Department provided school districts a summary of the Hope Scholarship Program on May 11, 2018. Additionally, the department distributed draft rule language to Superintendents on May 18, 2018, and conducted a rule development workshop on June 6, 2018.

Supporting Documentation Included: Proposed Rule 6A-6.0951, F.A.C.; Form IEPC-HS1

Facilitator/Presenter: Adam Miller, Executive Director, Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

6A-6.0951 The Hope Scholarship Program.

(1) Eligibility of nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations. A nonprofit scholarship-funding organization (SFO) that is approved pursuant to section 1002.395, F.S., may establish Hope Scholarships for eligible students.

(2) Eligibility of private schools. A private school is eligible to participate in the Hope Scholarship Program if it complies with all requirements for private schools participating in state school choice scholarship programs pursuant to sections 1002.40, and 1002.421, F.S., and State Board of Education rule 6A-6.03315, F.A.C.

(3) Parent notification requirements. Pursuant to the requirements of section 1002.40(6), F.S., a school district must timely notify a parent of the Hope Scholarship program and provide the parent a completed Hope Scholarship Notification Form (Form IEPC-HS1), available on the Department's website, www.floridaschoolchoice.org. Form IEPC-HS1 (DOS link) is hereby incorporated by reference, effective August 2018.

(4) Hope Scholarship application procedure. To receive a Hope Scholarship a parent must apply to an eligible and participating SFO according to the SFO's application procedures and deadlines. The application submitted by a parent must include, at a minimum, the following information:

(a) Student's name, student's Florida Education Identifier (FLEID), date of birth, gender, race, current public school district, current public school attended, grade level, parent's name, telephone number, mailing address and email address.

(b) A completed Form IEPC-HS1 must be included with the application and submitted to the scholarship funding organization to which the application is made.

(5) The nonprofit scholarship-funding organization shall confirm eligibility for each student and award all scholarships consistent with the requirements of section 1002.40, F.S. The process used to confirm the eligibility of students and award scholarships is subject to the annual financial and compliance audit required by law.

(6) Public school Hope Scholarship option. Pursuant to section 1002.40(6), F.S., a student meeting the Hope Scholarship eligibility requirements may choose to attend another public school in the student's school district or in another school district. Public school options are subject to the receiving school's capacity.

(7) Quarterly and annual reports. Participating eligible SFOs shall provide quarterly reports no later than August 10, October 10, January 10, and March 10, and an annual report no later than July 15 of each fiscal year the SFO received any contributions, as defined in section 1002.40(2), F.S. The quarterly and annual reports must be submitted in a format to be specified by the Department and must include an electronic list of all participating scholarship students. The list shall include the following information:

(a) Demographic information for each student, including name, date of birth, Florida Education Identifier, grade

level, gender, race, parent's name, mailing address, email address, and telephone number;

(b) The name and Master School ID of the public school and district in which the student was enrolled when the incident was reported;

(c) Information on the student's school of attendance, including tuition, fees, and transportation amounts;

(d) The amount and type of each student's scholarship;

(e) The incident type as reported on Form IEPC-HS1; and,

(f) Year-to-date information on the amount paid for each scholarship student during the school year and the school attended, including the first date of attendance and withdraw date. If a student attended more than one school, the summary shall detail the amount of the scholarship payments that the student generated by each school.

(8) Nothing in this rule shall limit the Department's authority to request any other information related to the scholarship program.

Rulemaking Authority 1001.02, 1002.40(6)) FS. Law Implemented 1002.40 F.S., New.

Form IEPC-HS1
 Effective August 2018
 Rule 6A-6.0951

Hope Scholarship Notification Form

Pursuant to section 1002.40, Florida Statutes, the Hope Scholarship Program provides a public school student who was subjected to an incident of violence or bullying at school the opportunity to transfer to another public school with capacity or request a scholarship to attend an eligible private school.

By completing and signing this form, the principal is confirming that the incident was reported and that the parent is aware of the educational opportunities under the Hope Scholarship Program. The school should retain a copy and provide original document to the parent.

Student Information

Student Name:	Date of Birth:
_____	_____
FLEID:	Grade Level:
_____	_____
School of Enrollment and MSID:	School District:
_____	_____

Incident Information

Date and Time of Incident:	Date Incident Reported:
_____	_____
Place Incident Occurred:	Incident Type:
<input type="checkbox"/> School playground <input type="checkbox"/> School classroom <input type="checkbox"/> School cafeteria <input type="checkbox"/> School hallway <input type="checkbox"/> School restroom <input type="checkbox"/> On a school bus <input type="checkbox"/> At a school bus stop <input type="checkbox"/> At a school related/sponsored program or activity <input type="checkbox"/> Other school location (please specify): _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Battery <input type="checkbox"/> Harassment <input type="checkbox"/> Hazing <input type="checkbox"/> Bullying <input type="checkbox"/> Kidnapping <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Attack <input type="checkbox"/> Robbery <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual offense <input type="checkbox"/> Threat or intimidation <input type="checkbox"/> Fighting

Confirmation of Hope Scholarship Notification

Principal or Designee Signature:	Date:
_____	_____
Email:	Phone Number:
_____	_____

To transfer your student to another public school please contact your school district office.
 For more information on how to apply for the private school option, please visit www.floridaschoolchoice.org.

