

## COMPARISON OF REQUIREMENTS ACROSS FLORIDA'S PUBLICLY FUNDED K-12 EDUCATION SYSTEMS

*All four systems are funded through the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)*

REQUIREMENT	TRADITIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOL	CHARTER SCHOOL	SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (FES-EO)	SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (FES-UA)	CITATION
<b>SAFETY AND SECURITY (Art. IX § 1(a) — “safe and secure”)</b>					
<b>Armed safe-school officers</b>	✓ REQUIRED at every campus	✓ REQUIRED (included in mandate)	X NOT REQUIRED. May voluntarily request guardian training (Ch. 2025-58) but no mandate.	X NOT REQUIRED	§ 1006.12, 6A-1.0018
<b>Threat assessment teams</b>	✓ REQUIRED. Multi-disciplinary team at each school with sworn law enforcement.	✓ REQUIRED (included in mandate)	X NOT REQUIRED	X NOT REQUIRED	§ 1006.07(7); Rule 6A-1.0019
<b>Alyssa's Alert (mobile panic system)</b>	✓ REQUIRED. Must integrate with local 911.	✓ REQUIRED (included)	X NOT REQUIRED	X NOT REQUIRED	§ 1006.07(4)(c), 6A-1.0018
<b>Active assailant drills with law enforcement</b>	✓ REQUIRED. Annual plans, training, LE physically present.	✓ REQUIRED	X NOT REQUIRED	X NOT REQUIRED	§ 1006.07(6)(d); Rule 6A-1.0018
<b>Youth mental health training</b>	✓ REQUIRED. 80% of staff annually certified.	✓ REQUIRED	X NOT REQUIRED	X NOT REQUIRED	§ 1012.584; Rule 6A-1.094120
<b>Perimeter / access control</b>	✓ REQUIRED. Locked gates, controlled access when students present.	✓ REQUIRED	X NOT REQUIRED	—	§ 1006.07(6)(f), 6A-1.0018
<b>SESIR incident reporting</b>	✓ REQUIRED. Comprehensive incident reporting system.	✓ REQUIRED	X NOT REQUIRED. Limited reporting under § 1002.421 only.	X NOT REQUIRED	§ 1006.07(9), 6A-1.0017
<b>TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS AND PERSONNEL</b>					
<b>State teacher certification</b>	✓ REQUIRED. Must hold FL educator certificate.	o PARTIAL. Must hire certified teachers but may also hire those “eligible for” or “working toward” certification.	X NOT REQUIRED. Bachelor's, 3 yrs experience, OR “special skills” with zero state scrutiny.	X NOT REQUIRED. No credential required for instructional provider.	§ 1012.55 (public); § 1002.33(12)(f) (charter); § 1002.421(1)(h) (voucher)
<b>Schools of Hope certification</b>	—	X NOT REQUIRED. Hope operators may hire uncertified teachers and administrators.	—	—	§ 1002.333(6)(d)

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<b>Personnel evaluation framework</b>	✓ REQUIRED. § 1012.34 requires evaluation using student data, practice assessments, timelines.	X NOT REQUIRED. Exempt from § 1012.34 via K-20 exemption. May evaluate under charter contract.	X NOT REQUIRED	X NOT REQUIRED	§ 1012.34
<b>Just cause / contract protections</b>	✓ REQUIRED. Written contracts, just cause dismissal, due process, appellate review.	X NOT REQUIRED. Exempt from § 1012.33 via K-20 exemption.	X NOT REQUIRED	—	§ 1012.33
<b>EPC disciplinary jurisdiction</b>	✓ REQUIRED. All certified personnel subject to EPC.	o PARTIAL. Certified staff: yes. Non-certified staff: no equivalent mechanism.	X NOT REQUIRED	X NOT REQUIRED	§§ 1012.795–.796
<b>CLASS SIZE, CURRICULUM, AND ACCOUNTABILITY</b>					
<b>Constitutional class size limits</b>	✓ REQUIRED. 18/22/25. Compliance infrastructure required.	o PARTIAL. Same limits but measured as SCHOOL-LEVEL AVERAGE.	X NOT REQUIRED. No class size limits. Owner “solely responsible.”	—	Art. IX § 1(b); § 1003.03; § 1002.33(16)(b); § 1002.42(2)
<b>State curriculum standards</b>	✓ REQUIRED. Must follow §§ 1003.41–1003.42.	o PARTIAL. Exempt from K-20 Code but subject to state assessments.	X NOT REQUIRED. No state curriculum requirements.	X NOT REQUIRED. No curriculum requirements.	§§ 1003.41–1003.42
<b>Required instruction (civics, history, Holocaust, etc.)</b>	✓ REQUIRED. Specified content areas including American history, minority contributions, civic government.	X NOT REQUIRED. Exempt from § 1003.42 via K-20 exemption.	X NOT REQUIRED	X NOT REQUIRED	§ 1003.42
<b>State assessment program</b>	✓ REQUIRED. Full participation required.	✓ REQUIRED. Subject to state assessments and school grading.	o PARTIAL. NRT in grades 3–10 only. Results to parents only. Not comparable per FLDOE.	o PARTIAL. NRT or portfolio review. Annual evaluation only.	§ 1008.22; § 1002.394(9)(c)
<b>School grades / public accountability</b>	✓ REQUIRED. Annual grades published. Consequences for low performance.	✓ REQUIRED. Same grading system.	X NOT REQUIRED. No school grades. No consequences. <10% in published data.	X NOT REQUIRED	§ 1008.34; § 1008.33
<b>Turnaround timeline for low performance</b>	2–3 years from trigger to forced structural change (turnaround, closure, charter conversion).	~5 years. Corrective action after 3rd consecutive grade below	X NOT REQUIRED. No consequences for any performance level.	X NOT REQUIRED	§ 1008.33(4) (public); § 1002.33(9)(n) (charter)

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		C, then 2 additional years.			
<b>Persistently Low-Performing list</b>	✓ REQUIRED. District schools subject to designation.	X NOT REQUIRED. Excluded from designation.	X NOT REQUIRED	—	§ 1002.333
<b>EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION</b>					
<b>ESE qualification process</b>	✓ REQUIRED. Multi-tiered MTSS/RTI process, multi-disciplinary evaluation, IEP team determination.	✓ REQUIRED. Same process.	X NOT REQUIRED. Physician's diagnosis only. No RTI. No documented educational need.	X NOT REQUIRED. Same diagnosis-only pathway.	§ 1003.57(1); Rule 6A-6.0331 (public); § 1002.394(3)(b) (voucher)
<b>ESE service delivery requirements</b>	✓ REQUIRED. IEP with measurable goals, progress monitoring, annual review, FAPE in LRE.	✓ REQUIRED. Same IDEA obligations.	X NOT REQUIRED. No requirement for or evidence of services provided despite \$10K–\$34K funding.	X NOT REQUIRED. IEP no longer active. District FAPE obligation ends. No verification of services.	§ 1003.57; Rule 6A-6.03028; § 1002.41
<b>FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY</b>					
<b>Annual independent audit</b>	✓ REQUIRED. CAFR, program cost accounting, AG oversight.	○ PARTIAL. Monthly/quarterly statements to sponsor. Less rigorous than district.	X NOT REQUIRED. CPA agreed-upon procedures only if >\$250K/yr. Not full audit. Not public.	X NOT REQUIRED	§ 1011.60; § 1010.06 (public); § 1002.33(9)(g) (charter); § 1002.421(1)(q) (voucher); §§ 218.39, 1010.33, 1010.215
<b>Sunshine Law (public records / open meetings)</b>	✓ REQUIRED. Full compliance.	○ PARTIAL. Subject to Ch. 119/286 but governing board is private nonprofit. 2 meetings/yr.	X NOT REQUIRED	X NOT REQUIRED	Ch. 119, 286, Fla. Stat.
<b>Uniform financial records system</b>	✓ REQUIRED. Must maintain records per § 1010.01.	X NOT REQUIRED. Exempt via K-20 exemption.	X NOT REQUIRED	X NOT REQUIRED	§ 1010.01, 1010.215
<b>Competitive bidding / procurement</b>	✓ REQUIRED. Public entity procurement requirements.	X NOT REQUIRED. Private nonprofit board. No competitive bidding.	X NOT REQUIRED	—	§ 1010.04
<b>FEFP proration exposure</b>	YES. Allocations prorated when appropriations fall short. FY 24-25: \$250,149,259.	Funded through district pass-through. Subject to	NO. Scholarship amounts set by GAA. Not subject to proration.	NO. Same as voucher.	§ 1011.62(15)(a) (public); § 1002.394(12)(a) (voucher)

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		district proration.			
<b>Categorical fund restrictions</b>	RESTRICTED. Must spend as directed in GAA.	RESTRICTED . Same as district.	UNRESTRICTED. Same categorical amounts calculated but no obligation to use for designated purpose.	UNRESTRICTED.	GAA; § 1011.62(5), (7)(a), (16)
<b>Allowable expenses</b>	Educational purposes only as defined by statute and GAA.	Educational purposes.	Tuition, fees, AND recreational equipment, activities, furniture, theme park tickets per SFO purchasing guide.	Curriculum, tutoring, therapies, AND recreational equipment, furniture, theme park tickets.	§ 1002.394(4)(a)-(b); SFO Purchasing Guides; § 1010.04
<b>GOVERNANCE, FACILITIES, AND ACCESS</b>					
<b>Governance structure</b>	Elected school board (Art. IX § 4). Monthly meetings. Fiscal transparency. Parental rights notifications.	Unelected private nonprofit board. 2 meetings/yr. Parent liaison only. No board member residency req't. Networks: 1 board for 40+ schools across 18 districts.	Private school owner/operator. No public governance requirements.	Parent. No governance structure.	Art. IX § 4; § 1001.372; § 1011.035; § 1014.05 (public); § 1002.33(9)(p) (charter); §§ 1002.41, 1002.421
<b>School board policy authority</b>	Board policies govern all operations.	X NOT REQUIRED. Board "may not apply its policies" unless mutually agreed.	X NOT REQUIRED. Regulatory firewall: § 1002.421(4) prohibits additional regulation.	—	§ 1002.33(5)(b)1.d. (charter); § 1002.421(4) (voucher); § 1001.43
<b>Override of elected board</b>	— . Board has final authority.	YES. Charter School Review Commission can approve over board objection.	—	—	§ 1002.3301
<b>Facility standards (SREF)</b>	✓ REQUIRED. Full SREF compliance. Educational plant survey every 5 years. Dedicated instructional spaces.	X NOT REQUIRED. Exempt from SREF. Building code and fire code only. May operate in strip malls.	X NOT REQUIRED. No facility requirements.	X NOT REQUIRED. Home setting.	§§ 1013.01–.80; § 1002.33(18)
<b>Capital outlay process</b>	Must prove need (FISH). Voter-approved millage, PECO, bonds.	Per-student entitlement. No need	—	—	§ 1013.31; § 1013.62; § 1013.35

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		demonstrated. Plus direct PECO and federal expansion grants.			
<b>Must accept all students</b>	✓ REQUIRED. Must accommodate all students regardless of background.	○ PARTIAL. Application/lottery. Cannot discriminate on most grounds but enrollment patterns show sorting.	✗ NOT REQUIRED. Unfettered discretion on admissions. May reject any student for any reason.	— Parent-directed.	§ 1001.42 (public); § 1002.33(10) (charter)
<b>Transportation</b>	✓ REQUIRED. Must provide for students 2+ miles. Regulated fleet, CDL drivers, inspections.	○ PARTIAL. Must ensure “not a barrier” but not required to provide.	✗ NOT REQUIRED. Parent responsibility.	✗ NOT REQUIRED	§§ 1006.21–27; § 1002.33(20)(c)
<b>Attendance requirements</b>	Full-time in-person. Max 2 virtual days/yr (high-performing districts only).	Same compulsory attendance (§ 1003.21). Hybrid programs available.	○ PARTIAL. 2 days/week in person (PEP). “Regular and direct contact” otherwise — undefined.	✗ NOT REQUIRED. No minimum hours. Annual evaluation only.	§ 1003.21; § 1003.621(2)(g); § 1002.421(1)(i); § 1002.41; § 1003.23
<b>Library / instructional materials review</b>	✓ REQUIRED. Public posting of catalogue. Review before adoption. Community input.	✗ NOT REQUIRED. Exempt via K-20 exemption.	✗ NOT REQUIRED	✗ NOT REQUIRED	§§ 1006.28, 1006.283
<b>Voluntary closure / continuity</b>	— District obligation is continuous.	May close with 24-hour notice. District must absorb all students immediately.	May cease participation at any time.	May withdraw at any time.	§ 1002.33(7)(e); § 1003.21
<b>For-profit operation</b>	✗ NOT REQUIRED. Public schools cannot operate for profit.	○ PARTIAL. Management contracted to for-profit EMOs. High-performing systems include for-profit corporations.	YES. Private schools may be for-profit.	—	§ 1002.33(12)(a); § 1002.332
<b>STATUTORY FRAMEWORK</b>					
<b>K-20 Education Code (Ch. 1000–1013)</b>	FULLY SUBJECT to all 14 chapters.	BLANKET EXEMPTION. Exempt from entire K-20 Code except 5 carve-outs.	NOT APPLICABLE. Private schools outside K-20 Code. Regulatory firewall prohibits expansion.	NOT APPLICABLE.	§ 1002.33(16)(a); § 1002.421(4); § 1002.42(2)(h)

**Legend:** ✓ REQUIRED (green) = Full statutory mandate. ○ PARTIAL (amber) = Modified or limited requirement. ✗ NOT REQUIRED (red) = No statutory mandate or explicitly exempt.