

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Action Item
September 23, 2020

SUBJECT: Approval of New Rule 6A-6.0952, Family Empowerment Scholarship Program

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1002.394, Florida Statutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the 2019 Legislative Session, Governor DeSantis signed Senate Bill 7070 creating the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program and giving 18,000 students the opportunity to find the school that best fit their educational needs. The program quickly met the 18,000 student limit and was successfully implemented by IEPC staff during the 2019-20 school year. During the 2020 legislative session, House Bill 7067 further expanded the program to change the annual growth from 0.25 percent to 1.0 of the state's total public school enrollment and establish a priority order for award of a scholarship.

The purpose of this Rule is to implement the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program, pursuant to section 1002.394, Florida Statutes, and address the following:

- Scholarship Participation
- Scholarship Payments
- Private School Participation

Key points addressed in this rule include:

- Clarifying methods of communication between our SFOs, parents, and the Department regarding student scholarships,
- Specifying the term of a Family Empowerment Scholarship and what constitutes a return to public school, and
- Establishing time frames for scholarship payments and the necessary procedures regarding the payment process

Supporting Documentation Included: Proposed Rule 6A-6.0952, F.A.C.

Facilitator/Presenter: Dr. Dakeyan Graham, Executive Director, Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice