I. Short Title

This act shall be known and may be cited as the “Parent-Directed Funding Act,” (the “Act”).

II. Legislative Declaration

a. Whereas students are individuals with unique needs; and

b. Whereas parents, as defined in this act, often know their students well and can identify their unique needs more efficiently than any school; and

c. Whereas parents can and do identify educational programs or resources that may serve their students well; and

d. Whereas the future of our state increasingly depends on the success of each and every child;

e. Therefore, the Legislature declares it is in the interest of individual students and the state to empower parents to direct the educational funding of their children.

III. Definitions

a. A “parent” means any person who is the legal guardian of a child who is entitled to receive a free and appropriate public education.

b. A “qualified education expense” is an amount of funds parents spend to access a particular school, educational program, or educational resource.

IV. Parent-Directed Funding Act

a. Beginning the effective date of this act, a school district or charter school may use a portion of the funds allocated to the school district to provide grants to parents of students who attend the school district or charter school. Grants may be used to transport students.

b. The school district or charter shall develop and publish a plan for program administration on its website and shall annually inform parents of the program and how it may be accessed by email, text, or mail.

c. Grants to parents are not income and shall be considered a qualified education expense.

d. The department of treasury shall promulgate rules for grants and develop procedures to account for expenditures as provided by this section, including requiring proof of enrollment for students whose parents receive grant funds.